

General Education Course Proposal

Proposed Course: PL SI 002 American Government and Institutions Units 3
Prefix No. Title
Department: Political Science School: Social Sciences

GE Category (Indicate one category only):

Foundation: A1 ___ A2 ___ A3 B4 ___
Breadth: B1 ___ B2 ___ C1 D X E ___
Integration: B ___ C ___ D ___ International/Multicultural: ___

Existing Course: X Revised Course: ___ New Course: ___
Course Included in Current GE Program YES

New courses require the Undergraduate Course Proposal form in addition to this form.
Revised courses require the Undergraduate Course Change Request in addition to this form.

Proposed catalog description: Limit course description to 40 words using succinct phrases. Include prerequisites, limitations, lecture/lab hours. Indicate former course number, e.g., (Former Biol 105)

Meets the United States Constitution requirement and the federal, California State, and local government requirement. Not open to students with credit in PL SI 101. The development and operation of government in the United States; study of how ideas, institutions, laws and people have constructed and maintained a political order in America (General Education Area D (1)).

Enrollment limit per section: 50 or 150* depending on classroom size
Two sections per semester are taught in a large classroom.
Expected number of sections per semester - Year 1 16-20; Year 3 16-20

Attachments:

- 1. A statement presenting the ways in which this course meets the Specifications provided in the appropriate section of the General Education Policy as well as in the Policies for Inclusion and Evaluation of General Education Courses.
2. A statement of elements common to all sections of this course, identifying content, objectives, required student activities, grading policy, representative texts, and an approximate schedule for the course. Required student activities include such things as papers, research projects, homework, laboratory and/or studio performance, recitations, participation, attendance, and exams.
3. A typical syllabus for a particular offering of the course.
4. Any special cost factors associated with this course.

Approval for Inclusion in General Education

Russell Mardon 3-18-98 J Echovenia 3/15/98
Department Chair Date School Curriculum Committee Date
Original Signed by Ellen Gruenbaum
School Dean Date General Education Subcommittee Date
Brandt Kehoe 12/22/98 1/14/98
Associate Provost Date

ATTACHMENT 2: ELEMENTS COMMON TO ALL SECTIONS OF THIS COURSE

Course Objective:

This course is designed to introduce the student to the American and the California Constitutions, and to the primary structures and functions of the American and California governmental systems. The emphasis of the course will be placed upon the three Constitutional branches of the national government, the functioning of the American bureaucratic system, federal relations between the national government and the States, and on California political institutions and processes. It is intended that the student will gain an understanding of the constitutional process and of how people and ideas have created, altered and sustained the political structures, institutions and policies of the American and California political systems.

Required Material to be Covered:

Different professors may vary their approach to this course, however, all sections must have reading materials, lectures, and evaluation processes addressing the following topics:

- I. Methodology and Analytical Concepts of the Study of American Politics
(See Attachment 3, weeks 1,2)
- II. The United States' Constitution (See Attachment 3, weeks 3,4)
 - A. Competing Ideas and Philosophies: The Constitutional Convention
 - B. Structure: Separation of Powers
 - C. Checks and Balances
 - D. The Amendments
- III. Federalism (See Attachment 3, weeks 3,4)
- IV. Civil Liberties and Civil Rights (See Attachment 3, weeks 5)
- V. The Congress (See Attachment 3, weeks 8,9)
- VI. The Executive Branch (See Attachment 3, weeks 6,7)
- VII. The Judiciary (See Attachment 3, weeks 10,11)
- VIII. Campaigns and Elections (See Attachment 3, week 13)
- IX. Political Parties and Interest Groups (See Attachment 3, week 12)
- X. The California Constitution (See Attachment 3, weeks 6-11)
- XI. California Politics (See Attachment 3, 6-11)

Schedule:

Professors must spend between one and two weeks on each topic. Depending on a particular professor's expertise, additional time can be spent on individual topics listed above, or on other topics of American and Californian politics such as taxation and budgeting, foreign policy, military policy, Californian water politics, local politics, or other issues of California politics.

Textbook:

There are several American Government and California Government textbooks that address the previously stated topics. The instructor of the course will have professional discretion in selecting textbooks. However, each section needs to have appropriate reading material that focuses on the relevant issues of both the American and California Constitutional processes, as previously listed.

