Course Information Form (CIF)

Course Code: POS 122 (IAI S5 900)

Course Title: American National Government

Department: Arts, Media, and Social Sciences
PCS Code: 1.1 - Baccalaureate/Transfer
CIP Code: 45.1001
Repeatability: 0

Effective Date: Summer 2026

Credit Hours

Catalog Notation: 3-0-3
Credit Hour Distribution:

Lecture: 3	Lab: 0	Clinical: 0	**Total: 3**

General Course Information

Catalog Description

Survey of American national government: political socialization, U.S. constitution, public opinion, political parties, interest groups, the courts, Congress, and the presidency.

General Course Objectives

To provide information about American government and to encourage students to participate in their government as responsible and critical citizens.

Minimum Placement Levels

English	Reading	Math
None	Placement out of CCS 098	None

Prerequisites

None

Methods of Evaluation

3 - 5 objective exams (multiple choice, true/false, long and short essay), 8 - 16 weekly quizzes, and 5 - 10 discussions.

Instructional Materials and Additional Supplies

American Government and Politics Today, by Barbara Bardes, et al. ISBN 9781337091213

Course Content

General Learning Outcomes (GLOs)

- Critical Thinking and Information Literacy: Students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate perspectives, evidence, and implications, and to locate, assess, and use information effectively.

Course Segments and Student Learning Outcomes

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Federalism: A) Constitutional origins, B) Powers under Federalism, C. Flag	1. Discuss major aspects of the Constitutional Convention of 1787. 2. Identify and discuss basic features of the American Federal Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. 3. Define federalism and discuss and explain the significance of the four major types of decision-making power in the American Federal arrangement. 4. Explain the development and meaning of, respect for, and display of the U.S. flag.	6	0	0
Civil Rights: A) Legal basis, B) Minorities	1. Define civil rights. 2. Explain the legal basis of civil rights in the U.S. 3. Understand the nature of discrimination experienced by the following minorities in the U.S.: Blacks; Hispanics; women; Native Americans; LGBTQI+; etc.	6	0	0
Political Parties and Interest Groups: A) Definitions and characteristics, B) Two-party development, C) Party organization, D) Economic/ideological interest groups, E) Identity interest groups (ethnic, LGBTQI, etc.)	1. Define political party and discuss the major characteristics of political parties. 2. Explain the historical factors which promote two-party politics in the U.S. 3. Identify major aspects of national and state party organizations. 4. Explain the nature of interest groups and political action committees.	8	0	0
Congress: A) Roles and origin, B) Operation	1. Discuss the role of Congress and its origins. 2. Discuss the general organization and operation of Congress and the powers of the committee chairman and major arguments, pros and cons, concerning seniority.	6	0	0
Presidency: A) Electoral College, B) Powers	1. Explain the operation of the electoral college. 2. Discuss presidential powers, constitutional and extra-constitutional. 3. Define bureaucracy and identify its major characteristics.	6	0	0
Courts: A) Law, B) Organization, C) Supreme Court	1. Define law, and describe its major sources and classifications. 2. Discuss major aspects of national and state court organization. 3. Discuss the operation of the U.S. Supreme Court.	6	0	0
Public Policy: A) Process, B) Foreign policy	1. Explain public policy formation, implementation, and evaluation. 2. Discuss public policy in major policy areas. 3. Identify and discuss goals and methods of U.S. Foreign Policy.	6	0	0

Total Contact Hours

Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
45	0	0