

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

### **Political Science 106 American State and Local Government**

#### **I. Catalog Statement**

Political Science 106 is a study of the origins, structures, and functions of California government and politics with emphasis on the state level, but including the city, county, and district levels.

Unit – 1

Lecture Hours- 2

Recommended preparation: Eligibility for English 120 or ESL 151

Note: It is recommended that this course be taken after the completion of the Constitution requirement. This course or Social Science 132 is a graduation requirement. No credit is allowed for this course to students having credit in Social Science 132. Students who have successfully completed Political Science 106 will be granted only two units of credit for completion of Political Science 151. Students who have successfully completed Political Science 105 and Political Science 106 will not be granted credit for Political Science 151.

#### **II. Course Entry Expectations**

Skills expectations: Reading 5, Writing 5, Listening Speaking 5, Math 1

Prior to enrolling in the course, the student should be able to:

1. read and understand abstract and complex collegiate level textbooks;
2. communicate learning, conceptual understanding and critical analysis skills through writing research papers, essay exams, or other types of writing assignments;
3. learn material through class lecture, discussion, and reading;
4. add, subtract, multiply, and divide using whole numbers, fractions, and decimals and convert fractions and decimals to percentages.

#### **III. Course Exit Standards**

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. contrast the constitutions of California, other states, and the federal government;
2. describe and evaluate the impact of federalism;
3. describe and evaluate the forces acting on state governments;

4. describe and evaluate local government in California;
5. summarize key problems facing the state.

#### **IV. Course Content**

A. State Constitutions	2 hours
1. California	
2. Principles of federalism	
B. Basis of Government	4 hours
1. Suffrage	
2. Nominations	
3. Primaries	
4. Elections	
5. Political parties and politics	
6. Direct legislation	
7. Interest groups and lobbying	
C. State Government	2 hours
1. Branches of government	
a. Legislative	
b. Executive	
c. Judicial	
2. Administration	
a. Administrative procedures	
b. Taxation and finance	
c. Personnel	
D. County Government	2 hours
1. Types	
2. Functions	
3. County officials	
E. City Government	2 hours
1. Types	
2. Functions	
3. City officials	
F. Special Districts	2 hours
1. Organization	
2. Functions	
3. Special district officials	
G. Problems facing California	2 hours
1. Patterns of population	
2. Problems of future growth	

**V. Methods of Presentation**

The following instructional methodologies may be used in this course:

1. Classroom lecture and discussion
2. Audio-visual presentations and news broadcasts
3. Student presentations and discussions

**VI. Assignments and Methods of Evaluation**

1. One to two one-hour examinations plus one comprehensive final examination requiring demonstration of course exit standards.
2. Class participation demonstrating course exit standards.
3. Written assignment(s) and oral presentation demonstrating course exit standards

**VII. Textbooks**

Lowi and Ginsberg; American Government (Brief Edition), 8<sup>th</sup> ed.

W.W. Norton, 2006

12<sup>th</sup> Grade Textbook Reading Level     ISBN: 0-393-92484-X

Field, Mona, California Government & Politics Today, 11<sup>th</sup> ed.

Longman, 2007

12<sup>th</sup> Grade Textbook Reading Level     ISBN: 0205521150