

Introduction to American Government

Course Outcome Summary

Course Information

Organization	WTCS - Wisconsin Technical College System
Developers	WTCS Alignment Team
Development Date	2/16/2004
Course Number	10-809-122
Instructional Level	Associate Degree
Potential Hours of Instruction	54
Total Credits	3

Description

Focuses on the structure and functioning of state and local governments within the context of federalism. Emphasizes decision making, structure, theory, behavioral characteristics and citizen participation.

Types of Instruction

Instruction Type	Contact Hours	Credits
Classroom Presentation	54	3

Textbooks

None Recommended.

Competencies

- A. Explore American political culture**
You will demonstrate your competence:
 - A.1. through a test, written assignment or a group project**Your performance will be successful when:**
 - A.1. Characteristics of American political culture are specified
 - A.2. Sources and influences of political socialization are described
- B. Explore citizenship responsibilities**
You will demonstrate your competence:
 - B.1. through a test, written assignment or a group project**Your performance will be successful when:**
 - B.1. types of political participation are described
 - B.2. self-assessment indicates learner's level of participation
 - B.3. patterns of voting behavior are described
 - B.4. procedures used to vote are identified
- C. Analyze types of governments**
You will demonstrate your competence:
 - C.1. through a test, written assignment or a group project

Your performance will be successful when:

- C.1. totalitarian, authoritarian and democratic forms of government are compared
- C.2. types of government are characterized by the degree of governmental control, individual liberty and equality

D. Examine Democratic principles

You will demonstrate your competence:

- D.1. through a test, written assignment or a group project

Your performance will be successful when:

- D.1. characteristics of direct and representative democracy are compared
- D.2. examples of present day direct democratic principles are identified: referendum, recall and citizen initiatives
- D.3. limitations of democratic government are described.:
- D.4. relationship between majority rule and minority rights is compared
- D.5. theory of social contract is applied to the American political system

E. Identify functions and purpose of government

You will demonstrate your competence:

- E.1. through a test, written assignment or a group project

Your performance will be successful when:

- E.1. government activities are classified according to: regulatory, distributive or redistributiveCrLfCrLfc regulatoryCrLfb. distributiveCrLfc. redistributiveCrLfd.
- E.2. sources of political legitimacy are identified

F. Explore the philosophers and documents that influence the development of the Constitution

You will demonstrate your competence:

- F.1. through a test, written assignment or a group project

Your performance will be successful when:

- F.1. core documents are linked to political philosophies and principles
- F.2. principle of natural rights is explained

G. Explore the principles of separation of powers and checks and balances

You will demonstrate your competence:

- G.1. through a test, written assignment or a group project

Your performance will be successful when:

- G.1. Constitutional powers are categorized as delegated, implied and reserved
- G.2. Examples of checks and balances are provided
- G.3. Examples of separation of powers (federal and state, state and local) are identified

H. Analyze civil liberties

You will demonstrate your competence:

- H.1. through a test, written assignment or a group project

Your performance will be successful when:

- H.1. civil rights and civil liberties are differentiated
- H.2. amendments and landmark Supreme Court cases relating to civil liberties are analyzed
- H.3. current issues related to civil liberties are analyzed

I. Trace the development of Civil Rights

You will demonstrate your competence:

I.1. through a test, written assignment or a group project

Your performance will be successful when:

I.1. historical development of civil rights is outlined

I.2. amendments and landmark Supreme Court cases relating to civil rights are analyzed

I.3. current issues related to civil rights are analyzed

J. Explain the election process in the United States

You will demonstrate your competence:

J.1. through a test, written assignment or a group project

Your performance will be successful when:

J.1. nomination process is explained

J.2. role of the electoral college is explained

J.3. general election process is explained

J.4. role of the citizen in the election processes is identified

J.5. campaign process is described

K. Explore the two-party system and the role of third parties in the United States

You will demonstrate your competence:

K.1. through a test, written assignment or a group project

Your performance will be successful when:

K.1. reasons for the entrenched two-party system are provided

K.2. roles of third/minor parties are described

K.3. characteristics of the Democratic and Republican parties are compared

L. Analyze the influence of media in the political process

You will demonstrate your competence:

L.1. through a test, written assignment or group project

Your performance will be successful when:

L.1. examples of how the media sets the agenda are provided

L.2. examples of political "spin" are identified

M. Explore the role of interest groups

You will demonstrate your competence:

M.1. through a test, written assignment or a group project

Your performance will be successful when:

M.1. pluralist and power elite theories are compared

M.2. types of interest groups are identified

M.3. interest group actions to influence policy and election campaigns are identified

M.4. citizens' roles in interest groups are explained

N. Differentiate the types of public opinion in the American political process

You will demonstrate your competence:

N.1. through a test, written assignment or a group project

Your performance will be successful when:

N.1. types of public opinion polls are identified

N.2. characteristics of a push poll are described

N.3. examples of measures of public opinion polls are described

N.4. public opinion polls are interpreted

O. Summarize the structure, functions and responsibilities of Congress

You will demonstrate your competence:

O.1. through a test, written assignment or a group project

Your performance will be successful when:

O.1. structure of Congress is analyzed

O.2. how a Bill becomes law is traced

O.3. examples of differences between the Senate and House are identified

O.4. types of representation are described

P. Summarize the organization, functions and responsibilities of the Executive Branch

You will demonstrate your competence:

P.1. through a test, written assignment or a group project

Your performance will be successful when:

P.1. powers and responsibilities of the President are summarized

P.2. organizational structure of the Executive Branch is described

P.3. expansion of presidential powers is described

Q. Summarize the organization, functions and responsibilities of the federal judiciary

You will demonstrate your competence:

Q.1. through a test, written assignment or a group project

Your performance will be successful when:

Q.1. structure of the Federal court System is described

Q.2. nature and historical evolution of judicial review are described

Q.3. process of federal judicial appointment is explained

Q.4. judicial process is analyzed

R. Differentiate among federal, state and local government functions and responsibilities

You will demonstrate your competence:

R.1. through a test, written assignment or a group project

Your performance will be successful when:

R.1. dual aspect of American Government (federal and state) is described

R.2. examples of federal powers vs. state's rights are identified

R.3. characteristics of Wisconsin State Government are described

R.4. examples of collection and distribution of funding sources are identified