Course Prefix and Number: PLS 135  
Credits: 3

Course Title: American National Politics

Course Description: Teaches political institutions and processes of the national government of the United States, focuses on the Congress, presidency, courts, and on their interrelationships. Gives attention to public opinion, suffrage, elections, political parties, interest groups, civil rights, domestic policy, and foreign relations. Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in Co-requisites ENG 111 and EDE 11. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose:
This course will fill the Social and Behavioral Science elective for all degrees requiring such, and for those wishing to learn about the US government.

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:
Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in Co-requisites ENG 111 and EDE 11

Student Learning Outcomes:
Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

a. Meet the challenge to think critically about the American political process and how it affects his or her life. Special attention will be given to how citizens can acquire and use knowledge of the political system to pursue both their own interests and the public good; and

b. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:
   1. The origins of the American system of government and the principles embodied in our federal Constitution;
   2. The operation and performance of the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches of government;
   3. The roles and responsibilities of citizens in a representative democracy;
   4. The barriers to objective information about our government and ways by which they can be overcome;
   5. The function of political parties, interest groups, and the media in the electoral and the political process;
   6. The federal government’s responsibilities for, and approach to, social, regulatory, and economic policy-making;
   7. The changes and adaptations in our political institutions and practices made in response to new circumstances and demands;
   8. The critical evaluation of information and its sources, and to incorporate selected information into his or her knowledge base and value system;
   9. The drawing of appropriate conclusions and inferences;
   10. The determination whether certain conclusions or consequences are supported by the information provided;
   11. The evaluation of the strengths and relevance of arguments on a particular question or issue.
Major Topics to Be Included:
a. Nature of politics and government  
b. Constitutional development and interpretation  
c. Civil rights and liberties  
d. Citizenship participation and responsibilities  
e. Political institutions  
f. Domestic policy  
g. Economic policy

Date Created/Updated (Month, Day, and Year): August 28, 2019