

## WTCS Repository

10-809-122 Intro to Amer Government

# Course Outcome Summary

### Course Information

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|  | Description | This course introduces American political processes and institutions, focusing on rights and responsibilities of citizens and the process of participatory democracy. Learners will explore the following: the complexity of the separation of powers and checks and balances; the role of the media, interest groups, political parties and public opinion in the political process; and the role of state and national government in our federal system. |
|  | Total Credits | 3 |

Pre/Corequisites

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| 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

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| 1. | Explore American political culture |
|  | Assessment Strategies |
|  | 1.1. | Oral, Written, Graphic and/or Skill Assessment |
|  | Criteria |
|  | 1.1. | identify characteristics of American political culture |
|  | 1.2. | describe the sources and influences of political socialization |
| 2. | Explore citizenship responsibilities |
|  | Assessment Strategies |
|  | 2.1. | Oral, Written, Graphic and/or Skill Assessment |
|  | Criteria |
|  | 2.1. | identify types of political participation |
|  | 2.2. | assess one’s own level of political participation |
| 3. | Explore the evolution of the U.S. Constitution |
|  | Assessment Strategies |
|  | 3.1. | Oral, Written, Graphic and/or Skill Assessment |
|  | Criteria |
|  | 3.1. | identify thinkers and ideas that influenced the development of the U.S. Constitution |
|  | 3.2. | discuss the significance of the theory of social contract in the American political system |
|  | 3.3. | assess different forms of government for their degree of control, individual liberty and equality |
|  | 3.4. | compare the characteristics of direct democracy and representative democracy |
|  | 3.5. | differentiate between delegated, implied, and reserved powers |
|  | 3.6. | describe the limitations of democratic government |
| 4. | Analyze civil liberties and civil rights |
|  | Assessment Strategies |
|  | 4.1. | Oral, Written, Graphic and/or Skill Assessment |
|  | Criteria |
|  | 4.1. | differentiate between civil rights and civil liberties |
|  | 4.2. | analyze amendments and landmark Supreme Court cases relating to civil liberties and/or civil rights |
|  | 4.3. | explore current issues related to civil liberties and/or civil rights |
| 5. | Analyze the election process in the United States |
|  | Assessment Strategies |
|  | 5.1. | Oral, Written, Graphic and/or Skill Assessment |
|  | Criteria |
|  | 5.1. | explain the nomination process |
|  | 5.2. | explain the electoral college |
|  | 5.3. | explain the general election process |
|  | 5.4. | identify the role of the citizen in the election process |
|  | 5.5. | describe the campaign process |
|  | 5.6. | identify factors that influence voting behavior |
| 6. | Explain the role of interest groups and political parties |
|  | Assessment Strategies |
|  | 6.1. | Oral, Written, Graphic and/or Skill Assessment |
|  | Criteria |
|  | 6.1. | explore the American political party system |
|  | 6.2. | identify the types of interest groups |
|  | 6.3. | identify interest group actions to influence policy and election campaigns |
|  | 6.4. | compare the relationship between majority rule and minority rights |
|  | 6.5. | explore the impact of gerrymandering |
| 7. | Assess the influence of public opinion and media in the political process |
|  | Assessment Strategies |
|  | 7.1. | Oral, Written, Graphic and/or Skill Assessment |
|  | Criteria |
|  | 7.1. | identify examples of how the media sets the political agenda |
|  | 7.2. | identify examples of misinformation and bias |
|  | 7.3. | discuss the role of public opinion in the American political process |
|  | 7.4. | assess public opinion polls |
| 8. | Summarize the functions of American Government |
|  | Assessment Strategies |
|  | 8.1. | Oral, Written, Graphic and/or Skill Assessment |
|  | Criteria |
|  | 8.1. | explain the principles of separation of powers |
|  | 8.2. | identify examples of checks and balances |
|  | 8.3. | summarize the functions of the legislative branch |
|  | 8.4. | summarize the functions of the executive branch |
|  | 8.5. | summarize the functions of the judicial branch |
| 9. | Analyze the relationship between American federalism and states’ rights |
|  | Assessment Strategies |
|  | 9.1. | Oral, Written, Graphic and/or Skill Assessment |
|  | Criteria |
|  | 9.1. | discuss American federalism and state powers |
|  | 9.2. | identify examples of exclusive, concurrent, and reserved powers |
|  | 9.3. | analyze how federal and state government interact in policy areas |
|  | 9.4. | assess how funding influences the relationship between federal and state governments |