



COURSE SYLLABUS

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COURSE: POL 120 AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

HOURS: Lecture: 3 Lab/Shop: 0 Work Exp/Clinical: 0 Credits: 3

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is a study of the origins, development, structure and functions of American national government. Topics include the constitutional framework, federalism, the three branches of government including the bureaucracy, civil rights and liberties, political participation and behavior and policy formation. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the basic concepts and participatory processes of the American political system.

Note: In accordance with the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement, this course has been approved to satisfy the Universal General Education Transfer Component requirement for social/behavioral sciences in A.A. and A.S. degree programs. This course has been approved to meet the social/behavioral sciences requirement in A.A.S. degree programs.

PREREQUISITE(S): None

COREQUISITE(S): None

TEXTBOOK(S) & OTHER SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

Open Educational Resources (OER) are listed in the course Moodle.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Discuss the foundation of the United States constitutional system of government, along with the US Constitution and the Declaration of Independence.
2. Define and discuss the impact of federalism in the United States along with Federalist papers.
3. Differentiate between Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and their societal impacts also the Emancipation Proclamation and The Gettysburg Address prompts.
4. Differentiate the development, organization, and functions of the three branches of the US national government (Judicial, Executive, & Legislative).
5. Examine the format and ideals presented in the North Carolina Constitution.
6. Recognize the significance of political participation in campaigns and draw upon Rev Martin Luther King, Jr's Letter from Birmingham Jail as a historical reference.
7. Examine the role of the media on public opinion in US politics.
8. Outline the histories and purposes of US political parties (both major and minor).
9. Compare and contrast the two-party system in the USA with the multi-party system found in Western democracies.

*****Please refer to the online version of the Richmond Community College Program & Course Catalog and the Student Handbook for current academic and general information.**