UCFV
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE of the FRASER VALLEY

OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE (page 1)

COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: September 2008
COURSE REVISED IMPLEMENTATION DATE:
COURSE TO BE REVIEWED: April 2012
(four years after UPAC approval) *(month, year)*

OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE INFORMATION

Students are advised to keep course outlines in personal files for future use.
Shaded headings are subject to change at the discretion of the department – see course syllabus available from instructor

POSC 322	**Political Science**	**3**
COURSE NAME/NUMBER	FACULTY/DEPARTMENT	UCFV CREDITS

Introduction to American Politics
COURSE DESCRIPTIVE TITLE

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

This course will provide analysis of various aspects of American political life, the major U.S. political institutions, and how they interrelate to affect political outcomes. The course will also consider the role of both the Constitution and American civic life as these impact politics in the U.S. and elsewhere.

PREREQUISITES: POSC 230 or 45 university-level credits
COREQUISITES:
PRE or COREQUISITES:

SYNONYMOUS COURSE(S):
(a) Replaces:
(b) Cross-listed with:
(c) Cannot take: for further credit.

SERVICE COURSE TO: *(department/program)*

TOTAL HOURS PER TERM: **45**

STRUCTURE OF HOURS:

Lectures:	**45**	Hrs
Seminar:		Hrs
Laboratory:		Hrs
Field experience:		Hrs
Student directed learning:		Hrs
Other (specify):		Hrs

TRAINING DAY-BASED INSTRUCTION:
Length of course:
Hours per day:

OTHER:
Maximum enrolment: **28**
Expected frequency of course offerings: **Every other year**
(every semester, annually, every other year, etc.)

WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (lower-level courses only)	☐ Yes	☒ No
WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (upper-level requested by department)	☒ Yes	☐ No
TRANSFER CREDIT EXISTS IN BCCAT TRANSFER GUIDE:	☐ Yes	☒ No

Course designer(s): **David MacDonald**

Department Head:	**Glen Baier**	Date approved:	**March 2008**
Supporting area consultation (UPACA1)		Date of meeting:	**March 28, 2008**
Curriculum Committee chair:	**Moira Kloster**	Date approved:	**March 14, 2008**
Dean/Associate VP:	**Eric Davis**	Date approved:	**April 23, 2008**
Undergraduate Program Advisory Committee (UPAC) approval		Date of meeting:	**April 25, 2008**

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

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

- Identify and explain the key institutions of the U.S. political system
- Describe the functions of these institutions
- Analyze U.S. political culture

METHODS: *(Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.)*

The course will be taught through a combination of lecture and classroom discussion.

METHODS OF OBTAINING PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT RECOGNITION (PLAR):

☒ Examination(s) ☒ Portfolio assessment ☐ Interview(s)

☐ Other (specify):

☐ PLAR cannot be awarded for this course for the following reason(s):

TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS:

[Textbook selection varies by instructor. An example of texts for this course might be:]

David Magleby et al., Government By The People,(7E), (22nd ed.) New York, Prentice-Hall, 2008. ISBN-10: 0131578170

SUPPLIES / MATERIALS:

STUDENT EVALUATION:

[An example of student evaluation for this course might be:]

Essay 1	20%
Essay 2	20%
Quiz	10%
Participation	20%
Final exam	30%

COURSE CONTENT:

[Course content varies by instructor. An example of course content might be:]

Course content will vary from instructor to instructor, but the following is an example of a course outline based on thirteen four hour sessions.

Week 1: Introduction
Week 2: Constitutional Democracy
Week 3: American Federalism
Week 4: Political Culture and Ideology
Week 5: The American Political Landscape
Week 6: Political Parties and Interest Groups
Week 7: Public Opinion, Voting, and Elections
Week 8: The Media and American Politics
Week 9: Congress
Week 10: The Presidency
Week 11: The Judiciary
Week 12: Making Economic, Regulatory, and Social Policy
Week 13: Making Foreign and Defense Policy