I. POL 211 American National Government - 3 Semester Hours

II. Course Description

This course surveys the background, constitutional principles, organization, and operation of the American political system. Topics include the U.S. Constitution, federalism, civil liberties, civil rights, political parties, interest groups, the media, political campaigns, voting behavior, elections, the presidency, bureaucracy, Congress, the judiciary, and public policy.

III. Prerequisite

None

IV. Textbook

Due to the varied selection of quality college level textbooks, each college will select the textbook needed to meet the requirements of this course.

V. Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of this course, the student will have a reasonable mastery of the following:

A. Development of cognitive skills and a knowledge base in American nation government which advance the student’s ability to function as an informed, participating citizen.

B. Awareness, comprehension, and ability to make applications of selected major concepts in American national government.

C. Comprehend and make application of the terms, facts, and concepts included in this course.

D. Identify individuals, groups, institutions, terms, events, concepts, and facts included in this course.

E. Identify, analyze, explain relationships among, and explain the political significances of the individuals, groups, institutions, terms, events, issues, concepts, and facts included in this course.
VI. Course Outline of Topics

A. Introduction to government and political concepts
B. Constitutional framework
C. Federalism
D. Civil Liberties
E. Civil Rights
F. Public opinion, interest groups and the media
G. Political parties
H. Political campaigns
I. Voting behavior and elections
J. The Presidency
K. Bureaucracy
L. Congress
M. Judicial System
N. Public Policy

VII. Evaluation and Assessment

Exams and other assignments needed to meet the requirements of this course.

Grades will be given based upon A = 90 – 100%, B = 80 – 89%, C = 70 – 79%, D = 60 – 69%, and F = below 60%.

VIII. Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes for which they are registered. Students who are unable to attend class regularly, regardless of the reason or circumstance, should withdraw from that class before poor attendance interferes with the student’s ability to achieve the objectives required in the course. Withdrawal from class can affect eligibility for federal financial aid.

IX. Statement on Discrimination/Harassment

The College and the Alabama State Board of Education are committed to providing both employment and educational environments free of harassment or discrimination related to an individual’s race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, or disability. Such harassment is a violation of State Board of Education policy. Any practice or behavior that constitutes harassment or discrimination will not be tolerated.

X. Americans with Disabilities

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 state that qualified students with disabilities who meet the essential functions and
academic requirements are entitled to reasonable accommodations. It is the student’s responsibility to provide appropriate disability documentation to the College.

XI. Academic Integrity

Students are expected to abide by the academic integrity policy outlined in the college catalogue and/or handbook.