

Date Prepared: January 06

COURSE OUTLINE

New Revised

Effective Date: Spring 06

1. **COURSE PREFIX NUMBER:** PLS 212 **CREDIT HOURS:** 3
2. **COURSE TITLE:** United States Government II
3. **PREREQUISITES:** English placement recommendation for English 111 and satisfactory completion of English 1 and 4 if required by reading placement test. Co-requisite: English 5 and English 107 if recommended by reading placement test.
4. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Teaches structure, operation, and process of national, state, and local governments. Includes in-depth study of the three branches of government and of public policy. PLS 211 and 212 need not be taken in sequence. Lecture 3 hours per week.
5. **CONTENT:** (Major Headings)
 - a. Citizen Participation (Voting, Public Opinion, Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Elections)
 - b. Making Public Policy
 - c. Major Concepts of American Foreign and Defense Policy
 - d. Major Concepts of Domestic Policy (Regulation), Subsidies and Entitlements, and Taxing and Spending
 - e. Civil Rights
 - f. State and Local Politics
6. **GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- a. Demonstrate an awareness of the importance of being an informed and active citizen in a democracy, and to show an increased understanding of the alternative forms of citizen participation.
- b. Consider the major political forces in national, state and local politics by examining political parties, interest groups, and the electoral process.
- c. Investigate major goals and strategies of American foreign policy (both past and present).
- d. Study changing American defense policy as a means of protecting our national security.
- e. Consider the responsibility of the national government to make social policy under the Constitution's general welfare clause.

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- f. Examine the role of the government in regulating business and labor, and in managing the economy through fiscal and monetary policies.
- g. To explore the changing attitudes about the responsibilities of the national, state and local governments in providing for the needs of American citizens.
- h. Identify the major factors contributing to the "urban crisis" and become familiar with special problems of the inner city.
- i. Become acquainted with the general characteristics, organization, and procedures of state legislative, executive, and judicial bodies.
- j. Become familiar with sources of information concerning state and local government.
- k. Describe the major problems confronting the states and localities in such areas as education, transportation, crime and pollution, and to offer examples, which show how different states and communities are attempting to solve these problems.
- l. Evaluate the strengths and relevance of arguments on a particular question or issue.
- m. Weigh evidence and decide if generalizations or conclusions based on the given data are warranted.
- n. Draw appropriate conclusions and inferences.