Course Title: American Government
Semester Course Prefix and Number: POLS 1556
Old Quarter Course Prefix and Number: POLS 110
Number of Credits: 3
Number of Lecture Credits: 3
Number of Lab Credits: 
Number of Lab Hours: 
Number of Studio/Demonstration/Internship Credits: 

Course Purpose Code:
____ 0 – Developmental Courses
____ 1 – Non-transferable
____ 2 – Technical course related to career programs
____ 3 – College course which has the primary goal of applying certain concepts (e.g. vocal ensemble)
____ 4 – Other college course not considered a part of MNTC (e.g. computer science, health, physical education)
____ X 5 – Course which is intended to fulfill the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MNTC) requirements or intended for transfer.
____ 9 – Continuing Education/Customized Training specialized credit course (not occurring in 0-5)

Catalog Description:
This course is a study of the structure and function of the national government of the United States including political theory, political parties, elections, civil rights, and the three branches of government.

Prerequisites and/or recommended entry skills/knowledge:
Course Prerequisite(s): none
Reading Prerequisite: College level reading
Composition Prerequisite: none
Mathematics Prerequisite: none

Career Programs and Transfer Majors Accessing this Course:
Political Science
History
Secondary Social Studies Education
Pre-Law
Can be used as an elective for other transfer majors

Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal(s) partially met by this course if applicable:
(Notes: No more than two goals may be met by any one course. Curriculum Committee review and the Chief Academic Officer’s approval are required.)
0. ___ None
1. ___ Communications
2. ___ Critical Thinking
3. ___ Natural Sciences
4. ___ Mathematical/Logical Reasoning
5. ___ X History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences
6. ___ The Humanities and Fine Arts
7. ___ Human Diversity
8. ___ Global Perspectives
9. ___ X Ethical and Civic Responsibility
10. ___ People and the Environment

Learning Outcomes: (including any relevant competencies listed in the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum)
Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. To understand the legislative process as a bill works through Congress.
2. To understand the relationship between federal and state government.
3. To understand the workings of the three branches of government on the federal level.
4. To understand election dynamics, political parties, and special interest groups.
5. To understand political theory behind our constitutional republic.
6. To understand some of the competing theories in economic and social policy.

Student Assessment Methods:
Quizzes, examinations

Use of Instructional Technology: (includes software, interactive video and other instructional technologies):

Additional Special Information: (special fees, directives on hazardous materials, etc.)

Transfer Information: (Please list colleges/majors that accept this course in transfer.)

Course Outline Revision History:
American government studies the three branches of government, election dynamics, political parties, and special interest groups. Also, the course examines what the frames of the constitution intended for our federal government and examines some theories of economic and social policy.

Approvals:

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Distribution: Original – Instructional Services
Copies: Transfer Specialist, Originating Faculty Member, Records
Revised: March 2010