MASTER COURSE OUTLINE

A. PSCI 1010 Introduction to U.S. Politics

B. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is a study of the United States national government in all of its aspects with special emphasis placed on constitutional theory, major governmental institutions and the national political culture and practice.
MnTC (Goals 5/SS and 9/EC); (3 Cr – 3 lect, 0 lab)

C. *Core Theme: Ethical and Civic Responsibility **Discipline Area (if MnTC): History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences

D. RIVERLAND INSTITUTIONAL LEARNING OUTCOMES:

This course addresses the following Riverland Institutional Learning Outcome(s):
☒ ILO 1: critical thinking *(Core Theme Goal 2)*
☐ ILO 2: awareness of the larger global community *(Core Theme Goal 7 or 8)*
☒ ILO 3: ethical, engaged citizenship *(Core Theme Goal 9 or Goal 10)*
☐ ILO 4: communication and collaboration *(Discipline Goal 1 and by any learning outcome(s) involving communication or collaboration)*

E. MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:

- The Constitution
- Federalism
- Legislative branch
- Executive branch
- Judicial branch
- Federal bureaucracy
- Civil rights
- Civil liberties
- Foreign policy
- Economic policy
- Political parties
- Domestic policy
- Media
- Public opinion
- Interest groups
- Political participation
- Campaigns and elections

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F. GOAL TYPES, OBJECTIVES, AND OUTCOMES:

GOAL	OBJECTIVES Students will be able to	OUTCOMES The student will successfully
MnTC 5b	examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.	1. demonstrate knowledge of how government changes its function and methods or uses its power over time.
MnTC 5c	use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.	1. suggest varied explanations for the major actors, issues, and motivation of governmental and nongovernmental actors.
MnTC 5d	develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.	1. compare explanations and solutions of contemporary social issues to similar events in modern times.
MnTC 9b	understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights, and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.	1. analyze current political issues using core concepts such as politics, rights, obligations, justice and liberty. 2. analyze U.S. political culture, employing a variety of political science perspectives.
MnTC 9d	recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others.	1. demonstrate a knowledge of the major actors, issues, and motivation of governmental and nongovernmental actors. 2. reflect critically on one's own values as a citizen.
MnTC 9e	identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.	1. demonstrate skills that enable participation in public life. 2. demonstrate knowledge of the general and specific differences between rights and responsibilities of citizenship.
CS	demonstrate knowledge of the principal structures and institutions of government.	1. identify the purpose, function, and structure of the major branches of government. 2. assess U.S. government institutions, employing a variety of political science perspectives.
CS	demonstrate mastery of basic concepts of the constitution.	1. identify key concepts imbedded in the constitution such as republicanism, representation, rule of law, separation of powers, social contract, natural rights, and federalism.
CS	demonstrate knowledge of how government functions.	1. identify how government functions especially in regard to the division of power among the three branches. 2. assess U.S. government processes, employing a variety of political science perspectives.

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION:

This course may require use of the Internet, the submission of electronically prepared documents and the use of a course management software program. Students who have a disability and need accommodations should contact Accessibility Services at the beginning of the semester. This information will be made available in alternative format, such as Braille, large print, or current media, upon request.

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H. COURSE CODING INFORMATION:

Course Code A/Class Maximum 48; Letter Grade

Revision date: 10/14/10; 09/01/16; 08/31/17; 04/02/24
AASC Approval date: 10/24/17; 04/16/24

*These five MnTC Goals have been identified as Riverland Community College Core Themes. Every course in the Riverland Community College curriculum shall meet outcomes from one of these themes.

**These five MnTC Goals have been identified as Riverland Community College Disciplines. Riverland's MnTC courses also shall meet outcomes from a Discipline Area.

NOTE: The Minnesota Transfer Curriculum "10 Goal Areas of Emphasis" are reflected in the five required discipline areas and five core themes noted in the Riverland Community College program of study guide and/or college catalog.

***Riverland Community College Core Themes**	**MnTC Goal Number**
Critical Thinking (CT)	**2**
Human Diversity (HD)	**7**
Global Perspective (GP)	**8**
Ethical and Civic Responsibility (EC)	**9**
People and the Environment (PE)	**10**

****Riverland Community College Discipline Areas**	**MnTC Goal Number**
Communication (CM)	**1**
Natural Sciences (NS)	**3**
Mathematics/Logical Reasoning (MA)	**4**
History and the Social & Behavioral Sciences (SS)	**5**
Humanities and Fine Arts (HU)	**6**

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