

POLS M03: AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Originator

lballesteros

Co-Contributor(s)
Name(s)

Pfeffer, Steven (spfeffer)

College

Moorpark College

Discipline (CB01A)

POLS - Political Science

Course Number (CB01B)

M03

Course Title (CB02)

American Government and Politics

Banner/Short Title

American Government & Politics

Credit Type

Credit

Start Term

Fall 2023

Catalog Course Description

Surveys the main characteristics, principles, structures, processes and procedures, and the historical background of the American system of government at the national, California state, and local levels. Explores the contribution of major groups to the development of the United States. Analyzes the electoral process and voting behavior.

"P". Moorpark College Honors Program requires a letter grade.

OTHER: Satisfies US-2 (U.S. Constitution and government) and US-3 (CA state and local government) requirements of CSU Title V.

Credit Limitations: Credit will not be awarded for both the honors and regular versions of a course. Credit will be awarded only for the first course completed with a grade of "C" or better or "P". Moorpark College Honors Program requires a letter grade.

Taxonomy of Programs (TOP) Code (CB03)

2207.00 - Political Science

Course Credit Status (CB04)

D (Credit - Degree Applicable)

Course Transfer Status (CB05) (select one only)

A (Transferable to both UC and CSU)

Course Basic Skills Status (CB08)

N - The Course is Not a Basic Skills Course

SAM Priority Code (CB09)

E - Non-Occupational

Course Cooperative Work Experience Education Status (CB10)

N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

Course Classification Status (CB11)

Y - Credit Course

Educational Assistance Class Instruction (Approved Special Class) (CB13)

N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

Course Prior to Transfer Level (CB21)

Y - Not Applicable

Course Noncredit Category (CB22)

Y - Credit Course

Funding Agency Category (CB23)

Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

Course Program Status (CB24)

1 - Program Applicable

General Education Status (CB25)

Y - Not Applicable

Support Course Status (CB26)

N - Course is not a support course

Field trips

Will not be required

Grading method

(L) Letter Graded

Alternate grading methods

(O) Student Option- Letter/Pass

(P) Pass/No Pass Grading

Does this course require an instructional materials fee?

No

Repeatable for Credit

No

Is this course part of a family?

No

Units and Hours

Carnegie Unit Override

No

In-Class

Lecture

Minimum Contact/In-Class Lecture Hours

52.5

Maximum Contact/In-Class Lecture Hours

52.5

Activity

Laboratory

Total in-Class

Total in-Class

Total Minimum Contact/In-Class Hours

52.5

Total Maximum Contact/In-Class Hours

52.5

Outside-of-Class

Internship/Cooperative Work Experience

Paid

Unpaid

Total Outside-of-Class

Total Outside-of-Class

Minimum Outside-of-Class Hours

105

Maximum Outside-of-Class Hours

105

Total Student Learning

Total Student Learning

Total Minimum Student Learning Hours

157.5

Total Maximum Student Learning Hours

157.5

Minimum Units (CB07)

3

Maximum Units (CB06)

3

Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | use evidence (qualitative or quantitative) to defend a position within the context of American Government. |
| 2 | evaluate arguments presented in a primary/secondary source and use those arguments to evaluate current events for a topic related to American Government. |

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | appraise philosophical and theoretical arguments shaping American politics and government and the contribution of major social and ethnic groups to the development of the United States. Discuss the impact of race, ethnicity, gender, and class on the foundation of American government. |
| 2 | discuss, compare and contrast the constitutional powers of each branch of the federal government and each branch of the California state government. |
| 3 | discuss the relationship and processes between the federal and California's state and local governments. |
| 4 | differentiate between forms of political behavior (individual, group, and unconventional). |

- 5 assess the role of elections and campaigns at the federal, California state and local levels and the political behavior of various social and ethnic groups.
- 6 evaluate American public and foreign policy.

