The mission of Motlow State Community College is to enrich and empower its students and the community it serves.

MOTLOW STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
POLS 1030 AMERICAN GOVERNMENT
FALL MM-YYYY

This Course Outline is subject to change with notice.

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: N/A

Catalog Description:
This course is a study of the basic features of American government with emphasis on constitutional principles of the structure and functions of the three branches of national government. (Formerly POLS 1110 American Government)

The official syllabus for this course can be viewed online at http://www.mscc.edu/social_science/POLS%201030%20American%20Government%20Syllabus.pdf

Instructor:
Dr. Joseph S. Doe
Assistant Professor of Political Science
Office: SH 508 (Main Campus)
Office telephone: 555-1212
Email: jdoe@mscc.edu
Office hours: Monday and Wednesday: 8:00 – 9:30, 11:15 – 12:15; 2:00 – 4:00; Tuesday and Thursday: 8:00 – 10:00.
Academic Advising Hours: Tuesday and Thursday: 2:00 – 4:00.

Required Textbook(s):

Government by the People
Authors: Magleby, Light, and Nemacheck

Student Learning Goals

1. Develop knowledge, an understanding, and an appreciation of the constitutional principles of American national government and of the forms, functions, and operations of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the national
government.
2. Prepare students for more informed and responsible citizenship.
3. Lay a foundation for advanced courses.
4. Help students develop a better perspective on current political events demonstrating that few basic political phenomena are uniquely modern.
5. Help students prepare for such careers as teaching, law, government and politics.
6. Develop such basic skills as reading, listening, and written and oral expression.

Student Learning Objectives:

1. Describe and explain the origins of politics.
2. Define and explain basic political terms.
3. Describe the origins of American government.
4. Distinguish between the formal constitution and informal constitution.
5. Describe the basic features of the formal constitution.
6. Describe the formal methods of amending the constitution.
7. Describe the informal methods of amending the constitution.
8. Describe the basic features of the American federal system of government.
9. Examine the major decisions of the United States Supreme Court relating to the First amendment.
10. Define the basic terms and concepts relating to civil rights and liberties and describe major decisions of the United States Supreme Court relating to civil rights.
11. Describe the nature of political interest groups and their efforts to influence public policy.
12. Define terms and concepts relating to citizenship.
13. Describe the process of naturalization.
14. Examine Supreme Court decision relating to citizenship.
15. Describe the origins and development of American political parties.
16. Explain voter behavior on the basis of economic status, education, sex and race.
17. Describe party organization in the United States.
18. Describe methods used in United States history to nominate candidates.
19. Describe methods of financing political campaign.
20. Contrast the original method of electing the president with the revised method.
21. Describe the methods of nominating presidential candidates and proposed nomination reforms.
22. Describe the method of electing the president and the proposed reforms in electing the president.
23. Describe the organization and composition of Congress.
24. Explain the congressional committee system.
25. Describe the powers of Congress.
26. Describe how a bill becomes a law.
27. Describe the different roles of the president.
28. Describe the constitutional powers of the president.
29. Describe other sources of presidential powers.
30. Describe the expansion of presidential power over our history.
31. Describe restraints on presidential power.
32. Explain the role of the president in foreign affairs.
33. Trace the history of American foreign policy.
34. Describe the functions of the executive departments and the major independent regulatory agencies.
35. Explain the origin of judicial review.
36. Explain judicial review within the American political system.
37. Explain the role of the Supreme Court in the making of public policy.
38. Explain the structure of federal courts.
39. Explain the selection of federal judges.
40. Explain the formulating and implementing of public policy.

