**POS 2041  American Federal Government**

**Course Description:** The American Constitution and its development, the organization and functions of the national government, political parties and the electoral process, and the relationship of the individual to the federal government. (3 hr. lecture)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Competency</th>
<th>Learning Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Competency 1:</strong> The student will demonstrate an understanding of democracy by:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1. Identifying the Greek, Roman, Judeo-Christian, German, and English contributions to its evolution.  
2. Describing the contributions of the Enlightenment, Liberalism, and modern secular and egalitarian movements to its development.  
3. Discussing its characteristics and various forms. | |
| **Competency 2:** The student will demonstrate an understanding of the foundations of American government by: | |
| 1. Studying the principal colonial, political, and economic institutions and analyzing the causes of the American War of Independence.  
3. Discussing the reasons for the Philadelphia Convention, and its many controversies and political compromises. | |
| **Competency 3:** The student will demonstrate an understanding of the constitution of the United States by: | |
| 1. Reading the articles of the Constitution as well as its amendments.  
2. Defining its main characteristics, including federalism, separation of powers and checks and balances.  
3. Reasoning why the Bill of Rights and other amendments were added to the Constitution. | |

Updated Summer 2021
### Competency 4:
The student will demonstrate an understanding of the relations linking people with their governments by:

1. Discussing the nature of public opinion and political socialization.
2. Analyzing the role of the mass media, the factors which influence its coverage, and its impact on society.
3. Describing the socio-economic, political, and ideological factors which affect voting.
4. Explaining the functioning of political parties and interest groups.
5. Knowing how federal elections take place in the United States.

### Competency 5:
The student will demonstrate an understanding of the structure of the central government by:

1. Describing the functions, organizations, powers and limitations of the Congress, the Presidency, the Judiciary, and the Bureaucracy.
2. Discussing the many ways in which the citizenry can impact on these institutions.

### Competency 6:
The student will demonstrate an understanding of civil liberties and civil rights by:

1. Learning about the Bill of Rights and Supreme Court decisions which protect civil liberties from government intrusion.
2. Identifying amendments to the Constitution and legislation for the protection of the citizenry.
3. Studying the differences between conservative and liberal interpretations of the Constitution.

### Course Competency 7:
The student will demonstrate an understanding of the making of public policy by:

1. Analyzing the political process involved in making economic, domestic and international policies.

---

*Updated Summer 2021*
2. Studying the many points of view, including libertarian, anarchist, conservative, liberal, socialist, and autocratic, held by the American people, and how they lead to political tension and compromise.

3. Describing the many issues which face Americans and others in the United States, including abortion, education, health care, fiscal policies, immigration, monetary policies, social security, and others.