

CUMBERLAND COUNTY COLLEGE

Course: PS 201: American Federal Government

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: RD 100, EN 060

Description:

This course is a study of the basic principles of government at the national level: The Constitution, the structure and function of the various branches of government, political parties, interest groups, civil liberties, civil rights, and responsibilities of citizenship.

Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Analyze the nature and roots of their role as American citizens
- Enumerate those principles of government considered essential to our constitutional system
- Explain the constitutional bases of American Federalism
- Review the fundamental concepts, functions, and processes of politics and institutions of American national government
- Explain the separation of powers and checks and balances characteristic of American government
- Describe the role of interest groups, the media, and the federal bureaucracy in American politics
- Explain the purpose and functions of political parties in the American system
- Develop into a more informed citizen

Topical Outline

- Democracy in the United States
- Establishing a Constitutional Democracy
- Federalism: Division of Power National, State, and Local Governments
- American Political Culture
- Public Opinion
- Individual Participation
- Interest-Group Participation in American Democracy
- Political Parties
- The Media
- Electing the President
- Choosing the Congress
- The Congress and Its Work
- The Presidency: Powers and Practice
- The Bureaucracy

- The Courts
- Civil Liberties
- Civil Rights

Text: Fiorine, M., Peterson, P., Johnson, B., Mayer, W. (2011). *The New American Democracy* (Alt. 7th Ed.). Longman.

Student Assessment: Assessment may be accomplished through projects, portfolios, exams, presentations and/or papers.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism is cheating. Plagiarism is presenting in written work, in public speaking, and in oral reports the ideas or exact words of someone else without proper documentation. Whether the act of plagiarism is deliberate or accidental [ignorance of the proper rules for handling material is no excuse], plagiarism is, indeed, a “criminal” offense. As such, a plagiarized paper or report automatically receives a grade of **ZERO** and the student may receive a grade of **F** for the semester at the discretion of the instructor.

Tutoring & Project Assist

If you are having difficulty with work in this class tutoring is available through the Center for Academic & Student Success. If you think that you might have a learning disability, contact Project Assist at 856.691.8600 x 1282 for information on assistance that can be provided to eligible students.

Before Withdrawing From This Course

If a student experiences adverse circumstances while enrolled in this course and considers withdrawing, s/he should see an advisor (division or advisement center) BEFORE withdrawing from the class. A withdrawal may cause harmful repercussions to completion rate standards and overall GPA which can limit or eliminate future financial aid in addition to causing academic suspension.