**Major Assignments and Method for Calculating the Final Grade:**

The student’s final grade in this course is based upon a weighted percentage system based upon the following factors:

- a) The average of 14 brief online Chapter Quizzes (one per chapter) weighted at 15% of the final grade
- b) The average of four (4) online Exams weighted at 60% of the final grade
- c) The average of three (3) Research & Writing Activities weighted at 15% of the final grade
- d) The percentage of completed acceptable Discussion Question Responses weighted at 10% of the final grade

**Grading Scale:**

Grades will be assigned as follows:

- **A** = 90 – 100
- **B** = 80 – 89
- **C** = 70 – 79
- **D** = 60 – 69
- **F** = less than 60

**Course Policies:**

**Academic Misconduct Policy:**

Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited. Students guilty of academic misconduct, either directly or indirectly, through participation or assistance, are immediately responsible to the instructor of the class. Based on their professional judgment, instructors have the authority to impose the following academic sanctions: (a) require the student to repeat the assignment for full or partial credit; (b) assign a zero, an F, or any other grade appropriate for the assignment or examination; (c) assign an F for the course. In addition, disciplinary sanctions may be imposed through the regular institutional procedures. For more information, see MSCC Policy 3:02:00:03.
Classroom Misconduct Policy:

The instructor has the primary responsibility for maintenance of academic integrity and controlling classroom behavior, and can order temporary removal or exclusion from the classroom of any student engaged in disruptive conduct or conduct that violates the general rules and regulations of the institution for each class session during which the conduct occurs. Extended or permanent exclusion from the classroom, beyond the session in which the conduct occurred, or further disciplinary action can be effected only through appropriate procedures of the institution.

Disruptive behavior in the classroom may be defined as, but not limited to, behavior that obstructs or disrupts the learning environment (e.g., offensive language, harassment of students and professors, repeated outbursts from a student which disrupt the flow of instruction or prevent concentration on the subject taught, failure to cooperate in maintaining classroom decorum, etc.), text messaging, and the continued use of any electronic or other noise or light emitting device which disturbs others (e.g., disturbing noises from beepers, cell phones, palm pilots, lap-top computers, games, etc.). For more information, see MSCC Policy 3:02:00:03.

Emergency Procedures Policy:

In case of a medical emergency we will immediately dial 9-911 and report the nature of the medical emergency to emergency response personnel. We will try to stay with the person(s) in need and maintain a calm atmosphere. We will talk to the person as much as possible until response personnel arrive on campus, and we will have someone go outside to meet emergency personnel and direct them to the appropriate location.

In the event of an emergency (drill or actual), a signal will be sent. Based on that signal, students will follow the procedures below for that specific type of emergency:

Loud warbling sound throughout Building (FIRE)

Collect purses and coats and proceed immediately out of your room and exit through the closest emergency exit. Proceed to the Designated Assembly Area closing windows and doors as you exit. Remain there until the "All Clear" Signal is given by an Emergency Management Team member. (Instructors- Provide your Designated Assembly Area, and its location to students)

Tornado Siren (SEVERE WEATHER):

Proceed to the closest designated severe weather shelter on the 1st floor and proceed all the way into the shelter. Crouch down on the floor with your head between your knees facing away from the outside walls. Remain there until the "All Clear" Signal is given. (Instructors- Provide the recommended room number or hallway location to students)

Air Horn (1 Long Blast) and Face to Face All Clear (INTRUDER/HOSTAGE):
Ensure door is closed, locked and lights turned off. If your door will not lock, move some tables and chairs in front of the door quickly. Move immediately to the rear of the room away from the door and sit on the floor- out of sight if possible. Remain calm and quiet and do not respond to any inquiries at the door unless you have been given the "All Clear" and a member of law enforcement or your campus Emergency Management Team member makes face-to-face contact at your door.

**Classroom Locked-door Policy:**

In order to adhere to MSCC Emergency Preparedness Policy and to facilitate effective classroom management, the classroom door will remain closed and locked for the duration of the class period.

**Educational Technology:**

**Accessing Campus Computers or the MSCC Library from off Campus:**

Your Username format is your First Initial, Last Name and Month and Day Birthday in the Format of MMDD. Example: Marcia Smith born on April 11, 1992 - Username: msmith0411. Your Pin will be the numeric pin you created when you initially applied to Motlow College.

