

COURSE OUTLINE

Social Science 132
Introduction to Social Science: Economics and Political Science

I. Catalog Statement

SOC S 132 examines the inter-relationship of the social sciences and their application to the problem of group living in the twentieth century through a survey of the principal facts and concepts of political science and economics. Problems are studied in relationship to governments in the United States. The student is led to acquire a body of knowledge through an analysis of contemporary political and economic problems.

Total Lecture Units: 4.0

Total Course Units: 4.0

Total Lecture Hours: 64.0

Total Faculty Contact Hours: 64.0

Recommended Preparation: Eligibility for ENGL 120, ENGL 194 or ESL 151

Note: SOC S 132 allows only two units of credit for students having credit in POL S 101 (prior to Spring 2014) or 105. If only POL S 106 has been completed for credit, three units are allowed. Only one unit of credit will be granted if POL S 101 is completed Spring 2014 or thereafter.

II. Course Entry Expectations

Upon entering the course, it is recommended that the student be able to:

1. analyze short essays (at least five paragraphs in length) to identify thesis, topic development and concluding sentences, as well as traditional expressions used to increase coherence;
2. evaluate compositions for unity, and sufficiency of development, and coherence;
3. organize and write a thesis-driven, organized essay which is at least three paragraphs in length (paragraphs should have a topic sentence and at least five additional sentences which further develop that topic sentence with explanations and examples. These sentences must be in logical order and be connected by transitional expressions, where appropriate. Paragraphs must be tied together by appropriate transitions or other devices which provide cohesion.);
4. use in their essays a variety of sentence types with minimal errors in such basics of the sentence as subject-verb agreement, subordination, and complementation.

III. Course Exit Standards

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

1. identify the basic political institutions and processes at the federal, state and local levels;
2. analyze current policy issues;
3. define linkages between their individual experiences and the socio-political-economic system;
4. utilize an interdisciplinary approach which illuminates the interdependence of the social sciences;
5. develop a framework for a lifelong understanding of the American system and the role of the citizen in it.

IV. Course Content

Total Faculty Contact Hours = 64

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|----|---|----------|
| A. | Economic Systems and the American System in Operation | 18 hours |
| | 1. Laissez faire, mixed economy and socialism | |
| | 2. Business organization in the American economy | |
| | 3. Labor-management relations | |
| | 4. The consumer and standards of living | |
| | 5. Farmers and their problems | |
| | 6. The business cycle and stabilizing the economy | |
| | 7. The price structure | |
| | 8. Trade issues | |
| | 9. The post-industrial economy and labor profile | |
| B. | Government and Freedom | 8 hours |
| | 1. Origin of government | |
| | 2. Political institutions | |
| | 3. Functions of government | |
| | 4. Security and freedom | |
| C. | Nature of American Politics | 8 hours |
| | 1. The American system of government | |
| | 2. Citizenship | |
| | 3. Nominations, elections, and direct legislation | |
| | 4. Public opinion and propaganda | |
| | 5. Political parties and pressure groups | |
| D. | Organization of Government in the United States | 6 hours |
| | 1. The legislature | |
| | 2. The executive | |
| | 3. The judiciary | |

- E. Operation of Government in the United States 6 hours
 - 1. Public safety, welfare, and social security
 - 2. Public finance
 - 3. Regulation of the economy

- F. World Politics 6 hours
 - 1. Nationalism vs. international organization
 - 2. International economic relations
 - 3. Role of the United States as a world power
 - 4. Third World issues: hunger, poverty & war

- G. State and Local Government 12 hours
 - 1. California profile: geography, economy, ecology
 - 2. California State Constitution
 - 3. State and local finance
 - 4. Current issues in state and local politics
 - 5. Counties, cities and special districts

V. Methods of Instruction

The following methods of instruction may be used in this course:

- 1. classroom presentation and discussion;
- 2. audio-visual presentation;
- 3. student presentations and discussions;
- 4. on-line communications as a supplement to in-class activities;
- 5. outside reading reserve books, articles or documents posted online from scholarly works.

VI. Out of Class Assignments

The following out of class assignments may be used in the course:

- 1. final essay preparation (e.g. Compare and contrast various presidential administrations and their policies relating to economics);
- 2. reading responses (e.g. Read primary sources such as statistical data as provided by the United States Government and explicate what the numbers do or do not prove);
- 3. class terms definitions (e.g. Write definitions for the terms listed within each chapter of the assigned reading);
- 4. written essays that demonstrate course exit standards (e.g. Write a paper that defines how and when the United States should get involved in world affairs. When constructing your argument, be sure to use examples such as legislation, action and/or rhetoric from America's past and coherently explain how these policies should or should not direct the future of this nation).

VII. Methods of Evaluation

The following methods of evaluation may be used in the course:

1. three to five 1.5 hour class exams and a final exam requiring demonstration of course material;
2. evaluation of class participation demonstrating mastery of course exit standards;
3. evaluation of written assignment(s) demonstrating the application of sources, concepts and the ability to think critically and analyze course content.

VIII. Textbook(s)

Parenti, Michael. *Democracy for the Few*. 9th ed. New York: Wadsworth, 2010. Print.
13th Grade Reading Level. ISBN #: 978-0495911265

Class reader as designed by the professor

IX. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

1. understand the basic economic and political system that operates in the United States;
2. be more aware of current economic and political issues;
3. develop a critical eye toward the complicated nature of today's economic and political issues;
4. evaluate and recommend public policies that address today's economic and political problems;
5. effectively engage in the political process and develop good citizenship skills.