Course Content

Lecture/Course Content

30.00%

Foundations of U.S. Government and Democratic Values

- Nature of democracy
- Geographic and social development of the U.S.
- Development of the U.S. Constitution
- California history and constitution
- Federalism and the interaction among the federal government, Native Americans, California government, and local governments
- Civil liberties
- Civil rights

40.00%

Institutions and Processes

- Congress and the California State Legislature
- Executive Branch: Presidency and bureaucracy and the California State Executive Branch
- Federal Judicial Branch and the California State Court System - Identifying differences between the structure of the federal government and the structure of California government
- Interest groups
- American public policy including national security, economic and social welfare policy
- Linking politics and economics with the geographical and cultural differences of states
- Discuss the impact of race, ethnicity, gender, class, media, and political movements as factors that shape politics and policymaking.

30.00%

Elections and Political Behavior

- Campaigns and elections
- Public opinion
- Media
- Political parties
- Unconventional political participation including individual political participation, legal and illegal forms of participation and the creation of social movements

Laboratory or Activity Content

n/a

Methods of Evaluation

Which of these methods will students use to demonstrate proficiency in the subject matter of this course? (Check all that apply):

Written expression

Methods of Evaluation may include, but are not limited to, the following typical classroom assessment techniques/required assignments (check as many as are deemed appropriate):

- Essay exams
- Objective exams
- Problem-solving exams
- Quizzes
- Other (specify)
- Classroom Discussion
- Projects
- Participation
- Reports/Papers/Journals

Other

Instructor will engage students in discussion of current event topics and may include debates and group discussions as part of the evaluation method.

Instructional Methodology

Specify the methods of instruction that may be employed in this course

Class discussions
 Distance Education
 Group discussions
 Lecture
 Small group activities
 Other (specify)

Specify other method of instruction

Instructional methods include pair and group activities.

Describe specific examples of the methods the instructor will use:

simulation that guides students through the law-making process.
 group work that analyzes the effects of federalism on civil liberties and civil rights.

Representative Course Assignments

Writing Assignments

write essay discussing primary source documents such as the Second *Treatise of Government* and the *Federalist Papers*.
 write a research paper comparing and contrasting the responsibilities of each branch of government.
 provide a summary and analysis of guest lectures or other class projects.

Critical Thinking Assignments

compare and contrast the constitutional powers of each branch of the federal government and each branch of the California state government.
 identify political leadership and policy issues.
 distinguish between political and nonpolitical topics through media assignments.

Reading Assignments

read primary source documents such as the *Federalist Papers*.
 read newspaper articles and discuss how they relate to lecture topics presented in the course.

Skills Demonstrations

N/A

Problem-Solving and Other Assignments (if applicable)

N/A

Outside Assignments

Representative Outside Assignments

view viewing government proceedings on CSPAN.
 write a research paper involving library/Internet sources. For example, a research paper that follows the evolution of a bill and its path through the law-making process.

Articulation

C-ID Descriptor Number

POLS 110

Status

Approved

Equivalent Courses at 4 year institutions

University	Course ID	Course Title	Units
CSU Northridge	POLS 155	American Political Institutions	3
Cal Poly Pomona	PLS 2010	Introduction to American Government	3
UC Santa Barbara	POL S 12	American Government and Politics	4

Comparable Courses within the VCCCD

POLS R101 - Government of the United States I: Institutions and Politics
 POLS V01 - American Government
 POLS M03H - Honors: American Government and Politics

Equivalent Courses at other CCCs

College	Course ID	Course Title	Units
Ohlone College	PS 102	Introduction to American Politics	3
San Diego City College	POLI 102	Introduction to American Government	3

District General Education**A. Natural Sciences****B. Social and Behavioral Sciences****B1. American History/Institutions**

Approved

B2. Social and Behavioral Sciences

Approved

C. Humanities**D. Language and Rationality****E. Health and Physical Education/Kinesiology****F. Ethnic Studies/Gender Studies****Course is CSU transferable**

Yes

CSU Baccalaureate List effective term:

F1995

CSU GE-Breadth**Area A: English Language Communication and Critical Thinking****Area B: Scientific Inquiry and Quantitative Reasoning****Area C: Arts and Humanities****Area D: Social Sciences****D Social Sciences**

Approved

Area E: Lifelong Learning and Self-Development

Area F: Ethnic Studies

CSU Graduation Requirement in U.S. History, Constitution and American Ideals:

US - 2: U.S. Constitution and Government

Approved

US - 3: California State and Local Government

Approved

UC TCA

UC TCA

Approved

IGETC

Area 1: English Communication

Area 2A: Mathematical Concepts & Quantitative Reasoning

Area 3: Arts and Humanities

Area 4: Social and Behavioral Sciences

Area 4: Social and Behavioral Sciences

Approved

Area 5: Physical and Biological Sciences

Area 6: Languages Other than English (LOTE)

Textbooks and Lab Manuals

Resource Type

Textbook

Description

Van Vechten, Renée. *California Politics: A Primer*. 6th ed., CQ. 2021.

Resource Type

Textbook

Description

Ford, Lynne E., et al. *American Government and Politics Today*. 19th ed., Cengage, 2022.

Resource Type

Textbook

Classic Textbook

No

Description

Geer, John, et al. *Gateways to Democracy: An Introduction to American Government*. 5th ed., Cengage, 2023.

Library Resources

Assignments requiring library resources

Research using the library's print and online resources.

Sufficient Library Resources exist

Yes

Example of Assignments Requiring Library Resources

Reading of journal articles and research using the Library's print and online resources on such topics as analyzing the results of a recent presidential election.

Distance Education Addendum

Definitions

Distance Education Modalities

Hybrid (1%–50% online)
Hybrid (51%–99% online)
100% online

Faculty Certifications

Faculty assigned to teach Hybrid or Fully Online sections of this course will receive training in how to satisfy the Federal and state regulations governing regular effective/substantive contact for distance education. The training will include common elements in the district-supported learning management system (LMS), online teaching methods, regular effective/substantive contact, and best practices.

Yes

Faculty assigned to teach Hybrid or Fully Online sections of this course will meet with the EAC Alternate Media Specialist to ensure that the course content meets the required Federal and state accessibility standards for access by students with disabilities. Common areas for discussion include accessibility of PDF files, images, captioning of videos, Power Point presentations, math and scientific notation, and ensuring the use of style mark-up in Word documents.

Yes

Regular Effective/Substantive Contact

Hybrid (1%–50% online) Modality:

Method of Instruction	Document typical activities or assignments for each method of instruction
Asynchronous Dialog (e.g., discussion board)	Find current event articles and relate them directly to lecture content.
Other DE (e.g., recorded lectures)	Record and post audio/visual lectures that students can access at any time.

Hybrid (51%–99% online) Modality:

Method of Instruction	Document typical activities or assignments for each method of instruction
Asynchronous Dialog (e.g., discussion board)	Find current event articles and relate them directly to lecture content.
Other DE (e.g., recorded lectures)	Record and post audio/visual lectures that students can access at any time.

100% online Modality:

Method of Instruction	Document typical activities or assignments for each method of instruction
Asynchronous Dialog (e.g., discussion board)	Find current event articles and relate them directly to lecture content.
Other DE (e.g., recorded lectures)	Record and post audio/visual lectures that students can access at any time.

Examinations

Hybrid (1%–50% online) Modality

Online

Hybrid (51%–99% online) Modality

Online

Primary Minimum Qualification

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Review and Approval Dates

Department Chair

09/29/2022

Dean

10/04/2022

Technical Review

10/06/2022

Curriculum Committee

10/18/2022

DTRW-I

MM/DD/YYYY

Curriculum Committee

MM/DD/YYYY

Board

MM/DD/YYYY

CCCCO

MM/DD/YYYY

Control Number

CCC000433962

DOE/accreditation approval date

MM/DD/YYYY