



El Camino College
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD – Official

Course Acronym:	POLI
Course Number:	1
Descriptive Title:	Governments of the United States and California
Division:	Behavioral and Social Sciences
Department:	Political Science
Course Disciplines:	Political Science
Catalog Description:	This course 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.
Prerequisite:	
Co-requisite:	
Recommended Preparation:	Eligibility for English 1A
Enrollment Limitation:	
Hours Lecture (per week):	3
Hours Laboratory (per week):	0
Outside Study Hours:	6
Total Course Hours:	54
Course Units:	3
Grading Method:	Letter Grade only
Credit Status:	Credit, degree applicable
Transfer CSU:	Yes
Effective Date:	Prior to July 1992
Transfer UC:	Yes
Effective Date:	
General Education: ECC	Area 2B - Social and Behavioral Science
Term:	
Other:	
CSU GE:	Area D - Social Sciences
Term:	
Other:	

IGETC:	Area 4 - Social and Behavioral Sciences
Term:	
Other:	
Student Learning Outcomes:	<p>SLO #1 Articles and Amendments</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>SLO #2 Linkage Mechanisms</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>SLO #3 The Executive Branch</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>
Course Objectives:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the theoretical foundations and the applications of the American political system. 2. Analyze major political institutions: the presidency, bureaucracy, Congress, Judiciary, elections, political parties, and interest groups. 3. Examine and assess the implementation of democracy, including the different perspectives of elitism, pluralism, and majoritarianism. 4. Evaluate the role of the mass media in the political process. 5. Identify and discuss political culture and the function of political socialization. 6. Compare and contrast the relationship of federal and state governmental systems and processes with emphasis on California. 7. Evaluate and analyze the interdependence of economics and politics. 8. Distinguish between civil rights and civil liberties and their evolution in American society. 9. Assess the federal and state judicial systems and their impact on public policy. 10. Examine and discuss the process of public policy making in relation to international and domestic policy issues. 11. Assess the concept and implementation of citizenship. 12. Analyze issues of race, ethnicity, class, age, and gender as they relate to the distribution of power in the political process.
Major Topics:	<p>I. Types and Concepts of Government (6 hours, lecture)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>II. Historical Perspective and Constitutional Principles (3 hours, lecture)</p>

- 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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> D. Emergency Powers E. Divided Government and the Challenge of Consensus F. California Executive <p>X. The Judiciary (3 hours, lecture)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The Nature of the American System B. Court Organization C. The Courts as Policy Makers D. California Judiciary <p>XI. The Bureaucracy (3 hours, lecture)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>XII. The Basics of Policymaking: Foreign and Domestic (3 hours, lecture)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Setting and Launching an Agenda B. Implementing and Evaluating Policy <p>XIII. Civil Liberties and Public Policy (3 hours, lecture)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. General Considerations B. First Amendment Freedoms C. Right of Accused Persons D. The Right of Privacy E. Civil Liberties in California <p>XIV. Civil Rights (3 hours, lecture)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Race and Public Policy B. Sex Discrimination and Public Policy C. Other Forms of Discrimination <p>XV. Current Issues in California and National Policy (6 hours, lecture)</p>
Total Lecture Hours:	54
Total Laboratory Hours:	0
Total Hours:	54
Primary Method of Evaluation:	1) Substantial writing assignments
Typical Assignment Using Primary Method of Evaluation:	Read the chapter in your textbook covering the views of John Locke and Thomas Hobbes on the state of nature and the social contract. In a three- to five-page essay, evaluate the scope of government presented in each of these views and compare and contrast the two types of government each of these two views would produce.

Critical Thinking Assignment 1:	CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION Identify the principal components of the California Constitution, and its amendments, from the time of California's admission to the Union in 1850 to the present. In a three- to five-page essay, compare and contrast the legislative, executive, and judicial characteristics of the California and United States Constitutions. Trace and assess the role of direct democracy in California's political system, and the constitutional amendment process.
Critical Thinking Assignment 2:	THE RELATIONSHIPS OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT In a two- to four-page essay, analyze the types of federal grants-in-aid for states, counties, and cities. Distinguish between categorical and block grants in the context of devolution since the 1980s and 1990s. Evaluate the relative merits of categorical and block grants in reference to federal/state control of these grants and their intended purpose.
Other Evaluation Methods:	Completion, Essay Exams, Matching Items, Multiple Choice, Term or Other Papers, True/False, Written Homework
Instructional Methods:	Discussion, Group Activities, Lecture, Multimedia presentations
If other:	
Work Outside of Class:	Answer questions, Required reading, Study, Written work (such as essay/composition/report/analysis/research)
If Other:	
Up-To-Date Representative Textbooks:	George Edwards, Martin Mattenberg, William Howell, <u>Government in America: People, Politics, and Policy</u> , 18th Edition, Pearson Publishers, 2022.
Alternative Textbooks:	
Required Supplementary Readings:	
Other Required Materials:	
Requisite:	
Category:	
Requisite course(s): List both prerequisites and corequisites in this box.	
Requisite and Matching skill(s):Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	
Requisite Skill and Matching Skill(s): Bold the requisite skill(s). If applicable	
Requisite course:	
Requisite and Matching skill(s):Bold	

the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	Eligibility for English 1A
Requisite Skill and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s). If applicable	<p>This course involves reading college level textbooks, written assignments and answering essay questions. A student's success in this class will be enhanced if they have these skills.</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>
Enrollment Limitations and Category:	
Enrollment Limitations Impact:	
Course Created by:	H. Bader and B. Keene
Date:	01/01/1964
Original Board Approval Date:	
Last Reviewed and/or Revised by:	Laurie Houske, Eduardo Munoz
Date:	09/29/2022
Last Board Approval Date:	12/19/2022