**BARTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**I.   GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION**

Course Number:  POLS1800

Course Title:               Government of the United States

Credit Hours:    3

Prerequisites:            None

Division/Discipline:     Academics Division/ Political Science

Course Description:      A study of the Constitution of the United States and the organizations, powers, and functions of the national government. In addition, current problems and policies, and the role of the individual will be studied.

**II.  INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**III. COLLEGE POLICIES**

Students and faculty of Barton Community College constitute a special community engaged in the process of education. The College assumes that its students and faculty will demonstrate a code of personal honor that is based upon courtesy, integrity, common sense, and respect for others both within and outside the classroom.

## Plagiarism on any academic endeavors at Barton Community College will not be tolerated. The student is responsible for learning the rules of, and avoiding instances of, intentional or unintentional plagiarism. Information about academic integrity is located in the Student Handbook.

## The College reserves the right to suspend a student for conduct that is determined to be detrimental to the College educational endeavors as outlined in the College Catalog, Student Handbook, and College Policy & Procedure Manual. (Most up-to-date documents are available on the College webpage.)

## Any student seeking an accommodation under the provisions of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) is to notify Student Support Services via email at [disabilityservices@bartonccc.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@bartonccc.edu)

# **IV. COURSE AS VIEWED IN THE TOTAL CURRICULUM**

The information presented in this course has been selected to introduce US Government as an approved general education course at Barton Community College (BCC) to fulfill degree requirements as a breadth social science course in the social behavioral sciences.

This course transfers well and may be used to help fulfill credits and course requirements for general education at most Kansas Regent Universities. However, general education requirements vary among institutions, and perhaps even among departments, colleges or programs within an institution. Also, the requirements may change from time to time and without notification. Therefore, it shall be the student's responsibility to obtain relevant information from intended transfer institutions during his/her tenure at Barton Community College (BCC) to insure that he/she enrolls in the most appropriate set of courses for the transfer program.

**V.  ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING**

Barton Community College is committed to the assessment of student learning and to quality education. Assessment activities provide a means to develop an understanding of how students learn, what they know, and what they can do with their knowledge. Results from these various activities guide Barton, as a learning college, in finding ways to improve student learning.

Course Outcomes, Competencies and Supplemental Competencies:

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe the foundations, development, and features of the U.S. Constitution.
   1. Describe the importance of the Declaration of Independence and impact of the Articles of Confederation, and the fundamental values that protect rights.
   2. Distinguish between separation of powers and checks and balances.
   3. Summarize the ratification and amendment process.
   4. Define Federalism and its evolution.
   5. Discuss the different powers (delegated, reserved, concurrent).
   6. Explain how the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the U.S. Constitution established foundations that influence our government.
2. Identify forms of political participation, values, attitudes and behaviors, and differentiate between organizations engaged in election processes, and analyze participation in the U.S. system of democracy.
   1. Define political parties, culture, and party identification and their significance.
   2. Describe the influence of media and bias on the political system.
   3. Discuss interest groups as well as their goals and tactics.
   4. Compare and contrast the issue positions of the two party system and explain the organization of the two party system.
   5. Explain political socialization, its agents and their impact.
   6. Identify suffrage and factors that influence voting and elections.
3. Analyze and describe how policy decisions are made and explain the impact of policy on the American public.
   1. Distinguish between different fiscal, monetary, defense, and foreign policies.
   2. Describe how foreign and domestic policies are developed.
   3. Explain how the structure and decision making processes at the national level are shaped and influenced by political parties, groups and key individuals.
   4. Discuss globalization and its impact upon the U.S. political system.
4. Analyze and describe the structure, function, and relationships of the legislative, judicial, and executive branches of the United States national government.
   1. Describe the organization of Congress, its impact, structure and function in the legislative process.
   2. Explain the process by which a president is elected and the Electoral College.
   3. Compare and contrast constitutional, formal, and informal powers of the president to include the role of the executive branch.
   4. Discuss the structure and function of the various courts systems
   5. Examine the role of the Supreme Court and selection process of justices.
5. Distinguish between civil liberties and civil rights.
   1. Describe the nature of the Bill of Rights and its freedoms.
   2. Identify landmark Supreme Court decisions interpreting rights.
   3. Define the Civil Rights Movement and Act.
   4. Compare and contrast informal and formal acts to protect and promote rights.
   5. Discuss emerging groups seeking rights today.

**VI. INSTRUCTOR’S EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS IN CLASS**

**VII. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS**

**VIII. REFERENCES**

**IX. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION AND EVALUATION**

**X. ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS**

**XI. COURSE OUTLINE**