

SYLLABUS
PART I
EDISON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PLS 121S AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT
3 CREDIT HOURS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Overview of the American system of government which examines the impact of public opinions, group interests, and organizations on the institutions of American government. Particular attention is focused on issues which relate to the politics of public policy and the decision-making process. The nature of American democracy is examined and critically analyzed.

COURSE GOALS

The student will:

Bloom's Level		Gen Ed Outcomes
2	1. Differentiate between American myths and American realities, between the political system's promise and its performance.	1, 6
3	2. Relate politics and government to contemporary issues.	1
2	3. Describe the influence of the Constitution on our political, social, and economic systems.	1, 2, 6
4	4. Explain the political process as it relates to campaigns, elections, and political participation.	1, 2, 6
2	5. Distinguish between the governmental structures and explain how these structures interrelate.	1, 6
4	6. Compare the characteristics of the branches of government, their functions and how they interrelate.	1
2	7. Discuss the cultural cleavages of society and the role they play in the political system.	4, 5

CORE VALUES

The Core Values are a set of principles that guide in creating educational programs and environments at Edison. They include communication, ethics, critical thinking, human diversity, inquiry/respect for learning, and interpersonal skills/teamwork. The goals, objectives, and activities in this course will introduce/reinforce these Core Values whenever appropriate.

TOPIC OUTLINE

1. America in a World of Change
2. The Constitution
3. Federalism
4. Civil Liberties
5. Civil Rights
6. Striving for Equality
7. Public Opinion
8. Interest Groups
9. Political Parties
10. Campaigns, Candidates and Elections

11. The Media
12. Congress
13. Presidency
14. The Bureaucracy
15. The Judiciary
16. Domestic Policy
17. Economic Policy
18. Foreign and Defense Policy
19. State Local Government