

POLS R101: GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES I: INSTITUTIONS AND POLITICS

Originator

ptrujillo

Co-Contributor(s)**Name(s)**

Guevara, Gloria (gguevara)

College

Oxnard College

Discipline (CB01A)

POLS - Political Science

Course Number (CB01B)

R101

Course Title (CB02)

Government of the United States I: Institutions and Politics

Banner/Short Title

Govt of US I: Instit&Politics

Credit Type

Credit

Start Term

Fall 2021

Catalog Course Description

This course provides a study of the Constitutional principles, institutions and politics of American Government with special attention to the dynamics of representative government evident in voting, campaigns, political party politics, legislative process, presidential leadership and the public policy process. The California Constitution and government will be examined.

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

May be required

Grading method

Letter Graded

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 | Explain the principles and application of the U.S. Constitutional government |
| 2 | Explain the principles and practice of federal/state relations (federalism) and its impact on public policy. |
| 3 | Identify the Constitutional powers of the three branches of government and examine the expansion of each branch. |
| 4 | Explain the difference between civil liberties and civil rights and identify the historical development of each. |
| 5 | Demonstrate a knowledge and awareness of contemporary issues, political institutions, and problems in their community in their historical contexts. Identify the significance of community involvement and leadership. |
| 6 | Differentiate between the powers and functions of the three branches of government. |

Course Objectives

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Explain the founding and development of the U.S. Constitution. |
| 2 | Explain political concepts and constitutional principles that have been utilized to shape and use the major institutions of government in the United States. |
| 3 | Identify and describe the major institutions of government and processes within the United States at the federal, state and local levels. |
| 4 | Define the historically developed principles of civil liberties and civil rights as outlined in the U.S. Constitution and federal court decisions and explain current applications that shape public and private life. |
| 5 | Evaluate how institutional powers, procedures, and politics have been used to influence the laws and policies of American government. |
| 6 | Explain how the laws and policies of government agencies in the United States make an impact on individual lives. |
| 7 | Discuss and analyze contemporary political issues and operations in the United States and California. |
| 8 | Analyze the role of culture, diversity and ideology in shaping public opinion and public policy in the United States and California. |
| 9 | Analyze the ways whereby a citizen can gain access to political processes and participate in politics at the local, state and national levels. |

- 10 Verbalize political questions & issues and defend their views as citizens.
- 11 Compare American government with parliamentary and other political systems.
- 12 Demonstrate the ability of reasoned analytical writing.
- 13 Research several data sources and demonstrate ability to use relevant current and scholarly information in their writing assignments.

Course Content

Lecture/Course Content

1. The Nature of Politics
 - a. Politics as Power
 - b. Politics as civility, dialogue, and debate
 - c. Politics as justice
2. Politics and the U.S. in a Changing World
 - a. Social, Economic and Demographic Changes in the U.S.
 - b. Social, Economic and Demographic Changes in the World
 - c. Generational Changes and the Impact on U.S. Politics
3. U.S. as “The Great Experiment”.
 - a. Experiment in Colonization
 - b. Experiment in Revolution
 - c. 3. Experiment in Constitution making
4. U.S. Constitution
 - a. As a mixture of Aristocracy, Oligarchy, and Democracy
 - b. As blueprint for the distribution and exercise of authority
 - c. As a source of civic values
 - d. As a means for legal, political and economic resources
 - e. The Amendment Process
5. Federalism in History and Practice
 - a. The Constitutional framework
 - b. Historical developments and political controversies
 - c. Federal-State Relations
 - d. Intergovernmental relations in program & aid
 - e. Judicial review and the 14th Amendment
6. Civil Liberties and the Bill of Rights
 - a. Origins and precedents
 - b. First Amendment freedoms
 - c. Due process of law
 - d. Privacy and punishment issues
7. The Development of Civil Rights
 - a. Definitions & principles of civil rights
 - b. The use of politics to secure rights
 - c. Impact of the 1964 Civil Rights Law
 - d. Rights in relation to economic & social justice
 - e. Current Debates: education, voting, housing, employment, immigration, health care
8. Political Influence
 - a. Concepts of Pluralism and Political Competition
 - b. Goals and Methods of Interest Groups
 - c. Impact of money and lobbying on democracy
9. Political Parties
 - a. Theory and functions of political parties
 - b. Strategies for building coalitions and winning elections
 - c. Responsibilities of majority parties and the “loyal opposition”
 - d. Role of parties in parliamentary systems
10. Elections
 - a. Nominating candidates: primaries and conventions
 - b. Demographics of candidates, campaigns and voting
 - c. Impact of mass media on public opinion and voting