The following is a list of textbooks frequently used.

Karen O'Connor and Larry Sabato, American Government: Roots and Reform, (Allyn and Bacon Publishing Co., 1995).

Lawrence Brewster and Leonard Kooperman, A Primer in California Politics, (St. Martins Press, 1997).

Morris Fiorina and Paul Peterson, The New American Democracy, (Allyn and Bacon, 1998).

Burns, Peltason and Cronin, Government by the People, (Prentice-Hall, 1997).

James Wilson and John DiIulio, American Government, (D.C. Heath and Company, 1997).

Robert Lineberry, Government in America, (Harper Collins, 1998).

Thomas Patterson, The American Democracy, (McGraw-Hill, 1998).

Thomas Patterson, We the People, (McGraw-Hill, 1997).

Leon Baradat, Understanding American Democracy, (Harper Collins, 1998).

Thomas Dye and Harmon Zeigler, The Irony of Democracy, (Wadsworth Publishing, 1997).

Hyink and Provost, Politics and Government in California, (Harper and Row, Publishers, 1998).

Ken Debow, Power and Politics in California, (Allyn and Bacon, 1998).

Grading:

Individual professors will have professional discretion in establishing grading requirements. However, grading requirements must be specified clearly in the course syllabus, must meet all appropriate university policies, and a minimum 2,000 word writing requirement must be a part of the grading process. Graded assignments can include objective and essay tests, research papers, in-class participation and other written assignments. A term paper, or other writing assignments must focus upon issues of American or California politics.

Frequency of Course Offering:

Currently we teach between 16-20 sections per semester. This will remain similar.

ATTACHMENT 3: A TYPICAL SYLLABUS

POLITICAL SCIENCE 002
American Government and Institutions
Dr. Russell Mardon, Instructor

Office: SS129
Phone: 278-3998

Office Hours: TTH 1230-1430
T 1800-1900

Course Objective

This course is designed to introduce the student to the primary structures and functions of the American and California Constitutional system and to acquaint the student with the fundamentals of government. The emphasis of the course will be placed upon the three primary branches of the national government, the functioning of the American bureaucracy, and the formulation of public policy. It is intended that the student will gain an understanding of the constitutional process and of how people and ideas have created and sustained the political structures, institutions, and policies of the American political system.

Grading Policy

There will be two hour long examinations and a final comprehensive examination. Exams will have multiple choice and essay questions. Each of the hour long examinations will account for 60 points. The final examination will account for 80 points. There will also be a 10 page typed research paper, focusing on a current issue of American or California politics. The paper will account for 100 points. The scores from all three examinations and the paper will be totaled and a curve will be created from the class distribution.

Course Policy

Students are expected to complete all reading assignments before attending class, and to know all material listed on the study guides.

Texts

American Government: Roots and Reform, Karen O'Connor and Larry Sabato, (Allyn and Bacon Publishing Co., 1995).

Politics and Government in California, Hyink and Provost, (Harper and Row, Publishers, 1998).

Course Schedule

Weeks 1,2	Introduction to the study of government. The Nation State and the Distribution of Power, and Methods of Political Analysis.
	READING: O'Connor, Chapters 1,2,3 Hyink, Chapter 1,2
Weeks 3,4	The American Constitution and the Federal System
	READING: O'Connor, Chapter 4

Week 5	Civil Rights and Civil Liberties READING: O'Connor, Chapter 5 TEST 1
Weeks 6,7	The Executive Branch and The Presidential Selection Process The California Executive Branch READING: O'Connor, Chapters 7 and 8, Hyink, Chapter 7
Weeks 8,9	The Legislative Branch: Federal and State READING: O'Connor, Chapter 6 Hyink, Chapter 6
Weeks 10,11	The Judicial Branch: Federal and State READING: O'Connor, Chapter 9 Hyink, Chapter 8 TEST 2
Week 12	Political Parties and Interest Groups READING: O'Connor, Chapters 11 and 15
Week 13	Elections and Voting Behavior READING: O'Connor, Chapter 12 and 13 Hyink, Chapters 4 and 5
Week 14	The Politics of Taxation and Budgeting READING: O'Connor, Chapter 16
Week 15	American Foreign and Military Policy FINAL EXAMINATION Tuesday, May 19, 1100-1300