**Using D2L:**
For help with D2L including how to submit materials to a Dropbox, see this page: [http://www.mscc.edu/techtube.aspx](http://www.mscc.edu/techtube.aspx)

**Technical Support/Assistance:**
Students having problems logging into a course, timing out of a course, using course web site tools, or any other technical problems, should contact the MSCC Technology Help Desk at 931-393-1510 or toll free 1-800-654-4877, Ext. #1510 (ord2lhelp@mscc.edu)

**Disability Services/Accommodations:**

Motlow College is committed to meeting the needs of qualified students with disabilities by providing equal access to educational opportunities, programs, and activities in the most integrated setting appropriate. This commitment is consistent with the College's obligations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the American with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). Together, these laws prohibit discrimination against qualified persons with disabilities. To this end, the Director of Disability Services for Motlow College coordinates services and serves as an advocate and liaison for students with disabilities attending Motlow College. Contact the Director of Disability Services here: [http://www.mscc.edu/disability/index.aspx](http://www.mscc.edu/disability/index.aspx).
Students with disabilities who would need assistance in an emergency evacuation should self-disclose that need to the instructor no later than the second day of class or second group meeting.

**Confidentiality of Student Records:**

The education records of current and former students at Motlow State Community College are maintained as confidential records pursuant to The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 as amended. For further information, see MSCC Policy No. 3:02:03:00.

**Student Success:**

**Tutoring:**

MSCC Instructors can guide students to specific resources regarding Tutoring in their discipline. In particular, students may find help with Math and Essay Writing via each campus’ Learning Support labs. Students should contact the labs on their campus to schedule appointments for help. For additional help, see the Student Success page: [http://www.mscc.edu/student_success/index.aspx](http://www.mscc.edu/student_success/index.aspx)

**Academic Advisement:**

MSCC Instructors can guide students to specific resources regarding Advisement. For additional help, see the Academic Advisement page: [http://www.mscc.edu/advisement/index.aspx](http://www.mscc.edu/advisement/index.aspx)

**Calendar**

This course calendar is only intended to serve as a general guideline. While every effort will be made to adhere closely to this calendar, adjustments may have to be made for unforeseen circumstances such as inclement weather.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>End Dates</th>
<th>Topic/Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | mm-dd-yyyy | Chapter 1: Constitutional Democracy  
Chapter 1 Quiz and Discussion Question due by Sunday mm-dd-yyyy @ 11:59 p.m. |
| 2    | mm-dd-yyyy | Chapter 2: Constitutional Foundations: The Constitution of the United States  
Chapter 2 Quiz and Discussion Question due by Sunday mm-dd-yyyy @ 11:59 p.m. |
| 3    | mm-dd-yyyy | Chapter 3: American Federalism  
Chapter 3 Quiz and Discussion Question due by Sunday mm-dd-yyyy @ 11:59 p.m. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Chapter Title</th>
<th>Quiz and Discussion Question Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Chapter 4: Political Culture and Ideology</td>
<td>Sunday mm-dd-yyyy @ 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Chapter 5: The American Political Landscape</td>
<td>Sunday mm-dd-yyyy @ 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Chapter 6: Interest Groups</td>
<td>Sunday mm-dd-yyyy @ 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Chapter 7: Political Parties</td>
<td>Sunday mm-dd-yyyy @ 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Chapter 8: Public Opinion, Participation and Voting</td>
<td>Sunday mm-dd-yyyy @ 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Chapter 9: Campaigns and Elections</td>
<td>Sunday mm-dd-yyyy @ 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Chapter 10: The Media and U.S. Politics</td>
<td>Sunday mm-dd-yyyy @ 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Chapter 11: Congress</td>
<td>Sunday mm-dd-yyyy @ 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Chapter 12: The Presidency</td>
<td>Sunday mm-dd-yyyy @ 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Chapter 13: The Federal Bureaucracy</td>
<td>Sunday mm-dd-yyyy @ 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Chapter 14: The Judiciary</td>
<td>Sunday mm-dd-yyyy @ 11:59 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>EXAM 4 (the “Final Exam”) Chapters 12 – 14 must be completed</td>
<td>Wednesday, mm-dd-yyyy at xx:xx o’clock Central Time</td>
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</tbody>
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