POLS 1101 - American Government (version 201312L)

Course Title	Course Development	Learning Support
American Government	Standard	No

Course Description

Emphasizes study of government and politics in the United States. The focus of the course will provide an overview of the Constitutional foundations of the American political processes with a focus on government institutions and political procedures. The course will examine the constitutional framework, federalism, civil liberties and civil rights, public opinion, the media, interest groups, political parties, and the election process along with the three branches of government. In addition, this course will examine the processes of Georgia state government. Topics include foundations of government, political behavior, and governing institutions.

Pre-requisites

Appropriate Degree Level Writing (English) and Reading Placement Test Scores

Regstr. Co-requisites

Regstr. Co-requisites: None

True Co-requisites

True Co-requisites: None

Course Length

	Lecture Contact Time	Regular Lab Type	Reg. Lab Contact Time	Other Lab Type	Oth. Lab Contact Time	Total Contact Hrs
Contact Hours Per Week	**3 hrs**	**N/A**	**0 hrs**	**N/A**	**0 hrs**	**3 hrs**
Contact Min/Hrs Per Semester	**2250 min**		**0 min**		**0 min**	**45 hrs**

	Lecture Credit Hours	Lab Credit Hours	Total Credit hours	WLU
Semester Credit Hours	**3**	**0**	**3**	**101.25**

Competencies & Outcomes

Order Description

1 **Foundations of Government**

Order	Description	Learning Domain	Level of Learning
1	Trace the development of the U.S. Constitution from the problematic Articles of Confederation through the Constitutional Convention and ramifications.	Cognitive	Comprehension
2	Contrast the original constitutional dispersion of power with the modern dispersion that has evolved through custom and interpretation.	Cognitive	Analysis
3	Analyze the amendment process and the political implications with it.	Cognitive	Knowledge
4	Explain Federalism and how it differs from other forms of government.	Cognitive	Comprehension
5	Describe how Federalism has evolved to reach its present form in the U.S.	Cognitive	Knowledge
6	Explore the growth of the national government through an examination of the factors contributing to its expansion.	Cognitive	Knowledge
7	Examine the major safeguards of freedom contained in the First Amendment.	Cognitive	Analysis
8	Explain and evaluate the major clauses in the Fourteenth Amendment to include	Cognitive	Comprehension

	the effectiveness throughout the United States.		
9	Explain and evaluate the effectiveness of the Fifteenth, Nineteenth, and Twenty-sixth Amendments in overcoming barriers to voting in the United States.	Cognitive	Comprehension
10	Describe how the Constitution protects citizenship.	Cognitive	Comprehension
11	Describe the fundamentals of the Fourth, Fifth, and Eighth Amendments.	Cognitive	Knowledge
12	Describe the significance of the Fourth, Fifth, and Eighth Amendments in the U.S. system of rights.	Cognitive	Knowledge
13	Discuss the nationalization of the Bill of Rights.	Cognitive	Comprehension

2 **Political Behavior**

Order	Description	Learning Domain	Level of Learning
1	Develop an understanding of democracy.	Cognitive	Application
2	Investigate the effects of public opinion on the U.S. democratic form of government.	Cognitive	Knowledge
3	Assess the effects of the media on politics.	Cognitive	Application
4	Analyze interest groups in terms to include: a. structure; b. power and influence; and c. operating techniques.	Cognitive	Knowledge
5	Explain the different political philosophies and political parties operating in the U.S.	Cognitive	Comprehension
6	Describe the function and impact of the Electoral College.	Cognitive	Comprehension
7	Discuss the process running for public office with detailed interest given from the nomination to the election of a president.	Cognitive	Comprehension

3 **Governing Institutions**

Order	Description	Learning Domain	Level of Learning
1	Analyze Congress focusing on the legislative process to include: a. structure; b. functions; and c. membership.	Cognitive	Knowledge
2	Analyze Congress focusing on common criticisms to include: a. structure; b. functions; and c. membership.	Cognitive	Knowledge
3	Trace the evolution of the modern presidency to include public expectations from constitutional foundations to the current form.	Cognitive	Comprehension
4	Describe the differing forms of law that the American legal system is based.	Cognitive	Knowledge
5	Explain the structure and function of the national courts system including the operation of the U.S. Supreme Court.	Cognitive	Comprehension
6	Describe the process of judicial review.	Cognitive	Comprehension
7	Evaluate the public policy-making process with regard to policy formation and the impact of ideological difference among policy makers.	Cognitive	Evaluation
8	Examine the institutions and processes of Georgia state government.	Cognitive	Analysis