

SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
CONTINUING EDUCATION
COURSE OUTLINE

SECTION I

SUBJECT AREA AND COURSE NUMBER

HSDP 427

COURSE TITLE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT 1

TYPE COURSE

NON-FEE

HSDP

CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course covers the principles and development of the governmental system of the United States, the State of California and local government, including the study of the constitution; and the organization and functions of the three branches of government; and the rights and duties of citizens. (FT)

LECTURE HOURS

90

LABORATORY HOURS

ADVISORY

NONE

RECOMMENDED SKILL LEVEL

Recommended reading score of 8.0.

INSTITUTIONAL STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Social Responsibility
SDCE students demonstrate interpersonal skills by learning and working cooperatively in a diverse environment.
2. Effective Communication
SDCE students demonstrate effective communication skills.

INSTITUTIONAL STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (CONTINUED)

3. Critical Thinking

SDCE students critically process information, make decisions, and solve problems independently or cooperatively.

4. Personal and Professional Development

SDCE students pursue short term and life-long learning goals, mastering necessary skills and using resource management and self advocacy skills to cope with changing situations in their lives.

COURSE GOALS

Students upon completing this course will be proficient in the California Content Standards for 12th Grade Government. Among these standards are knowing the fundamental principles and value of American democracy as expressed in the U.S. Constitution, rights and obligations as democratic citizens, landmark U.S. Supreme Court decisions, responsibilities of the three branches of government, comparison of the national, state, local, and tribal governments, civil liberties, origins and characteristics of different political systems, and political/electoral processes.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

1. Explain the fundamental principles and moral values of American democracy as expressed in the U.S. Constitution and other essential documents of American democracy.
2. Evaluate, take and defend positions on the scope and limits of rights and obligations as democratic citizens, the relationships among them, and how they are secured.
3. Evaluate, take and defend positions on what the fundamental values and principles of civil society are, their independence and the meaning and importance of those values and principle for a free society.
4. Analyze the unique roles and responsibilities of the three branches of government as established by the U.S. Constitution.
5. Summarize landmark U.S. Supreme Court interpretations of the Constitutions and its amendments.
6. Evaluate issues regarding campaigns for national, state, and local elective offices.
7. Analyze and compare the powers and procedures of the national, state, tribal, and local governments.
8. Evaluate, take and defend positions on the influence of the media on American political life.
9. Analyze the origins, characteristics, and development of different political systems across time, with emphasis on the quest for political democracy, its advances, and its obstacles.
10. Formulate questions about and defend analyses of tensions within our constitutional democracy and the importance of maintaining a balance between the following concepts: majority rule and individual rights; liberty and equality; state and national authority in a federal system; civil disobedience and the rule of law; freedom of the press and the right to a fair trial; the relationship of religion and government.

SECTION II

COURSE CONTENT AND SCOPE

1. Introduction
 - 1.1. Basic principles and ideas
 - 1.2. Representative democracy - supremacy of law
 - 1.3. Individualism - capitalistic system
 - 1.4. Equality and freedom - protection of rights
2. The Constitution and Individual Rights
 - 2.1. Historical background
 - 2.1.1. Revolutionary period - Declaration of Independence
 - 2.1.2. Articles of Confederation
 - 2.1.3. The making and ratification of the Constitution
 - 2.1.3.1. Delegates to convention
 - 2.1.3.2. "Great Compromise"
 - 2.1.3.3. Ratification
 - 2.2. The provisions of the Constitution - Articles' I through VII
 - 2.3. The Bill of Rights - Amendments 1 through 10
 - 2.4. Amendments 11 through 26
 - 2.5. Federal system - division of powers
 - 2.6. Separation of powers and checks and balances
 - 2.6.1. Three branches of government
 - 2.6.2. Checks on Legislative Branch
 - 2.6.3. Checks on Executive Branch
 - 2.6.4. Checks of Judicial Branch
 - 2.7. Practical application
 - 2.7.1. Individual rights and responsibilities
 - 2.7.2. Levels of government which deal with individual and social problems
 - 2.8. Inquiry and analysis
 - 2.8.1. The parts of political system
 - 2.8.1.1. Beliefs - why do people regularly accept the authority and abide by the decisions of government?
 - 2.8.1.2. Structures - what is a state? What is the difference between state and government
 - 2.8.1.3. Individuals - is the will of the majority always obeyed in a democracy? Should it be?
 - 2.8.1.4. Policies - how are decisions made in response to a specific problem? What choice is made from among the alternatives?
 - 2.8.2. The types of political systems
 - 2.8.2.1. Democratic systems - what basic principles of democracy are proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence?
 - 2.8.2.2. Totalitarian systems - what are the features of a totalitarian system?
 - 2.8.2.3. Traditional system - what are the features of a traditional system

