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Semester effective: Spring 2020

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

Advisory: Eligibility for English 1500 strongly recommended

Hours and Unit Calculations:

48 hours lecture. 96 Outside of class hours (144 Total Student Learning Hours) 3 Units.

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

Text: Krutz, Glen. (2016). *American Government*, OpenStax, 2016.

<https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government>, 2016

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 participate effectively in politics at the national, state, county and/or city levels.

Course Scope and Content

Unit I American Government and Civic Engagement

- A. Defining government: What is Government?
- B. Elitism, Pluralism, and Tradeoffs

C. Engagement in a Democracy

Unit II The Constitution and Its Origins

- A. Pre-Revolutionary Period and the Roots of the American Political Tradition
- B. Articles of Confederation
- C. Development of the Constitution
- D. Ratification of the Constitution
- E. Constitutional Change

Unit III American Federalism

- A. Division of Powers
- B. Evolution of American Federalism
- C. Intergovernmental Relationships
- D. Competitive Federalism Today
- E. Advantages and Disadvantages of Federalism

Unit IV Civil Liberties

- A. Civil Liberties
- B. Securing Basic Freedoms
- C. Interpreting the Bill of Rights

Unit V Civil Rights

- A. What Are Civil Rights and How Do We Identify Them?
- B. The African American Struggle for Equality
- C. The Fight for Women's Rights
- D. Civil Rights for Indigenous Groups
- E. Equal Protection for Other Groups

Unit VI The Politics of Public Opinion

- A. Nature of Public Opinion
- B. How Is Public Opinion Measured?
- C. What Does the Public Think?
- D. The Effects of Public Opinion

Unit VII Voting and Elections

- A. Voter Registration
- B. Voter Turnout
- C. Elections
- D. Campaigns and Voting
- E. Direct Democracy

Unit VIII The Media

- A. What Is the Media?
- B. The Evolution of the Media
- C. Regulating the Media
- D. The Impact of the Media

Unit IX Political Parties

- A. What Are Parties and How Did They Form?
- B. The Two-Party System
- C. The Shape of Modern Political Parties

D. Divided Government and Partisan Polarization

Unit X Interest Groups and Lobbying

- A. Interest Groups
- B. Collective Action and Interest Group Formation
- C. Interest Groups as Political Participation
- D. Pathways of Interest Group Influence
- E. Free Speech and the Regulation of Interest Groups

Unit XI Congress

- A. The Institutional Design of Congress
- B. Congressional Elections
- C. Congressional Representation
- D. House and Senate Organizations
- E. The Legislative Process

Unit XII The Presidency

- A. The Design and Evolution of the Presidency
- B. The Presidential Election Process
- C. Organizing to Govern
- D. The Public Presidency
- E. Presidential Governance: Direct Presidential Action

Unit XIII The Courts

- A. Guardians of the Constitution and Individual Rights
- B. Dual Court System
- C. Federal Court System
- D. Supreme Court
- E. Judicial Decision-Making and Implementation by the Supreme Court

Unit XIV State and Local Government

- A. State Power and Delegation
- B. State Political Culture
- C. Governors and State Legislatures
- D. State Legislative Term Limits
- E. County and City Government

Unit XV The Bureaucracy

- A. Bureaucracy and the Evolution of Public Administration
- B. Toward a Merit-Based Civil Service
- C. Understanding Bureaucracies and their Types
- D. Controlling the Bureaucracy

Unit XVI Domestic Policy

- A. What Is Public Policy?
- B. Categorizing Public Policy
- C. Policy Arenas
- D. Policymakers
- E. Budgeting and Tax Policy

Unit XVII Foreign Policy

- A. Defining Foreign Policy

- B. Foreign Policy Instruments
- C. Institutional Relations in Foreign Policy
- D. Approaches to Foreign Policy

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

Supplemental Data:

TOP Code:	220700: Political Science
SAM Priority Code:	E: Non-Occupational
Distance Education:	Online; Offline
Funding Agency:	Y: Not Applicable(funds not used)
Program Status:	I: Program Applicable
Noncredit Category:	Y: Not Applicable, Credit Course
Special Class Status:	N: Course is not a special class

Basic Skills Status:	N: Course is not a basic skills course
Prior to College Level:	Y: Not applicable
Cooperative Work Experience:	N: Is not part of a cooperative work experience education program
Eligible for Credit by Exam:	E: Credit By Exam
Eligible for Pass/No Pass:	C: Pass/No Pass
Taft College General Education:	IG4H: IGETC Area 4H LAHI: Local Course American History LES: Local Ethnic Studies LSBS: Local GE Social/Behavioral Sci
Disciplines List:	Political Science