

American Institutions: US and California Government Requirement

Course Expectations for the US and California Government requirement: As mandated by CSU Executive Order 405, the US and California Government component of the American Institutions requirement may be met either by examination (AP, CLEP, or SFSU competency exam) or by taking a course meeting the following content requirements and their corresponding learning objectives. All courses approved for the US and California Government requirement must cover:

1. The political philosophies of the framers of the Constitution and the nature and operation of United States political institutions and processes under that Constitution as amended and interpreted;
2. Basic concepts in political theory such as power and influence; political structure and process; government, its legitimacy and authority; and their application to understanding the US system, particularly the roles of law and the Constitution and the relationship between the two;
3. The rights and obligations of citizens established under the Constitution, in the context of basic American values and ideals, including freedom and self-reliance; equality; social fairness; democracy, including issues of participation and minority rights;
4. The constitution of the State of California within the framework of evolution of Federal-State relations and the nature and processes of State and local government under that Constitution;
5. Contemporary relationships of State and local government, the resolution of conflicts and the establishment of cooperative processes under the constitutions of both the State and Nation, and the political processes involved;
6. The course syllabus must list the university-approved learning objectives for US and California Government.

Learning Objectives for US and CA Government (3 units): After completion of a course meeting the US and CA Government requirement, students will:

1. understand US and California political institutions and practices, including governmental structures and federal and state constitutions, and their history and development;
2. evaluate information from a variety of sources, including print and digital, and use this information to formulate well-reasoned responses to major issues of governance as they affect the US and California;
3. appreciate the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, including the importance of participation in the political process, and other ethical issues that arise in relation to US and California political institutions and practices;

4. situate US and California political institutions and practices in the local and/or global cultural, historical, and sociopolitical contexts in which they occur within and beyond the US;
5. articulate the relevance of US and California political institutions and practices to their own lives.

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