



El Camino College  
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD – Official

<b>Course Acronym:</b>	POLI
<b>Course Number:</b>	1H
<b>Descriptive Title:</b>	Honors Governments of the United States and California
<b>Division:</b>	Behavioral and Social Sciences
<b>Department:</b>	Political Science
<b>Course Disciplines:</b>	Political Science
<b>Catalog Description:</b>	<p>This honors course, intended for students in the Honors Transfer Program, is a survey of the concepts, theories, and functions of the American political system. The basic principles of the United States Constitution and the government of California will be examined. Emphasis will be placed on the formal and informal influences of federalism on national and state governments. This course is enriched through extensive, rigorous reading, writing, and research assignments.</p> <p>*Note: Some UC transferable courses have credit limitations. For details, see a counselor, the Transfer Center advisor, or the articulation officer.</p> <p>Note: Students may take either Political Science 1 or Political Science 1H. Duplicate credit will not be awarded for Political Science 1 and Political Science 1H.</p>
<b>Prerequisite:</b>	
<b>Co-requisite:</b>	
<b>Recommended Preparation:</b>	Eligibility for English 1A
<b>Enrollment Limitation:</b>	
<b>Hours Lecture (per week):</b>	3
<b>Hours Laboratory (per week):</b>	0
<b>Outside Study Hours:</b>	6
<b>Total Course Hours:</b>	54
<b>Course Units:</b>	3
<b>Grading Method:</b>	Letter Grade only
<b>Credit Status:</b>	Credit, degree applicable
<b>Transfer CSU:</b>	Yes
<b>Effective Date:</b>	12/19/2016
<b>Transfer UC:</b>	Yes
<b>Effective Date:</b>	

<b>General Education: ECC</b>	Area 2B - Social and Behavioral Science
<b>Term:</b>	
<b>Other:</b>	
<b>CSU GE:</b>	Area D - Social Sciences
<b>Term:</b>	
<b>Other:</b>	
<b>IGETC:</b>	Area 4 - Social and Behavioral Sciences
<b>Term:</b>	
<b>Other:</b>	
<b>Student Learning Outcomes:</b>	<p><b>SLO #1 Articles and Amendments</b></p> <p>In a multiple choice test, students will demonstrate knowledge of the basic principles of the United States Constitution including its Articles and Amendments, as well as those for the government of California.</p> <p><b>SLO #2 Linkage Mechanisms</b></p> <p>In a multiple choice or written essay test, students will demonstrate an understanding of how political parties and interest groups serve as channels for popular participation, and compare/contrast the techniques they use to do so.</p> <p><b>SLO #3 The Executive Branch</b></p> <p>In a written essay or multiple choice exam, students will demonstrate an understanding of the various roles played by the President and California Governor, the political resources available to them to meet the expectations associated with those roles, and how those resources are limited.</p>
<b>Course Objectives:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify the theoretical foundations and the applications of the American political system.</li> <li>2. Analyze major political institutions: the presidency, bureaucracy, Congress, Judiciary, elections, political parties, and interest groups.</li> <li>3. Examine and assess the implementation of democracy, including the different perspectives of elitism, pluralism, and majoritarianism.</li> <li>4. Evaluate the role of the mass media in the political process.</li> <li>5. Identify and discuss political culture and the function of political socialization.</li> <li>6. Compare and contrast the relationship of federal and state governmental systems and processes with emphasis on California.</li> <li>7. Evaluate and analyze the interdependence of economics and politics.</li> <li>8. Distinguish between civil rights and civil liberties and their evolution in American society.</li> <li>9. Assess the federal and state judicial systems and their impact on public policy.</li> <li>10. Examine and discuss the process of public policy making in relation to international and domestic policy issues.</li> <li>11. Assess the concepts and implementation of citizenship.</li> <li>12. Analyze issues of race, ethnicity, class, age, and gender as they relate to the distribution of power in the political process.</li> <li>13. Conduct scholarly research independently to enrich multiple reading and writing tasks.</li> </ol>

**Major Topics: I. Types and Concepts of Government (6 hours, lecture)**

- A. Typology of Legitimate and Non-Legitimate Governments
- B. Evolution of American Democracy
- C. Ideology and the Political Spectrum from Left to Right
- D. Examination of Pluralistic Democracy Through the Perspective of Elitism
- E. Distribution of Power and the Role of Economics in Policy Making

**II. Historical Perspective and Constitutional Principles (3 hours, lecture)**

- A. Power Sovereignty
- B. Representative System
- C. Separation of Powers
- D. Amending Procedures
- E. Constitutional Interpretation
- F. State Constitutions-California

**III. Federalism (3 hours, lecture)**

- A. Distribution of Power
- B. Advantages/Disadvantages
- C. Federal-State-Local Relationships and Process

**IV. American Political Parties (3 hours, lecture)**

- A. Partisan Alignment and Turnout
- B. State and Local Party Organizations
- C. Party and Campaign Finances
- D. Direct Democracy in California

**V. Socialization and the Media (3 hours, lecture)**

- A. Political Socialization
- B. Public Opinion and Polls
- C. The Role of the Media in a Democratic Society

**VI. Nominations and Elections (3 hours, lecture)**

- A. Types of Elections
- B. Nomination and Campaigns
- C. Role of Money
- D. Elections in California

**VII. Interest Groups (3 hours, lecture)**

- A. Definitions and Roles in Democracy
- B. Factors in Success and Failure, Including Strategies
- C. Evaluation of Interest Groups

