



University of Nicosia, Cyprus

Course Code PSCI-101	Course Title American National Government	ECTS Credits 6
Department European Studies and International Relations	Semester Fall, Spring	Prerequisites None
Type of Course Elective	Field Political Science	Language of Instruction English
Level of Course 1 st Cycle	Year of Study 1 st	Lecturer(s) Dr Craig Webster
Mode of Delivery face-to-face	Work Placement N/A	Co-requisites None

Objectives of the Course:

The main objectives of the course are to:

- Introduce students to the major terms and concepts in the field of US Government
- Introduce students to the US system of government in general, and federalism, in particular.
- Introduce students to the major players in the US system of government.

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the main issues and theoretical debates in US politics.
2. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the major actors and institutions in US politics.
3. Illustrate the ability to communicate in writing and orally on issues in international relations and be able to organize the available time and cope with deadlines.
4. Report in the English language both orally and in written form at a high level of competence.
5. Use IT skills (word processing, powerpoint and Internet) as study and communication tools.
6. Illustrate the ability to continue learning in a self-directed manner and work on an academic level within the intended professional field.
7. Use libraries, bibliographical material and academic research in an efficient manner.

Course Contents:

1. Defining and discussing the concept of government
2. The role of the Constitution
3. Federalism and how it works
4. Rights and the Bill of Rights
5. Public Opinion and US Government
6. Political Parties in the US system of government
7. Interest groups and their organization
8. Congress—its structure and its role in the government
9. The Presidency—its evolution and its role in the government
10. The bureaucracy—how it has evolved and its role
11. The courts—the role of the judiciary in the US
12. US Foreign Policy—its structure and the major players

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Lectures , conferences and sessions with visiting speakers, Project work.

Assessment Methods:

Mid-Term Exam, Final Exam, Class Participation, Essays

Required Textbooks/Reading:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Gitelson, Dudley and Dubnick	American Government, 8 th edition	Houghton Mifflin	2006	0618643672