

ARIZONA WESTERN COLLEGE
SYLLABUS

POS 110 AMERICAN POLITICS/GE

Credit Hours: 3 Lec 3COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is intended to be a study of the American democratic system, from the founding fathers to the present, looking at how our government works and how it got that way. The presidency from Washington to present day, Congress from the writing of the Constitution to the present, and the judicial branch will be studied. Special emphasis will be placed on the elections process, how people vote and why they don't. This course fulfills the federal constitution requirement for teacher certification In Arizona.

1. COURSE GOALS

- 1.1 **Trace** the historic development of political institutions in the United States.
- 1.2 Examine the existing structure of government in the United States today and the socio-political environment in which it functions.

2. OUTCOMES

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

- 2.1 examine the history of American government from a number of divergent perspectives (conservative, liberal, pluralist, elitist).
- 2.2 assess the various perspectives involved in the development of the American government.
- 2.3 discuss the way in which American political institutions operate today.
- 2.4 examine the societal environment in which these institutions operate.
- 2.5 identify a number of critical domestic issues in American society and the ways in which government deals with these issues.

3. AWC GENERAL EDUCATION (GE) CATEGORY & CRITERIA
INSTITUTIONS IN THE AMERICAS

- The importance of developing civic and global engagement and participation as evidenced by: respectful dialogue, intercultural competence, self-awareness, civic identity, consideration of multiple perspectives
- Governmental structures and/or philosophies important within United States and/or Tribal contexts by comparing them to non-U.S. structures and/or philosophies
- The major religious or spiritual doctrines, philosophies and communities that helped shape culture and policies
- The importance of exploring ethics and how it applies to public policy and professional decision making

4. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- 4.1 Lectures
- 4.2 Readings
- 4.3 Discussions
- 4.4 Instructional technology

5. LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 5.1 Reading assignments
- 5.2 Group discussions
- 5.3 Classroom presentations

- 5.4 Writing and revising components of a final research paper, consisting of at least 3000 words, related to either domestic or foreign policy issues.

6. EVALUATION

- 6.1 Quizzes and exams
6.2 Essay assignments
6.3 Oral presentations
6.4 Participation
6.5 At least 33% of the student's grade in the course will be based on written discourse consisting of a minimum of 3000 words or about 12 pages of revised writing

7. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- 7.1 Under AWC Policy, students are expected to attend every session of class in which they are enrolled.
- 7.2 If a student is unable to attend the course or must drop the course for any reason, it will be the responsibility of the student to withdraw from the course. Students who are not attending as of the 45th day of the course may be withdrawn by the instructor. If the student does not withdraw from the course and fails to complete the requirements of the course, the student will receive a failing grade.
- 7.3 Americans with Disabilities Act Accommodations: Arizona Western College provides academic accommodations to students with disabilities through AccessABILITY Resource Services (ARS). ARS provides reasonable and appropriate accommodations to students who have documented disabilities. It is the responsibility of the student to make the ARS Coordinator aware of the need for accommodations in the classroom prior to the beginning of the semester. Students should follow up with their instructors once the semester begins. To make an appointment call the ARS front desk at (928) 344-7674 or ARS Coordinator at (928) 344-7629, in the College Community Center (3C) building, next to Advising.
- 7.4 Academic Integrity: Any student participating in acts of academic dishonesty—including, but not limited to, copying the work of other students, using unauthorized "crib notes", plagiarism, stealing tests, or forging an instructor's signature—will be subject to the procedures and consequences outlined in AWC's Student Code of Conduct.
- 7.5 Texts and Notebooks: Students are required to obtain the class materials for the course.
- 7.6 Arizona Western College students are expected to attend every class session in which they are enrolled. To comply with Federal Financial Aid regulations (34 CFR 668.21), Arizona Western College (AWC) has established an Attendance Verification process for "No Show" reporting during the first 10 days of each semester.
- Students who have enrolled but have never attended class may be issued a "No Show" (NS) grade by the professor or instructor and receive a final grade of "NS" on their official academic record. An NS grade may result in a student losing their federal financial aid.
- For online classes, *student attendance in an online class is defined as the following* (FSA Handbook, 2012, 5-90):
- Submitting an academic assignment
 - Taking an exam, an interactive tutorial or computer-assisted instruction
 - Attending a study group that is assigned by the school
 - Participating in an online discussion about academic matters
 - Initiating contact with a faculty member to ask a question about the academic subject studied in the course