A. **TITLE:** Introduction to American Government and Politics

B. **COURSE NUMBER:** POLS 105

C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 3 Lecture Hours per Week for 15 Weeks

D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** No

E. **GER CATEGORY:** 3

F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Fall or Spring

G. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**
In this course students will be introduced to the fundamental components of American government and politics, including political culture, interest representation, political participation, government institutions, and government policymaking. Students develop a basic knowledge of American politics and the tools for careful and critical evaluation of current events and political phenomena. Through the framework of the Constitution, this course considers governmental and political issues from the founding until now, including federalism, civil liberties and rights, political processes such as campaigns and elections, and the checks and balances between branches of government.

H. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:** None

I. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Student Learning Outcome [SLO]</th>
<th>GER 3</th>
<th>ISLO &amp; Sub-Sets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Describe the role of government and politics in our social, cultural, and economic lives.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1 Communication [W]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Examine and explain the structures, functions, and operations of the American government.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2 Critical Thinking [CA]</td>
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<td>c. Identify major constitutional rights and analyze their judicial interpretation over time.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 Critical Thinking [IA]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Evaluate America’s form of democracy and the political system.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2 Critical Thinking [CA]</td>
</tr>
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**GER 3**
Students will demonstrate:
1. Understanding of the methods social scientists use to explore social phenomena, including observation, hypothesis development, measurement and data collection, experimentation, evaluation of evidence, and employment of mathematical and interpretive analysis.
2. Knowledge of major concepts, models and issues of at least one discipline in the social sciences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KEY</th>
<th>Institutional Student Learning Outcomes [ISLO 1 – 5]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ISLO #</td>
<td>ISLO &amp; Subsets</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1    | Communication Skills  
Oral [O], Written [W] |
| 2    | Critical Thinking  
Critical Analysis [CA], Inquiry & Analysis [IA], Problem Solving [PS] |
| 3    | Foundational Skills  
Information Management [IM], Quantitative Lit., /Reasoning [QTR] |
| 4    | Social Responsibility  
Ethical Reasoning [ER], Global Learning [GL], Intercultural Knowledge [IK], Teamwork [T] |
| 5    | Industry, Professional, Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills |
J. APPLIED LEARNING COMPONENT: Yes - Research

K. TEXTS: To be determined by the instructor

L. REFERENCES:

M. EQUIPMENT: Technology Enhanced Classroom

N. GRADING METHOD: A - F

O. SUGGESTED MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:
Exams • Quizzes • Assignments/Projects/Papers • Participation/Discussion

P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:
I. Foundations of American Government and Politics
   A. Political Culture
      i. Citizenship
      ii. Knowledge
      iii. Participation
   B. The Founding
      i. Declaration of Independence
      ii. Articles of Confederation
      iii. Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists
   C. The Constitution
      i. Constitutional Convention
      ii. Branches of Government
      iii. Amending the Constitution
      iv. Changing Constitution
   D. Federalism
      i. Powers of the National Government
      ii. Powers of State Governments
      iii. State Obligation to One Another
      iv. Federalism Over Time
II. Civil Liberties & Civil Rights
   A. Bill of Rights
   B. Civil War Amendments
C. Litigating for Equality
D. Extending Civil Rights
E. Affirmative Action

III. Political Presentation and Representation
A. Public Opinion
   i. Political Values
   ii. Political Socialization
   iii. Measuring Public Opinion
   iv. Polling Procedures
   v. The U.S. Census
B. The Media
   i. Traditional Media
   ii. New Media
   iii. Regulation of the Media
C. Political Participation and Voting
   i. Forms of Political Participation
D. Political Parties
   i. Democrats & Republicans
   ii. Third Parties
   iii. Ideology and Political Parties
E. Campaigns and Elections
   i. Types of elections
   ii. The Electoral College
   iii. Election Campaigns
F. Groups and Interests
   i. Lobbying
   ii. Money and Power

IV. Political Institutions
A. Congress
   i. Organization
   ii. Powers
   iii. Lawmaking
B. The Presidency
   i. Organization
   ii. Presidential Powers
C. Bureaucracy
D. The Judicial System
   i. Federal Courts
   ii. Judicial Review

V. Political Policy
A. Government and the Economy
   i. Fiscal & Monetary Policy
   ii. The Environment and the Economy
B. Social Policy
   i. The Welfare State
   ii. Education
   iii. Health Care
C. Foreign Policy
   i. Military and Security
   ii. Diplomacy
   iii. America and the United Nations