COURSE CONTENT AND SCOPE (CONTINUED)

3. The Legislative Branch and the Lawmaking Process
 - 3.1. Member of Congress - senators and representatives
 - 3.1.1. Qualification, election, and term of office
 - 3.1.2. Role and duties
 - 3.2. Powers and limitations of Congress
 - 3.3. The lawmaking process
 - 3.3.1. Steps from proposal to law
 - 3.3.2. The committee system
 - 3.4. Influencing legislation
 - 3.4.1. Special interest groups
 - 3.4.2. Lobbying
 - 3.5. Practical application
 - 3.5.1. The individual and his/her elected representative
 - 3.5.2. Current problems/achievements of the legislative branch
 - 3.5.3. Elections - current issues and candidates
 - 3.6. Inquiry and analysis
 - 3.6.1. Politics as the formulation of public policy
 - 3.6.1.1. Role - what are the expectations that people have about the way legislators should behave?
 - 3.6.1.2. Recruitment - what kinds of people become political decision-makers? How are they selected: How are they trained for their positions?
 - 3.6.1.3. Decision making - how do legislatures make their decisions? How do they find a point at which contending parties can be satisfied?
 - 3.6.2. Politics as an activity
 - 3.6.2.1. Selecting leaders of government - to what extent do American public elections reflect the characteristics of democracy?
 - 3.6.2.2. Influences on voting in public elections - what are the variables that determine political party preference and/or voter choices in public elections?
4. The President and the Executive Branch
 - 4.1. Choosing the President
 - 4.1.1. Qualifications and term of office
 - 4.1.2. Method of election - the electoral college
 - 4.2. Powers and responsibilities of the President
 - 4.3. The executive office and the independent agencies
 - 4.4. The Cabinet and the Executive departments
 - 4.5. Practical application
 - 4.5.1. Registration and voting procedures
 - 4.5.2. Executive departments/agencies and the individual
 - 4.6. Inquiry and Analysis
 - 4.6.1. Formal vs. informal rules on Presidential recruitment - why have nearly all the men who have served as President been experienced professional politicians
 - 4.6.2. The President as decision maker - what are the circumstances of the decision? What personal characteristics influenced the decision? What forces in the environment limited the decision?

COURSE CONTENT AND SCOPE (CONTINUED)

5. The Federal Judicial System
 - 5.1. Background of the judicial system
 - 5.2. Federal judges and the organization of the courts
 - 5.3. Historical/landmark decisions
 - 5.4. Practical application
 - 5.4.1. The individual and his/her elected representative
 - 5.4.2. Effects of court decisions
 - 5.4.3. Jury duty
 - 5.5. Inquiry and Analysis
 - 5.5.1. Rules and procedures affecting judicial decision making - is the power of judicial review consistent with the principles of democracy?
 - 5.5.2. Influence of social forces and personal beliefs on judicial decision making - how may the concept of "political culture" be used to explain reversal in decisions?
6. California State Government
 - 6.1. The Legislative Branch of State Government
 - 6.2. The Executive Branch of State Government
 - 6.3. The Judicial Branch of California State Government
 - 6.4. Practical application
 - 6.4.1. The individual and his/her elected representative
 - 6.4.2. Registration and voting procedures and names of incumbents
 - 6.4.3. Departments and agencies and the individual
 - 6.4.4. Small claims court
 - 6.4.5. Individual response to subpoena, summons, or other court order/procedure
 - 6.4.6. Responsibilities of a juror
 - 6.4.7. Current problems/achievements of California state government
 - 6.5. Inquiry and Analysis
 - 6.5.1. Governing the states - are the states now obsolete units in the federal system? Why?
 - 6.5.2. Financing state government - why may a governmental budget be properly described as a significant statement of public policy
7. Local Government in California
 - 7.1. San Diego City government and services
 - 7.1.1. City council and its powers
 - 7.1.2. Officials - elected and appointed
 - 7.1.3. Management and services
 - 7.1.4. Taxation and services
 - 7.2. Organization, functions and services of San Diego County government
 - 7.2.1. Board of Supervisors
 - 7.2.2. Organization of services for the county
 - 7.2.3. Law enforcement
 - 7.2.4. Taxation and services
 - 7.2.5. Local government and the federal government - mandated programs
 - 7.3. Practical application
 - 7.3.1. Location of services individuals use
 - 7.3.2. Compliance with regulations affecting individuals
 - 7.4. Inquiry and Analysis

