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**M: Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes**

At the conclusion of the course the successful student will be able to:

1. Describe American political culture, institutions and processes of the American government: the U.S. constitution, Presidency, judiciary and bureaucracy; federalism; the U.S. electoral and party system; and interest groups.
2. Analyze critical issues in American politics.
3. Apply their knowledge in writing a formal research essay relevant to course content and objectives.
4. Undertake further study of American politics.

**N: Course Content:**

Unit One: The Context of American Government and Politics

- Introduction - the internal environment, the changing external role of the U.S., American political culture: individualism, anti-statism, egalitarianism, and populism

- The U.S. Constitution - the nature of the original constitutional compromise, the separation of powers, historic constitutional amendments, constitutional change in the U.S.

- The federal system - evolutionary development, contemporary state-federal relations

Unit Two: The Major Institutions of the National Government

- The Presidency - the office and the person, presidential power and constraints, the evolving character of the presidency

- The Congress - lawmaking and representation: the House of Representatives; structure, role, operations; the Senate: structure, role, operations; relations between the Senate and the House; the role of parties in the Congress; relationship with the Presidency, the Congressional Budgetary Office

- The judiciary - structure of the federal judiciary; judiciary review; the functioning of the Supreme Court; selection of the judiciary; judicial activism and restraint; the Supreme Court - civil rights and civil liberties

- The bureaucracy and poli0000 TD(nate an)Tj28.440erti

**POLI 209 - U.S. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

Course and Subject Number

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**O: Methods of Instruction**

Presentation of the course will involve the use of formal lectures, structured group work by students, and in class discussion of assigned material. Additional readings may be assigned for each unit of the course and placed on reserve in the library. Where appropriate, audio-visual materials and computer instruction will be used.

**P: Textbooks and Materials to be Purchased by Students**

Text and course readings will be selected by instructors after consultation with the department. Texts will be supplemented with other materials.

Examples of texts to be used:

Lowi, Theodore and Bejamine Ginsberg, *American Government: Freedom and Power*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition ~~Janina~~