**VIII. Congress: Organization and Procedures (6 hours, lecture)**

- A. Basics of Representation

- B. Characteristics of Localism and the Committee System, Rules, and Procedures
- C. Membership-Party Government
- D. Congress and Democratic Theory
- E. California Legislature

**IX. The Executive Powers and the Evolution of the Presidency (3 hours, lecture)**

- A. Powers as Chief Executive
- B. Powers as Head of State and Diplomacy
- C. Judicial and Legislative Powers
- D. Emergency Powers
- E. Divided Government and the Challenge of Consensus
- F. California Executive

**X. The Judiciary (3 hours, lecture)**

- A. The Nature of the American System
- B. Court Organization
- C. The Courts as Policy Makers
- D. California Judiciary

**XI. The Bureaucracy (3 hours, lecture)**

- A. Bureaucracy and Democracy
- B. Bureaucratic Organization and Evolution
- C. Bureaucracies as Policy Makers
- D. The Executive Branch as Policy Makers
- E. The Politics of Bureaucracy

**XII. The Basics of Policymaking: Foreign and Domestic (3 hours, lecture)**

- A. Setting and Launching an Agenda
- B. Implementing and Evaluating Policy

**XIII. Civil Liberties and Public Policy (3 hours, lecture)**

- A. General Considerations
- B. First Amendment Freedoms
- C. Right of Accused Persons
- D. The Right of Privacy
- E. Civil Liberties in California

**XIV. Civil Rights (3 hours, lecture)**

- A. Race and Public Policy
- B. Sex Discrimination and Public Policy
- C. Other Forms of Discrimination

**XV. Current Issues in California and National Policy (6 hours, lecture)**

**Total Lecture Hours:** 54

<b>Total Laboratory Hours:</b>	0
<b>Total Hours:</b>	54
<b>Primary Method of Evaluation:</b>	1) Substantial writing assignments
<b>Typical Assignment Using Primary Method of Evaluation:</b>	Ross Perot's effort to create a new political party was another in a line of third party efforts in American Politics. None of these efforts has succeeded in capturing the presidency within the last several decades, although the ideas advanced by some minor parties have had important impacts. How do you explain the transitory nature of third parties and their inability to capture important offices during the twentieth century? Write a 6-8 page paper in which you address this question as well as provide an analysis and evaluation of the roles played by third parties in recent and contemporary politics.
<b>Critical Thinking Assignment 1:</b>	Although Federalism in constitutional terms refers only to the relationship between the national government and the states, public policy making is also influenced by local governments. In most policy areas there is an ongoing interaction among all 3 levels of government. Select a policy area (such as welfare, education, environmental regulation, transportation, etc.) and write an 810 page paper in which you assess the current state of American federalism by using that policy area as an example. Consider the roles played by each level of government, whether any one level of government is dominant, and whether our federal system ought to be changed. You should probably start with a brief explanation of your understanding of contemporary federalism and a brief overview of what has happened recently in the policy area of your choice.
<b>Critical Thinking Assignment 2:</b>	By establishing separate legislative and executive branches, the founders seem to have set an opportunity; some would say an invitation, for conflict between the president and congress. This has seemed especially true when it comes to foreign policy. In an 8-10 page paper please address the following questions: What do you understand to be the foreign policy responsibilities of congress and those of the president? Is the relationship between the branches only one of conflict, or are there instances of cooperation? What explains why there might be cooperation instead of conflict? Conclude your paper with an evaluation of which branch ought to be more dominant in foreign policy.
<b>Other Evaluation Methods:</b>	Completion, Essay Exams, Matching Items, Multiple Choice, Term or Other Papers, True/False, Written Homework
<b>Instructional Methods:</b>	Discussion, Group Activities, Lecture, Multimedia presentations
<b>If other:</b>	
<b>Work Outside of Class:</b>	Answer questions, Required reading, Study, Written work (such as essay/composition/report/analysis/research)
<b>If Other:</b>	
<b>Up-To-Date Representative Textbooks:</b>	George Edwards, Martin Wattenberg, William Howell, <u>Government in America: People, Politics, and Policy</u> , 18th Edition, Pearson Publishers, 2022.
<b>Alternative Textbooks:</b>	
<b>Required Supplementary Readings:</b>	
<b>Other Required Materials:</b>	
<b>Requisite:</b>	
<b>Category:</b>	

<b>Requisite course(s): List both prerequisites and corequisites in this box.</b>	
<b>Requisite and Matching skill(s):Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).</b>	
<b>Requisite Skill:</b>	
<b>Requisite Skill and Matching Skill(s): Bold the requisite skill(s). If applicable</b>	
<b>Requisite course:</b>	
<b>Requisite and Matching skill(s):Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).</b>	
<b>Requisite Skill:</b>	Eligibility for English 1A
<b>Requisite Skill and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s). If applicable</b>	<p><b>This course involves reading college level textbooks, developing research projects, essays, and answering essay questions. A student's success in this class will be enhanced if they have these skills.</b></p> <p>Summarize, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize college-level texts.</p> <p>Write a well-reasoned, well-supported expository essay that demonstrates application of the academic writing process.</p>
<b>Enrollment Limitations and Category:</b>	
<b>Enrollment Limitations Impact:</b>	
<b>Course Created by:</b>	Eduardo Munoz
<b>Date:</b>	10/15/2015
<b>Original Board Approval Date:</b>	12/19/2016
<b>Last Reviewed and/or Revised by:</b>	Laurie Houske, Eduardo Munoz
<b>Date:</b>	09/29/2022
<b>Last Board Approval Date:</b>	12/19/2022