

## **Department:**

Political Science

## **Course Description:**

This course focuses on the political arena and public affairs of the national government of the United States. The course will examine the development of constitutional principles and issues, such as civil liberties, the role of political parties, and the structure and function of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the United States government.

## **Course Competencies:**

The learning outcomes and competencies detailed in this syllabus meet or exceed the learning outcomes and competencies specified by the Kansas Core Outcomes Groups for this course as approved by the Kansas Board of Regents. (Kansas Regents Shared Number Course and Title: KRSN Course POL 1020 American Government.)

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

### Institutions

1. Analyze the roles, powers, and relationships among the 3 branches of government (legislative/judicial/executive).

### Political Behavior

2. Explain various forms of political participation possible in the U.S. democratic process.

### Public Policy

3. Explore how public policy decisions are made and the results of those policies.

### Constitution

4. Describe the origins and evolution of the U.S. Constitution.

## **Course Content:**

A. The American Political System

1. The study of American government
2. The Constitution
  - a. The evolution of the Constitution
  - b. The importance of liberty
  - c. Motives of the Framers
  - d. Constitutional reform
3. Federalism
  - a. Federal government structure
  - b. The structure of government
  - c. Federal-State relations
4. The American political culture
5. Civil liberties and civil rights
- B. Opinions, Interests, and Organizations
  1. Public opinion
  2. Political participation
  3. Political parties
    - a. The formation of American political parties
    - b. The two-party system today
    - c. The function of the political parties in the political process
  4. Elections and campaigns
  5. Interest groups
  6. The media
- C. Institutions of Government
  1. Congress
    - a. Evolution of Congress
    - b. Organization of Congress
    - c. How a bill becomes a law
    - d. Agencies of Congress
  2. The Presidency
    - a. Evolution of the Presidency
    - b. Powers of the President
    - c. Office of the President
    - d. Presidential transition
  3. The Bureaucracy
    - a. Growth of the bureaucracy
    - b. The federal bureaucracy today
    - c. Congressional oversight
  4. The Judiciary
    - a. Development of Federal Courts
    - b. Structure of the Federal Courts
    - c. The Supreme Court
    - d. Powers of the Federal Courts
- D. The Politics of Public Policy
  1. The policy making process

2. Economic policy
3. Social welfare policy
4. Foreign and military policy
5. Environmental policy

## Learning Assessments:

Competencies may be evaluated by multiple measures, including regular examinations and written reviews of books on governmental topics. Other assessment methods, such as a research paper, may be used as well.

## Instructional Materials:

Textbook: American Government, Essentials Edition, 16th ed., Wilson, Dilulio, and Bose, Cengage, 2019. ISBN: 978-1337568432

### **Guidelines for Requesting Accommodations Based on Documented Disability or Medical Condition**

It is the intention of Highland Community College to work toward full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to make instructional programs accessible to all people, and to provide reasonable accommodations according to the law.

Students should understand that it is their responsibility to self-identify their need(s) for accommodation and that they must provide current, comprehensive diagnosis of a specific disability or medical condition from a qualified professional in order to receive services. Documentation must include specific recommendations for accommodation(s). Documentation should be provided in a timely manner prior to or early in the semester so that the requested accommodation can be considered and, if warranted, arranged.

In order to begin the process all students must complete the “Disabilities Self-Identification Form” on our Disability Services website.

This form can also be accessed at the Highland Community College homepage under Students Services/Student Resources/Disability Service or by contacting the Disabilities Coordinator.

### **A Note on Harassment, Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct**

Highland Community College seeks to assure all community members learn and work in a welcoming and inclusive environment. Title VII, Title IX, and College policy prohibit harassment, discrimination, and sexual misconduct. Highland Community College encourages anyone experiencing harassment, discrimination, or sexual misconduct to talk to report to the Vice President for Student Services, the Human Resources Director or complete an online report about what happened so that they can get the support they need, and Highland Community College can respond appropriately.

There are both confidential and non-confidential resources and reporting options available to you. Highland Community College is legally obligated to respond to reports of sexual misconduct, and therefore we cannot guarantee the confidentiality of a report, unless made to a confidential resource. Responses may vary from support services to formal investigations. As a faculty member, I am required to report incidents of sexual misconduct and thus cannot guarantee confidentiality. I must provide our Title IX coordinator with relevant details such as the names of those involved in the incident. For more information about policies and resources or reporting options, please review our Equity Grievance Policy.