

Course Profile - Department of International Relations

Course Number : POLS 233	Course Title: American Government
Required / Elective : Elective	Pre / Co-requisites : None
<p>Catalog Description: American political history since the late 18th Century, with an emphasis on Cold War and post-Cold War periods. Civil War and the abolition of slavery. Civil rights and civil liberties. Political parties and elections in the US. Interest groups and lobbying in the US. American federalism. Conservative and liberal ideology. Legislative and executive branches of government. American judicial system and bureaucracy.</p>	<p>Textbook / Required Material :</p> <p>Samuel Kernell, Gary C. Jacobson, Thad Kousser, 2012, <i>The Logic of American Politics</i> (5th edition), Washington, DC: CQ Press.</p> <p>Additional pack of recent articles on American politics.</p>
Course Structure / Schedule : (3+0+0) 3 / 6 ECTS	
<p>Extended Description: This course is designed to discuss problems and issues in American politics. The subject matter of the course is extensive. The lecture starts with an overview of the American Revolution, Declaration of Independence and the American Civil War. The consequent topics include civil rights and civil liberties, the two-party system, Democratic Party, Republican Party, Electoral College system, the Presidency, interest groups, lobbying, American federalism, as well as the three branches of government (legislative/executive/judiciary) and bureaucracy. The course continues with recent issues: George W. Bush and Barack H. Obama periods.</p>	
Design content : None	Computer usage: No computer skills required.
<p>Course Outcomes:</p> <p>By the end of this course, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possess knowledge about the political history of the United States from the early foundation years to the most recent period, and the effects of presidential elections on American politics and its institutions. • Understand the ideology of various political groups and political parties in the US. 	
<p>Recommended reading:</p> <p>James Q. Wilson. 2008. <i>American Government: Brief Edition</i>, Boston: Wadsworth.</p>	
Teaching methods: Lectures	
Course Outline	
Week	Topics
1	Introduction and Overview
2	The Logic of American Politics
3	The Constitution
4	Federalism

5	Civil Rights
6	Civil Liberties
7	US Congress
8	Midterm Examination
9	Presidency
10	American Judicial System
11	Public Opinion
12	Voting, Campaigns and Elections
13	Political Parties
14	Interest Groups
15	News Media

Assessment methods:

Attendance: 10 %

Pop quizzes: 20 %

Midterm: 30 %

Final Examination: 40 %

Contribution of Course Learning Outcomes to Program Outcomes

	Program Outcomes	*Level of Contribution				
		1	2	3	4	5
IR1	Understand the fundamental concepts and theories of the field of International Relations and be able to apply them to historical and current events					
IR2	Understand the historical processes of political structures and institutions					X
IR3	Be able to follow the world political conjuncture					
IR4	Grasp the structures and functions of international/regional/intergovernmental organizations					X
IR5	Be able to analyze the dynamics that form the political substructure of various events and phenomena, as well as their effects					
IR6	Understand the international legal framework					X
IR7	Grasp and question the causes and consequences of economic developments and their impact on international relations					
PS1	Understand the fundamental concepts and theories of the field of Political Science and be able to apply them to					

	historical and current events					
PS2	Understand the historical processes, structures, and functions of political institutions					X
PS3	Be able to analyze the dynamics that form the political substructure of various events and phenomena, as well as their effects					
PS4	Understand the mechanisms of political change (such as voting, lobbying, political movements, legal reforms, revolution, etc.)					X
PS5	Possess knowledge about those fundamental issues that shape political and societal life (such as race, gender, class, environment, security, religion, identity, etc.)					X
PS6	Acknowledge that political phenomena can be explained differently by different schools of thought					
PS7	Grasp and question the causes and consequences of economic developments and their impact on politics					X
8	Think independently, creatively, and critically				X	
9	Be an entrepreneur and take initiative					
10	Have self-confidence					
11	Have the ability to carry out systematic comparisons and rightly differentiate similarities and differences				X	
12	Be open-minded and prepared to work together with people from different cultures and groups					
13	Be aware and a follower of social responsibilities as well as political rights and freedoms					
14	Internalize work ethics and behave accordingly					
15	Be able to speak and deliver presentations in front of public					
16	Understand, read, and write in English				X	
17	Have the ability to observe, analyze, and report					
18	Be able to implement the principles and methods of scientific research					
19	Understand and interpret statistical data					
20	Be prone to team work					
21	Possess computer and technological literacy					

*1 Lowest, 2 Low, 3 Average, 4 High, 5 Highest

Student workload:

Pre-reading	98 hrs
Lectures	42 hrs
Exams and Quizzes	10 hrs
TOTAL	150 hrs to match 25 x 6 ECTS

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