General Information

Date May 22nd, 2019
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Department Social Science
Course Prefix POL
Course Number 100
Course Title American Government

Course Information

Catalog Description  This course explores the nature and dynamics of the American political system, including the basic structure, functions, and processes of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government, the roles of political parties and special interest groups, the mechanics of political campaigns and elections, the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and prominent issues in U.S. domestic and foreign policy

Credit Hours 3
Lecture Contact Hours 3
Lab Contact Hours 0
Other Contact Hours 0
Grading Scheme Letter

Prerequisites

None

Co-requisites

None
First Year Experience/Capstone Designation

This course DOES NOT satisfy the outcomes applicable for status as a FYE or Capstone.

SUNY General Education

This course is designated as satisfying a requirement in the following SUNY Gen Ed category
Social Sciences

FLCC Values

Institutional Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course
Vitality, Inquiry, and Interconnectedness

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Students will explain how the major concepts and models of American government function (including the basic structure, functions, and processes of the three branches of government, the roles of political parties, the mechanics of elections, and the major features of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights).

2. Students will identify the major issues in American foreign and domestic policies and how the federal government creates and enforces policies.

3. Students will evaluate sources for political news, data, and opinions to understand the methods and types of evidence that political scientists use to study political institutions and behaviors in order to comprehend important theories and concepts within the discipline.

Outline of Topics Covered

1. The role of the political scientist: approaches, techniques
2. The U.S. Constitution and Federalism
3. Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
4. Public Knowledge, Public Opinion, and Political Socialization
5. Special Interest Groups and Lobbying
6. Political Parties
7. Voting, Campaigns, Elections, & Participation in Government
8. The Legislative Branch: Congress
9. The Executive Branch: The Presidency and the Bureaucracy
10. The Judicial Branch: The Federal Court System
11. The Media
12. Social, Economic, and Other Domestic Policy
13. Foreign and Military Policy

Program Affiliation

This course is not required as a core course in any programs.