University of Hawai‘i - Windward Community College

Introduction to American Government

POLSC 130

Spring 2009

Course Title
Introduction to American Government

Course Alpha / Number:
POLSC 130

Credit Hours:
3

Catalog Description:
Focus on American politics and government on the basis of tradition and continuity. Covers: overview of constitutional development, institutions, processes, and participants of the American political system and alternative interpretations.

Requirements Course Satisfies:

At UH-Windward
Meets AA Degree Social Science requirement

At UH-Manoa
Meets General Education Social Science Group 1 requirement

At UH-Hilo
Meets Social Science core requirement

At UH-West Oahu
Meets Social Science core requirement

Prerequisites:
None

Instructor:
Roy H. Fujimoto

Office:
Palanikila 146

Office Phone:
236-9146

Office Hours:
MWF
10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

TTh
11:15 - 12:15 p.m.

Other day / time by appointment
COURSE GOALS: Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of basic terms, concepts, and principles of politics.
2. Demonstrate ability to analyze political processes, institutions, and issues.
3. Apply basic terms, concepts, and principles to everyday life.
4. Enhance understanding, appreciation, and effectiveness in political participation.

COURSE TASKS:

1. Attendance is required. Absences may result in grade reductions.
2. Register to vote: For those ineligible or prefer not to register, an alternate activity is available. (100 points)
3. Complete in-class “Writing Exercises” (300 points)
4. Complete three (3) quizzes (300 points)
5. Complete two (2) political portfolios (300 points)

GRADING:
Letter grades will be assigned as follow: 

- A 900 - 1000 points
- B 800 - 899
- C 700 - 799
- D 600 - 699

See College Catalog for additional grading options.

EXTRA CREDIT:
Up to 200 extra credit points may be applied to the final grade. Consult with the instructor for additional information.

REQUIRED TEXT:
- Ehrenreich, Nickel and Dimed
- Schmidt, American Government & Politics Today
- Schlosser, Fast Food Nation

Assigned readings will be distributed in class.
Other resources may be assigned or recommended.