COMMON COURSE OUTLINE: Course discipline/number/title: POLS 1620: Constitutional Law

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 seeks to provide students with knowledge about the nature and scope of American Constitutional rights and liberties based upon the United States Constitution as interpreted by the United States Supreme Court.

B. DATE LAST REVISED (Month, year): December, 2005

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:
This course seeks to provide students with knowledge about the nature and scope of American Constitutional rights and liberties based upon the United States Constitution as interpreted by the United States Supreme Court.

1. An Overview of U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights
2. Criminal Justice system
3. Individual Rights and Basic Underlying Concepts of 1st and 2nd amendments
4. Search and Seizure Law of 4th Amendment
5. Admissions and Confessions of 5th and 6th Amendments
6. Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses of 5th and 14th Amendments

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (GENERAL): The student will be able to:
The most effective political science, law enforcement, legal assistant, or community college students are those who understand Constitutional law and its application to the legal process. In this course, students will examine the U.S. Constitution, specifically the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment.

1. Constitutional Framework;
3. Federal Institutions; Legislative, Executive and Judicial branch structure and functions.
4. Civil Liberties, Civil Rights.

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.
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.
E. LEARNING OUTCOMES (MNCT): Continued...
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. Participation in Discussions
2. Exams
3. (Optional) Final Paper

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION (if any): None