COURSE CONTENT AND SCOPE (CONTINUED)

- 7.4.1. Governing the communities - what is the single most important problem confronting the nation's cities today?
- 7.4.2. Financing local government - would local governments be prohibited from maintaining any program which competes with private enterprise? why?
- 8. Comparative Governments
 - 8.1. Socialism
 - 8.2. Fascism
 - 8.3. Communism
 - 8.4. Capitalism
 - 8.5. Democratic pluralism
 - 8.6. Comparison of the institutions created as a result of the philosophies and significant effects of the systems on each other and within each system
- 9. Contemporary Issues in the World Today
 - 9.1. Analysis of current major social, economic and political issues

APPROPRIATE READINGS

Reading assignments may include, but are not limited to the following:

- 1. Assigned text.
- 2. Handouts.
- 3. Selections from journals, newspapers, magazines.
- 4. Online resources.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

Writing assignments may include, but are not limited to the following:

- 1. Essays.
- 2. Worksheets.
- 3. Research reports.
- 4. Exams.

OUTSIDE ASSIGNMENTS

Outside assignments may include, but are not limited to the following:

- 1. Assigned readings, both primary and secondary.
- 2. Writing assignments.
- 3. Research projects.
- 4. Field trips.

APPROPRIATE ASSIGNMENTS THAT DEMONSTRATE CRITICAL THINKING

Critical thinking assignments may include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Interpret, analyze and evaluate assigned readings.
2. Assignments using historical and social sciences analysis skills: chronological and spatial thinking; historical research, evidence and point of view; and historical interpretation.
3. Formulate an opinion and apply research evidence to create a reasoned and balanced argument.
4. Analyze current major social, economic, and political issues.

EVALUATION

A student's grade will be based on multiple measures of performance that may include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Exams.
2. Responses to worksheets.
3. Writing assignments.
4. Class participation.
5. Attendance per current policy.
6. Oral presentations.

Upon successful completion of each individual course a Certificate of Course Completion will be issued. Upon successful completion of all courses included in the program a Certificate of Program Completion will be issued.

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION

Methods of instruction may include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Lecture and small group instruction.
2. Cooperative learning.
3. Computer assisted instruction.
4. Distance education/online.
5. Audio visual aids such as film and video.
6. Field trips as appropriate.
7. Guest speakers.

TEXTS AND SUPPLIES

United States Government: Democracy in Action, Remy, Glencoe/McGraw Hill, 2006
Supplemental material associated with the text.

PREPARED BY: SHEILA SHAW DATE: AUGUST, 1983

DATA REVISED BY: GARY GLECKMAN DATE: FEBRUARY 11, 2007

DATA REVISED BY Instructional Services/SLO's Added DATE December 20, 2013

Instructors must meet all requirements stated in Policy 3100 (Student Rights, Responsibilities and Administrative Due Process), and the Attendance Policy set forth in the Continuing Education Catalog.

REFERENCES:

San Diego Community College District Policy 3100
California Community Colleges, Title 5, Section 55002
Continuing Education Catalog