Outline of Instruction

Division: Social Sciences            Area: Political Science
Course Number: 101                  Course Name: American Institutions
Prerequisites: NONE
Corequisite: NONE
Hours Required: Class: 45          Lab: 0          Credits: 3

Course Description/Purpose

This course considers the historical, economical, and political principles as they operate within the American nation-state political system. Students examine the purpose and function of each primary branch of government.

Major Units

• The American Constitution and Federalism
• American Political Ideologies
• Competing Interests, Political Parties, and Elections
• The Executive Branch
• The Legislative Branch
• The Judicial Branch

Educational/Course Outcomes

Student learning will be assessed by a variety of methods, including, but not limited to, quizzes and tests, journals, essays, papers, projects, laboratory/clinical exercises and examinations, presentations, simulations, portfolios, homework assignments, and instructor observations.

Cognitive

Each student will be expected to Identify/Recognize...

• the major components of the American Constitution.
• or describe how power is divided among the different levels and branches of government.
• at least three ways interests are organized to influence public policy-making
• the role of political ideology and define the terms “liberal” and “conservative.”

Performance

Each student will be expected to Demonstrate/Practice...

• how to properly participate in the political process, i.e. voter registration, party association, etc.
• critical thinking by presenting opposing political viewpoints through oral or written presentations.

• knowledge of the every day activities of the executive, judicial, and legislative branches.

Attitudinal Each student will be expected to Believe/Feel/Think . .

• his or her own political viewpoints and ideology.

JB/pf—5/04