

_____ SOUTH SEATTLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE _____

Academic Programs

COURSE OUTLINE

Revision: Jihad Othman, March 2008

DEPARTMENT: Academic Programs

CURRICULUM: Individuals, Cultures and Societies

COURSE TITLE: American Government

COURSE NUMBER: POLS& 202

TYPE OF COURSE: Academic Transfer
Special Requirement Met: None

AREA(S) OF KNOWLEDGE: Individuals and Society

COURSE LENGTH: 1 quarter

CREDIT HOURS: 5

LECTURE HOURS: 55

LAB HOURS: 0

CLASS SIZE: 35

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Survey of the origin and development of the U.S. government. Covers the structure of the Confederacy, Federalist papers, and function of Congress, the presidency and courts as well as interest groups, civil liberties, political parties and political policy.

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STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES ADDRESSED:

1. Communication - Read and listen actively to learn and communicate. Speak and write effectively for personal, academic and career purposes.
2. Human Relations - Use social interactive skills to work in groups effectively. Recognize the diversity of cultural influences and values.
3. Critical Thinking and Problem Solving - Think critically in evaluating information, solving problems and making decisions.
4. Technology - Select and use appropriate technological tools for personal, academic and career tasks.
5. Personal Responsibility - Be motivated and able to continue learning and adapt to change. Value one's own skills, abilities, ideas and art. Take pride in one's work. Be aware of civic and environmental issues.
6. Information Literacy - Access and evaluate information from a variety of sources and contexts, including technology. Use information to achieve personal, academic, and career goals, as well as to participate in a democratic society.

GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVES:

At the end of the course the student will:

1. Understand the American Constitution.
2. Explain the importance of the Bill of rights to the Constitution.
3. Have a familiarization with the structure, functions, relationships, and responsibilities of the three branches of government.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the impact of American democracy on other countries.

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TOPICAL OUTLINE:	APPROX. HOURS
I. The American political environment	15
A. The constitutional politics	
B. The constitutional basics of American politics	
C. Federalism in theory and practice	
II. The politics of liberty and equality	10
A. Civil rights and liberties	
B. Issues of freedom and equality	
III. The politics of participation	10
A. The political socialization and participation	
B. Public opinion	
C. Political interest groups	
D. Political parties	
E. Campaigns and elections	
F. Politics and the new media	
IV. The American political institutions	10
A. Congress – The Legislative branch	
B. The Presidency – The Executive branch	
C. The Federal Judges – The Judicial branch	
D. The federal bureaucracy	
V. Politics and public policy	10
A. The policy making process	
B. Domestic policy	
C. Economic policy	
D. Foreign and defense policy	
Total	55

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SLO #	Included in Course Objective Number	SSCC Student Learning Outcomes
SLO 1.1	1	Communication - Read and listen actively
SLO 1.2	1	Communication - Speak and write effectively
SLO 2.1		Computation - Use mathematical operations
SLO 2.2		Computation - Apply quantitative skills
SLO 2.3		Computation - Identify, interpret, and utilize higher level mathematical and cognitive skills
SLO 3.1		Human Relations - Use social interactive skills to work in groups effectively
SLO 3.2	3	Human Relations - Recognize the diversity of cultural influences and values
SLO 4.1	4	Critical Thinking and Problem Solving -
SLO 5.1		Technology - Select and use appropriate technological tools
SLO 6.1	1	Personal Responsibility - Be motivated and able to continue learning and adapt to change
SLO 6.2	2	Personal Responsibility - Value one's own skills, abilities, ideas and art
SLO 6.3		Personal Responsibility - Take pride in one's work
SLO 6.4		Personal Responsibility - Manage personal health and safety
SLO 6.5		Personal Responsibility - Be aware of civic and environmental issues
SLO 7.1	3	Information Literacy - Access and evaluate information
SLO 7.2	4	Information Literacy - Use information to achieve personal, academic, and career goals, as well as to participate in a democratic society

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