- d. Interpreting and using election results
- e. Political uses of initiative, referendum and recall in California
- 11. The Modern Presidency
 - a. Concepts and roles of the modern presidency
 - b. Historical analysis of Presidential type
 - c. Psychology of Presidential power
 - d. Presidential initiative in foreign policy
 - e. Political leadership vs. head of state
 - f. Institutional Expansion of Presidential Power
 - g. The California Executive
- 12. Legislative Process and Politics
 - a. Theories of legislative process and representation
 - b. Committees and oversight function
 - c. Building consensus and the impact of institutional norms
 - d. Party leadership vs. constituency politics
 - e. Congressional/Executive relations
 - f. Impact of media politics on legislative process
 - g. Budgetary Politics
 - h. Comparison of Parliamentary and Presidential systems
- 13. Judiciary
 - a. Structure and process of the judicial system
 - b. The Supreme Court and judicial review
 - c. Significant Supreme Court Decisions
 - d. Political uses of the judicial system
- 14. Administrative Government
 - a. Legal and theoretical role of bureaucracies
 - b. Administrative regulations and political constituencies
 - c. Bureaucratic networks in a federal and democratic system
 - d. Problems of co-optation, payola, inertia and elitism
- 15. Constitution and Institutions of California Government
 - a. Distinctive feature of the California Constitution and Government
 - b. Legislative process and initiative politics
 - c. Executive powers and the line-item veto
 - d. Parties and interest groups in California politics
 - e. Judicial process and Supreme Court controversies
 - f. The Amendment Process in California
- 16. Public Policy Process
 - a. Economic functions of Government
 - b. Theories of fiscal and monetary policies
 - c. Health and welfare policies
 - d. Environmental and resource politics
- 17. Foreign Policy in a Global Context
 - a. Defining national interest and foreign policy needs
 - b. Politics of alliances and treaties
 - c. National Security and responses to violence
 - d. Relations with the developing world
- 18. Politics, Values, and the Future
 - a. Review of definition of politics
 - b. Politics as opportunity
 - c. Building political consensus
 - d. Scenarios of the political future

Laboratory or Activity Content

None

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
 Essays
 Film/video productions
 Group projects
 Individual projects
 Journals
 Oral analysis/critiques
 Objective exams
 Oral presentations
 Quizzes
 Reports/papers
 Research papers

Instructional Methodology

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

Audio-visual presentations
 Collaborative group work
 Class activities
 Class discussions
 Case studies
 Distance Education
 Group discussions
 Guest speakers
 Instructor-guided interpretation and analysis
 Instructor-guided use of technology
 Internet research
 Lecture
 Small group activities

Describe specific examples of the methods the instructor will use:

1. Instructor guided use of technology for lectures related to various important themes including the development of liberal ideology (from classical liberalism, to conservatism to current ideological developments) and its significance to understanding the current American political system or for examining the US Constitution/California Constitution/Congressional websites, etc. .
2. Class Activities/Group discussions: Instructor will assign students to review a historical document (Federalist Papers, Constitution, California Constitution, etc.) and will ask students to identify important concepts such as Liberalism, Limited Government, popular sovereignty, civil liberties civil rights, social contract, etc.
3. Internet research: Students will be asked to visit institutional webpages of the White House, Congress, and the Supreme Court (or state and local websites) identifying cases on the Court's docket or the current Executive Orders issued by the President.

Representative Course Assignments

Writing Assignments

1. Critical essays examining the influences of the Federalist and the Anti-Federalists in framing the U.S. Constitution or essay addressing the nature of federal-state relations in the development of the different stages of federalism.
2. Research Papers including such topics as: The role of Multinational Companies and its influence on NAFTA; media Companies and the Telecommunications Act of 1996; campaign finance reform and Congressional/Presidential elections.
3. In-class policy analysis/issue analysis: Brief write-ups related to films shown in class. For example: Impact of NAFTA on State Sovereignty; environmental policy and the current Administration's priorities or corporations and the influence of issue advocacy ads in policymaking.
4. In-class policy issue/analysis examining California's attempt to respond to climate change in light of state-federal relations.

Critical Thinking Assignments

1. Brief write-ups asking students to critically evaluate televised political debates, news sources, etc. Identify the differing nature of news sources and the quality (veracity) of such sources using criteria put forth in such online sites as Media Wise or other non-partisan sites.

2. Writing Assignments asking students to explain the rationale used by the Federalist/Anti-Federalist behind supporting/opposing the ratification of the U.S. Constitution. Explain how the Constitution reflects compromise between the competing factions.
3. Writing Assignments asking students to identify the current/modern day applications for Madison's *Federalist #10*. In what ways do the observations made about human nature, sources of factions and types of factions reflect today's political realities
4. Writing Assignment examining the current California propositions examining the pro/con of each proposition and identify the impact of such propositions.

Reading Assignments

1. Selections from assigned texts, for example excerpts from *The Federalist Papers*, in which the Founders put forth their view of how American Government should be structured; or readings on the U.S. Constitution which suggest the Constitution provides a blueprint for government; readings related to the Bill of Rights and how it reflects the notion of constitutional liberalism in the U.S.; or chapters in textbook addressing the expansion of Presidential power.
2. Current Events. Students will be required to read a daily newspaper such as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, or any other online (reputable) news source.
3. Research material from library and different internet data sources, for example, exploring different government internet sites such as: The White House, U.S. Census Bureau, the U.S. Congress, etc.

