

College of San Mateo
Official Course Outline

1. **COURSE ID:** PLSC 200 **TITLE:** National, State and Local Governments **C-ID:** POLS 110

Units: 3.0 units **Hours/Semester:** 48.0-54.0 Lecture hours; and 96.0-108.0 Homework hours

Method of Grading: Letter Grade Only

Recommended Preparation:

Completion of, or enrollment in ENGL 100, or ENGL 105

2. **COURSE DESIGNATION:**

Degree Credit

Transfer credit: CSU; UC

AA/AS Degree Requirements:

CSM - GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS: E1a. American History and Institutions

CSM - GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS: E5b. Social Science

CSU GE:

CSU GE Area D: SOCIAL SCIENCES: DSI - Social Institutions

CSU GE Area D: SOCIAL SCIENCES: US-2

CSU GE Area D: SOCIAL SCIENCES: US-3

IGETC:

IGETC Area 4: SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES: Social and Behavioral Sciences

3. **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**

Catalog Description:

A study of the structure and function of the basic national, state and local government institutions. The course will examine the dynamics of the constitutional power relationship between the respective branches of government and the operational relationship between the national, state and local governments. Note: Upon transfer to a U.C. campus, students who have completed both PLSC 200 and PLSC 210 will receive transfer credit for only one 3-unit course.

4. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:

1. Effectively communicate understanding of the roles played by state actors (such as the 3 branches of government) and non-state actors (such as interest groups, political parties and the news media) on the development and implementation of policy.
2. Critically analyze theories on the impact of federalism, the separation of powers and economic inequality on the development and implementation of policy.
3. Discuss the impact of ethnic, cultural and economic diversity on political issues and policy.
4. Evaluate the ethical issues and conflicts inherent to contemporary political issues.
5. Demonstrate understanding of the rights and duties of a citizen through participation in the political system.

5. **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**

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

1. Effectively communicate understanding of the roles played by state actors (such as the 3 branches of government) and non-state actors (such as interest groups, political parties and the news media) on the development and implementation of policy.
2. Critically analyze theories on the impact of federalism, the separation of powers and economic inequality on the development and implementation of policy.
3. Discuss the impact of ethnic, cultural and economic diversity on political issues and policy.
4. Evaluate the ethical issues and conflicts inherent to contemporary political issues.
5. Demonstrate understanding of the rights and duties of a citizen through participation in the political system.

6. **COURSE CONTENT:**

Lecture Content:

1. Federalism and the constitutions of the U.S. and the State of California.
2. The structures of and relationships between the local, state and federal governments.
3. The common law legal system, the structure of the California and US court systems, civil litigation and criminal proceedings, the rights of criminal defendants, the Supreme Court, and judicial review.

4. Civil liberties, and the rights and obligations of citizens.
5. Religion and politics.
6. Civil rights and racial and gender relations.
7. Wealth, poverty and economic inequality in the U.S. and California.
8. The impact of the capitalist economic system on representative democracy.
9. The mass media, interest groups, and political parties.
10. Campaign finance and the impact of money on politics and public policy.
11. Primary elections, general elections and voting.
12. The Legislative Branch of government: Congress and the California state legislature.
13. The Executive Branch: presidents, governors and the bureaucracy.
14. Domestic policymaking: budgetary, economic, social welfare, health, environment, energy, etc.
15. Foreign and defense policymaking.

7. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Typical methods of instruction may include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Activity
- C. Discussion
- D. Field Experience
- E. Field Trips
- F. Guest Speakers
- G. Service Learning
- H. Other (Specify): Lecture, classroom discussions and debates, small group discussions, individual and group presentations, use of multimedia (including videos, Power Point presentations and use of Internet sources to supplement the textbooks), and Civic Mirror American politics simulation. Student assignments include written work emphasizing critical thinking skills (analysis of the readings and/or research), as well as fieldwork like volunteering for a political campaign or a political organization or an elected official. Students typically read 50 to 100 pages per week in the textbook and other sources.

8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:

Writing Assignments:

Research papers, analytical essays, short-answer questions on assigned readings, letters to elected representatives, reports on political events attended, reports on participation in political activities, asynchronous online discussions, face-to-face discussions/debates, self-evaluation of progress in Civic Mirror American politics simulation.

Reading Assignments:

Textbooks, websites, reports, newspapers, newsmagazines

Other Outside Assignments:

Oral presentations. Service learning as a volunteer or intern with an organization whose work is related to politics or government.

9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

- A. Class Participation
- B. Class Performance
- C. Class Work
- D. Exams/Tests
- E. Field Trips
- F. Group Projects
- G. Homework
- H. Oral Presentation
- I. Papers
- J. Projects
- K. Quizzes
- L. Research Projects
- M. Simulation
- N. Written examination

10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):

Possible textbooks include:

- A. Ford, L., S. Schmidt, B. Bardes, M. Shelley. *American Government and Politics Today*, 19 ed. Cengage Learning, 2022
- B. Van Vechten, R.B.. *California Politics*, 6 ed. CQ Press, 2021
- C. Field, M.. *California Government and Politics Today*, 15 ed. Pearson, 2018
- D. Edwards III, G. C., M. P. Wattenberg, W. Howell. *Government in America*, 18 ed. Pearson, 2022
- E. Greenberg, E. S., B. I. Page. *The Struggle for Democracy*, 13 ed. Pearson, 2022
- F. Hudson, W.. *American Democracy in Peril*, 9 ed. CQ Press, 2020
- G. Patterson, T.. *We The People*, 14 ed. McGraw-Hill, 2022
- H. Magleby, D, P. Light, C.L. Nemacheck. *Government By The People*, 27 ed. Pearson, 2022
- I. Michelson, M., J.T. Anagnoson, G. Bonetto, J.V. Buck, J.J. Kelleher, J. Emrey, N. Koch. *Governing California in the Twenty-First Century*, 8 ed. W.W. Norton, 2021
- J. Gerston, L., T. Christensen, M. Currin-Percival, G. Percival. *California Politics & Government: A Practical Approach*, 15 ed. Cengage Learning, 2022
- K. O'Connor, K. J., L. J. Sabato. *American Government: Roots and Reform*, 14 ed. Pearson, 2022

Origination Date: November 2021

Curriculum Committee Approval Date: January 2022

Effective Term: Fall 2022

Course Originator: Lee Miller