

MINNESOTA WEST COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE

DEPT. PSCI

COURSE NUMBER: 1201

NUMBER OF CREDITS: 3

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 OJT: 0

Course Title:
American Government and Politics

Catalog Description:
American Government and Politics presents a general survey of the history, philosophy, functions and performance of American national political institutions and processes. This course also emphasizes ethical and civic responsibility. Prerequisite: STSK 0090 or placement by multiple measures.

Prerequisites or Necessary Entry Skills/Knowledge:
STSK 0090 or placement by multiple measures.

FULFILLS MN TRANSFER CURRICULUM AREA(S) (*Leave blank if not applicable*)

☐ Goal 5: History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences: By meeting the following competencies:

1. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
2. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.
3. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
4. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

☐ Goal 9: Ethical and Civic Responsibility: By meeting the following competencies:

1. Examine, articulate, and apply their own ethical views.
2. Understand and apply core concepts (e.g., politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.
3. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.
4. Recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others.
5. Identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship

Topics to be Covered
Introduction
Constitution
Federalism

Political Culture, attitudes and socialization
Public Opinion
Political parties and interest groups
Elections
The role of the media
Congress
Presidency
Bureaucracy
Judiciary
Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
Public Policy

Student Learning Outcomes	
Explain fundamental definitions, concepts and principles of political science.	
Understand basic institutions and processes of the American Political system at the national level.	
Outline and discuss the functions of the legislative, executive and judicial branches of the national government.	
Achieve the above outcomes while developing the goals related to thinking skills, communication skills and human diversity listed above.	

Is this course part of a transfer pathway: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<small>*If yes, please list the competencies below</small>

Revised Date: 3/25/2022