

## WTCS Repository

# 10-809-122 Intro to Amer Government

## Course Outcome Summary

### Course Information

**Description** Introduces American political processes and Institutions. Focuses on rights and responsibilities of citizens and the process of participatory democracy. Learners examine the complexity of the separation of powers and checks and balances. Explores the role of the media, interest groups, political parties and public opinion in the political process. Also explores the role of state and national government in our federal system.

**Total Credits** 3.00

### Pre/Corequisites

**Prerequisite** Each Wisconsin Technical College determines the General Education course prerequisites used by their academic institution. If prerequisites for a course are determined to be appropriate, the final Course Outcome Summary must identify the prerequisites approved for use by the individual Technical College.

### Course Competencies

#### 1. Explore American political culture

##### Assessment Strategies

1.1. through a test, written assignment or a group project

##### Criteria

*Your performance will be successful when:*

- 1.1. Characteristics of American political culture are specified
- 1.2. Sources and influences of political socialization are described

#### 2. Explore citizenship responsibilities

##### Assessment Strategies

2.1. through a test, written assignment or a group project

##### Criteria

*Your performance will be successful when:*

- 2.1. types of political participation are described
- 2.2. self-assessment indicates learner's level of participation
- 2.3. patterns of voting behavior are described
- 2.4. procedures used to vote are identified

#### 3. Analyze types of governments

##### Assessment Strategies

3.1. through a test, written assignment or a group project

## Criteria

*Your performance will be successful when:*

- 3.1. totalitarian, authoritarian and democratic forms of government are compared
- 3.2. types of government are characterized by the degree of governmental control, individual liberty and equality

## 4. Examine Democratic principles

### Assessment Strategies

- 4.1. through a test, written assignment or a group project

### Criteria

*Your performance will be successful when:*

- 4.1. characteristics of direct and representative democracy are compared
- 4.2. examples of present day direct democratic principles are identified: referendum, recall and citizen initiatives
- 4.3. limitations of democratic government are described.:
- 4.4. relationship between majority rule and minority rights is compared
- 4.5. theory of social contract is applied to the American political system

## 5. Identify functions and purpose of government

### Assessment Strategies

- 5.1. through a test, written assignment or a group project

### Criteria

*Your performance will be successful when:*

- 5.1. government activities are classified according to: regulatory, distributive or redistributive regulatory b. distributive. redistributive.
- 5.2. sources of political legitimacy are identified

## 6. Explore the philosophers and documents that influence the development of the Constitution

### Assessment Strategies

- 6.1. through a test, written assignment or a group project

### Criteria

*Your performance will be successful when:*

- 6.1. core documents are linked to political philosophies and principles
- 6.2. principle of natural rights is explained

## 7. Explore the principles of separation of powers and checks and balances

### Assessment Strategies

- 7.1. through a test, written assignment or a group project

### Criteria

*Your performance will be successful when:*

- 7.1. Constitutional powers are categorized as delegated, implied and reserved
- 7.2. Examples of checks and balances are provided
- 7.3. Examples of separation of powers (federal and state, state and local) are identified

## 8. Analyze civil liberties

### Assessment Strategies

- 8.1. through a test, written assignment or a group project

## Criteria

*Your performance will be successful when:*

- 8.1. civil rights and civil liberties are differentiated
- 8.2. amendments and landmark Supreme Court cases relating to civil liberties are analyzed
- 8.3. current issues related to civil liberties are analyzed

## 9. Trace the development of Civil Rights

### Assessment Strategies

- 9.1. through a test, written assignment or a group project

### Criteria

*Your performance will be successful when:*

- 9.1. historical development of civil rights is outlined
- 9.2. amendments and landmark Supreme Court cases relating to civil rights are analyzed
- 9.3. current issues related to civil rights are analyzed

## 10. Explain the election process in the United States

### Assessment Strategies

- 10.1. through a test, written assignment or a group project

### Criteria

*Your performance will be successful when:*

- 10.1. nomination process is explained
- 10.2. role of the electoral college is explained
- 10.3. general election process is explained
- 10.4. role of the citizen in the election processes is identified
- 10.5. campaign process is described

## 11. Explore the two-party system and the role of third parties in the United States

### Assessment Strategies

- 11.1. through a test, written assignment or a group project

### Criteria

*Your performance will be successful when:*

- 11.1. reasons for the entrenched two-party system are provided
- 11.2. roles of third/minor parties are described
- 11.3. characteristics of the Democratic and Republican parties are compared

## 12. Analyze the influence of media in the political process

### Assessment Strategies

- 12.1. through a test, written assignment or group project

### Criteria

*Your performance will be successful when:*

- 12.1. examples of how the media sets the agenda are provided
- 12.2. examples of political "spin" are identified

## 13. Explore the role of interest groups

### Assessment Strategies

- 13.1. through a test, written assignment or a group project

## Criteria

*Your performance will be successful when:*

- 13.1. pluralist and power elite theories are compared
- 13.2. types of interest groups are identified
- 13.3. interest group actions to influence policy and election campaigns are identified
- 13.4. citizens' roles in interest groups are explained

## 14. Differentiate the types of public opinion in the American political process

### Assessment Strategies

- 14.1. through a test, written assignment or a group project

## Criteria

*Your performance will be successful when:*

- 14.1. types of public opinion polls are identified
- 14.2. characteristics of a push poll are described
- 14.3. examples of measures of public opinion polls are described
- 14.4. public opinion polls are interpreted

## 15. Summarize the structure, functions and responsibilities of Congress

### Assessment Strategies

- 15.1. through a test, written assignment or a group project

## Criteria

*Your performance will be successful when:*

- 15.1. structure of Congress is analyzed
- 15.2. how a Bill becomes law is traced
- 15.3. examples of differences between the Senate and House are identified
- 15.4. types of representation are described

## 16. Summarize the organization, functions and responsibilities of the Executive Branch

### Assessment Strategies

- 16.1. through a test, written assignment or a group project

## Criteria

*Your performance will be successful when:*

- 16.1. powers and responsibilities of the President are summarized
- 16.2. organizational structure of the Executive Branch is described
- 16.3. expansion of presidential powers is described

## 17. Summarize the organization, functions and responsibilities of the federal judiciary

### Assessment Strategies

- 17.1. through a test, written assignment or a group project

## Criteria

*Your performance will be successful when:*

- 17.1. structure of the Federal court System is described
- 17.2. nature and historical evolution of judicial review are described
- 17.3. process of federal judicial appointment is explained
- 17.4. judicial process is analyzed

## 18. Differentiate among federal, state and local government functions and responsibilities

### Assessment Strategies

- 18.1. through a test, written assignment or a group project

## Criteria

*Your performance will be successful when:*

- 18.1. dual aspect of American Government (federal and state) is described
- 18.2. examples of federal powers vs. state's rights are identified
- 18.3. characteristics of Wisconsin State Government are described
- 18.4. examples of collection and distribution of funding sources are identified