Other assignments (if applicable)

1. Critically evaluate televised political debates, news sources, etc.
2. Attend guest speaker events/lectures.
3. Research current Supreme Court Nominees.
4. Visit the offices of local government and state (virtually or in person) and national legislatures to discuss the services provided to their constituents.

Outside Assignments

Representative Outside Assignments

1. Reading Assignments.
2. Political debates, current events, other governmental websites.
3. Discussion posts based on films/current events.
4. Chapter Quizzes.

Articulation

C-ID Descriptor Number

POLS 110

Status

Approved

Equivalent Courses at 4 year institutions

University	Course ID	Course Title	Units
Cal State University, Channel Islands	POLS 150	American Political Institutions	
Cal State University, Northridge	POLS 155	American Political Institutions	

Comparable Courses within the VCCCD

POLS M03 - American Government & Politics
 POLS M03H - Honors: American Government and Politics
 POLS V01 - American Government

Equivalent Courses at other CCCs

College	Course ID	Course Title	Units
College of the Canyons	POLISC 150	Intro. to American Government and Politics	
Santa Barbara City College	POLS 101	American Government and Politics	

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:

Fall 1999

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

DescriptionBardes, B., Shelley, M., & Schmidt, S (2017). *American Government and Politics Today* (19th). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth. 9781111832**Resource Type**

Textbook

DescriptionAbernathy, S (2019). *American Government: Stories of a Nation* (2nd). Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press. 1544327552.**Resource Type**

Textbook

DescriptionGerston, L. and Christensen, T (2017). *California Government and Politics: A Practical Approach* (14th). Wadsworth. 1305953495**Resource Type**

Textbook

DescriptionShea, M., Green, J (2017). *Living Democracy: National Edition* (5th). New York City, NY: Pearson. 9780134628**Resource Type**

Other Resource Type

Description

Videos.

Resource Type

Other Resource Type

Description

Overhead transparencies.

Resource Type

Other Resource Type

Description

Power Point presentations.

Library Resources

Assignments requiring library resources

Research papers, film write ups (films assigned through library video databases), news sources (research using library computers).

Sufficient Library Resources exist

No

Example of Assignments Requiring Library Resources

Research papers examining the development of a civil liberty/civil right. Film write-ups on such topics as corporate speech as seen in the PBS news documentary "Free Speech for Sale".

Distance Education Addendum

Definitions

Distance Education Modalities

- Hybrid (51%–99% online)
- Hybrid (1%–50% 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)	Student to student discussion posts in LMS (posted by instructor) related to films or current events/issues such as Supreme Court decisions, the Partisan divide in Congress/White House or the ability of President Trump to take control of the Republican party.
E-mail	Faculty will use emails to notify students of upcoming exams and current assignments posted in LMS or to respond to student questions or concerns.
Other DE (e.g., recorded lectures)	Faculty may provide recorded lectures and use other DE for film assignments.
Video Conferencing	Faculty may use live video conferencing in LMS for review sessions, lead discussions, answer students' questions related to course.

Hybrid (51%–99% online) Modality:

Method of Instruction	Document typical activities or assignments for each method of instruction
Asynchronous Dialog (e.g., discussion board)	Student to student discussion posts in LMS (posted by instructor) related to films or current events/issues such as Supreme Court decisions, the Partisan divide in Congress/White House or the ability of President Trump to take control of the Republican party.
E-mail	Faculty will use emails to notify students of upcoming exams and current assignments posted in LMS or to respond to student questions or concerns.
Other DE (e.g., recorded lectures)	Faculty may provide recorded lectures and use other DE for film assignments.
Video Conferencing	Faculty may use live video conferencing in LMS for review sessions, lead discussions, answer students' questions related to course.

100% online Modality:

Method of Instruction	Document typical activities or assignments for each method of instruction
Asynchronous Dialog (e.g., discussion board)	Student to student discussion posts in LMS (posted by instructor) related to films or current events/issues such as Supreme Court decisions, the Partisan divide in Congress/White House or the ability of President Trump to take control of the Republican party.
E-mail	Faculty will use emails to notify students of upcoming exams and current assignments posted in LMS or to respond to student questions or concerns.
Other DE (e.g., recorded lectures)	Faculty may provide recorded lectures and use other DE for film assignments.
Video Conferencing	Faculty may use live video conferencing in LMS for review sessions, lead discussions, answer students' questions related to course.

Examinations**Hybrid (1%–50% online) Modality**

Online

Hybrid (51%–99% online) Modality

Online

Primary Minimum Qualification

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Review and Approval Dates**Department Chair**

09/13/2020

Dean

09/14/2020

Technical Review

10/28/2020

Curriculum Committee

10/28/2020

DTRW-I

MM/DD/YYYY

Curriculum Committee

12/09/2020

Board

MM/DD/YYYY

CCCCO

12/18/2020

Control Number

CCC000184569

DOE/accreditation approval date

MM/DD/YYYY