

Prepared by the Department of Social Sciences
Date of Departmental Approval: November 9, 2006
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Effective: Fall 2010

1. **Course Number:** GOV111
Course Title: American Government
2. **Description:** This course provides an introductory examination of the federal government. Emphasis is placed upon the political system in both principle and practice, the structure of our government, and public policy.
3. **Student Learning Outcomes:**
Upon successful completion of this course, students are able to do the following:
 - describe the basic structure and functions of the federal government
 - explain the concept of federalism, the development of political behavior, and the role of diversity in American Government
 - identify the key provisions of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights
 - recognize the importance of political participation, social responsibility, awareness, and active citizenship
 - evaluate and integrate ideas and events across the political spectrum
 - identify their own political attitudes, values, and assumptions and consider their consequences
 - analyze the state of the nation
4. **Credits:** Three credits
5. **Satisfies General Education Requirement:** Behavioral and Social Sciences
6. **Prerequisite:** None
7. **Semester(s) Offered:** Fall, Spring, Summer
8. **Suggested General Guidelines for Evaluation:** Grades to be based upon exams, written work, class participation, and attendance.
9. **General Topical Outline (Optional):**
 - Democracy
 - The Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights
 - Federalism
 - Congress
 - The Presidency
 - The Judiciary
 - The Federal Bureaucracy
 - Civil Liberties
 - Civil Rights
 - Public Opinion
 - Political Participation
 - Mass Media
 - Political Parties
 - Campaigns and Elections
 - Interest Groups
 - Public Policy