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Political Science (POSC) 1501 Government (3 Units) CSU:UC
[formerly Political Science 1]

Advisory: Eligibility for English 1500 strongly recommended

Total Hours: 48 hours lecture

Catalog Description: An introduction to United States and California government and politics, including their constitutions, political institutions and processes, and political actors. Examination of political behavior, political issues, and public policy. This course meets the 3-unit requirement in American History and Institutions for the Associate degrees. C-ID: POLS 110

Required Text: Field, Mona. *California Government and Politics Today*. 14th ed. Boston: Pearson, 2012. Print.

Additional Textbook from the following:

Dye, Thomas R., and R. K. Gaddie. *Politics in America*. 10th ed. New York: Longman, Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2012. Print.

OR

O'Connor, Karen and Larry J. Sabato. *American Government: Continuity and Change*. Alternate Edition, 9/E. New York: Addison Wesley Longman, Inc., 2009. Print.

OR

Wasserman, Gary. *The Basics of American Politics*. 15th ed. Upper Saddle River: Pearson, 2015. Print.

Type of Class/Course: Degree Credit

Additional Instructional Materials: None

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, a successful student will be able to:

1. Explain the founding and development of the U.S. Constitution;
2. Identify and evaluate institutions and political processes within the United States and California;
3. Discuss and analyze contemporary political issues and operations in the United States and California;
4. Explain the civil liberties and civil rights of individuals as articulated in the U.S. Constitution and federal court decisions;

5. Analyze the role of culture, diversity and ideology in shaping public opinion and public policy in the United States and California; and
6. Analyze how to effectively participate in politics at the national, state, county and/or city levels.

Course Scope and Content:

Unit I Political Fundamentals

- A. The political philosophies of the framers of the U.S. Constitution and critics of the Constitution
- B. The theory and practice of federalism

Unit II The U.S. Constitution and California Constitution

- A. The process of amending and interpreting the U.S. Constitution
- B. The rights and liberties of individuals as articulated in the U.S. Constitution
- C. The rights and liberties of individuals as articulated in federal court decisions
- D. The process of amending and interpreting the California constitution

Unit III Structure and Contemporary Operations in Political Institutions and Processes

- A. Institutions and processes of the branches of government
 1. Executive
 2. Judicial
 3. Legislative
- B. Institutions and processes of the non-governmental institutions
 1. Lobbyists
 2. Political action committees
 3. Party committees
 4. Other

Unit IV Structure and Contemporary Operations of California State and Local Political Institutions

- A. Institutions and processes of the branches of government
 1. State level
 2. County level
 3. Local/city level
- B. Operations within the framework of federal-state relations

Unit V Political Behavior of Americans and Californians within the Frameworks Established by the U.S. Constitution and California Constitution

- A. Elections
- B. Interest groups
- C. Political parties
- D. Media
- E. Other

Unit VI Factors that Shape Politics and Policymaking

- A. Diversity
- B. Political culture
- C. Political socialization
- D. Political ideologies
- E. Public opinion

Unit VII Political Areas of Focus

- A. Domestic
- B. Economic
- C. Foreign issues and policies

Learning Activities Required Outside of Class:

The students in this class will spend a minimum of 6 hours per week outside of the regular class time doing the following:

1. Studying
2. Completing required reading
3. Written work

Methods of Instruction:

1. Class discussion of current problems
2. Lectures by the instructor
3. Audio-visual presentations

Methods of Evaluation:

1. In-class or take-home examinations
2. Research papers or projects
3. Written assignments including substantial research paper
4. Analytical papers
5. Simulations
6. Oral presentations
7. Participation in class discussions and debates