COMMON COURSE OUTLINE: Course discipline/number/title: POLS 1615: Introduction to American Governments

A. CATALOG DESCRIPTION
1. Credits: 3
2. Hours/Week: 3
3. Prerequisites (Course discipline/number): College level reading and writing.
4. Co-requisites (Course discipline/number): None

This course is a survey course of American Government, with an emphasis on political theory and history, the Constitution, civil liberties and rights, public opinion, interest groups, the political process, mass media, and branches of the federal government. An overview of public policy and state & local government will also be provided.

B. DATE LAST REVISED (Month, year): October, 2002

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:
1. Political Theory and History
   a) Anarchy vs. Social Contract
   b) Forms of Government
   c) Theories of U.S. Democracy
   d) Constitution
   e) Federalism
   f) Civil Liberties
   g) Civil Rights
2. People and Politics
   a) Public Opinion
   b) Interest Groups
   c) Political Parties
   d) Campaigns & Elections
   e) Media
3. Branches of Federal Government
   a) Legislative
   b) Executive
   c) Bureaucracy
   d) Judicial
4. Public Policy
   a) Domestic & Economic Policy
   b) Foreign & Defense Policy
5. State & Local Government

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (GENERAL): The student will be able to:

E. LEARNING OUTCOMES (MNTC): Goal 2/Critical Thinking: The student will be able to:
1. Gather factual information and apply it to a given problem in a manner that is relevant, clear, comprehensive, and conscious of possible bias in the information selected.
2. Imagine and seek out a variety of possible goals, assumptions, interpretations, or perspectives, which can give alternative meanings or solutions to given situations or problems.
3. Analyze the logical connections among the facts, goals, and implicit assumptions relevant to a problem or claim; generate and evaluate implications that follow from them.
E. LEARNING OUTCOMES (MNTC): Continued...
4. Recognize and articulate the value assumptions, which underlie and affect decisions, interpretations, analyses, and evaluations made by ourselves and others.

Goal 5/History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences: The student will be able to:
1. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
2. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.
3. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
4. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

Goal 9/Ethical and Civic Responsibility: The student will be able to:
1. Examine, articulate, and apply their own ethical views.
2. Understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.
3. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.
4. Recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others.
5. Identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

F. METHODS FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT LEARNING:
1. Objective and essay examinations based on lectures
2. Handouts
3. Readings
4. Class discussion
5. Attendance
6. Papers
7. Assignments and projects may also be grade components
*A Note: See course syllabi for specific requirements.

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION (if any): None