MINNESOTA WEST COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE

Faculty are required to have the outline submitted to the Academic Affairs Office. The course outline is the form used for approval of new courses by the Collegewide Curriculum Committee.

DEPT. PSCI
COURSE NO. 1201
NUMBER OF CREDITS: 3

COURSE TITLE American Government & Politics

CATALOG DESCRIPTION
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.

AUDIENCE: registered college students

FULFILLS MN TRANSFER CURRICULUM AREA(S) (Leave blank if not applicable)
Area 5: by meeting the following competencies: a, b, c, d
Area 9: by meeting the following competencies: a, b, c, d, e
Area: by meeting the following competencies:

PREREQUISITES OR NECESSARY ENTRY SKILLS/KNOWLEDGE: None

LENGTH OF COURSE: 1 semester

THIS COURSE IS USUALLY OFFERED:
Every other year ___ fall X spring ___ summer ___ undetermined

Four goals are emphasized in course at Minnesota West Community & Technical College:

1) ACADEMIC CONTENT:
   1. to acquaint the student with fundamental definitions, concepts and principles of political science
   2. to study the basic institutions and processes of the American political system at the national level
   3. to outline and discuss the functions of the legislative, executive and judicial branches of the national government

2) THINKING SKILLS:
   1. to develop a critical attitude toward the political process in order to become a more informed participant and responsible citizen
   2. to be able to use and analyze various methods of collecting and analyzing data such as public opinion polls, charts, graphs
   3. to relate broad political concepts and developments to the individual
   4. to be able to evaluate the functioning of the American political system
5. to be able to evaluate critically the alternatives for change within the political system and/or need for alteration of the political system

3) COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS:
1. to discuss both orally and in writing, theories, relationships and concepts in political science
2. to identify succinctly key terms and concepts
3. to complete two outside assignments which include research and writing components

4) HUMAN DIVERSITY:
1. to analyze the impact of such forces as nationalism, ethnicity, multiculturalism, pluralism and gender on the political process in the contemporary world
2. to understand the cultural pluralism that has shaped and enriched American society and politics
3. to examine civil rights in terms of human diversity

TOPICS TO BE COVERED:
A. Introduction
B. Constitution
C. Federalism
D. Political culture, attitudes and socialization
E. Public opinion
F. Political parties and interest groups
G. Elections
H. The role of the media
I. Congress
J. Presidency
K. Bureaucracy
L. Judiciary
M. Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
N. Public Policy

LIST OF EXPECTED COURSE OUTCOMES: See above under goals

LEARNING/TEACHING TECHNIQUES used in the course are: 0
Collaborative Learning D Problem Solving
Student Presentations ~ Interactive Lectures
Creative Projects D Individual Coaching
~ Lecture ~ Videos/Slides
D Demonstrations D Other (describe below) D Lab

ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS FOR THIS CLASS INCLUDE: ~
Reading ~ Tests D Individual Projects
Oral Presentations D Worksheets ~ Collaborative Projects D Textbook
Problems ~ Papers D Portfolio
~ Group Problems ~ Term Paper
Other (describe below)
2 Outside Assignments

EXPECTED STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
1. to learn fundamental definitions, concepts and principles of political science
2. to learn basic institutions and processes of the American political system at the national level
3. to outline and discuss the functions of the legislative, executive and judicial branches of the national government
4. to achieve the above outcomes while developing the goals related to thinking skills, communication skills and human diversity listed above

The information in this course outline is subject to revision

To receive reasonable accommodations for a documented disability, please contact the campus Student Services Advisor or campus Disability Coordinator as arrangements must be made in advance. In addition, students are encouraged to notify their instructor.

Veteran Services: Minnesota West is dedicated to assisting veterans and eligible family members in achieving their educational goals efficiently. Active duty and reserve/guard military members should advise their instructor of all regularly scheduled military appointments and duties that conflict with scheduled course requirements. Instructors will make every effort to work with the student to identify adjusted timelines. If you are a veteran, please contact the Minnesota West Veterans Service Office.

This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by contacting the Student Services Advisor or by calling 800-658-2330 or Minnesota Relay Service at 800-627-3529 or by using your preferred relay service.

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