POL 120 American Government

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Prerequisites: ENG 002 or DRE 097; or satisfactory score on placement test
Corequisites: None

This course is a study of the origins, development, structure, and functions of American national government. Topics include the constitutional framework; federalism; the three branches of government, including the bureaucracy; civil rights and liberties; political participation and behavior; and policy formation. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the basic concepts and participatory processes of the American political system. Basic concepts of state and local government and their relationships with the federal government are also examined. *This course has been approved to satisfy the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement for the general education core requirement in social/behavioral sciences.*

Course Hours per Week: Class, 3. Semester Hours Credit, 3.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completing requirements for this course, the student will be able to:
1. Demonstrate an understanding of the functions of the three branches of American government.
2. Discuss the constitution, federalism, and civil liberties in American government from development to the present.
3. Discuss the expansion of the role of government in American life as well as the role of citizens in government.

OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION:

I. Foundations
    A. Americans and Their Political Values
    B. The Founding and the Constitution
    C. Federalism
    D. Civil Liberties
    E. Civil Rights
II. Politics
    A. Public Opinion
    B. The Media and Political Information
    C. Political Participation and Voting
    D. Political Parties
    E. Campaigns and Elections
    F. Groups and Interests
III. Institutions
    A. Congress
    B. The Presidency
    C. The Bureaucracy
    D. The Federal Courts

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIAL:

The textbook and other instructional material will be determined by the instructor.