INSTITUTIONAL SYLLABUS

(Check One)

____ New Course (OR) Date of Last Review ______
____X Substantive Change in Existing Course ______

I. Course Title: American Government
II. Course Number: Govt 291
III. Credit Hours: 3
IV. Prerequisites: None
V. Catalog Description: This course examines American government and politics, including the Constitution, Congress, presidency, courts, public opinion, voting, socialization, civil rights and liberties, and public policy.
VI. Curricular Relationships: This course is part of the core for all History/Government baccalaureate degrees and the government minor.
VII. Student Learning Outcomes:
The Student will:

• Demonstrate an understanding of the structure, form, and processes of American government;
• Demonstrate an understanding of the history and development of the Constitution and constitutional law;
• Demonstrate an understanding of the various institutions of American government;
• Demonstrate an understanding of the political processes of elections, policy-making, and inter-relationships among branches and levels of American government;
• Learn how to articulate viewpoints and positions on major current issues;
• Write effective essays on various questions relating to American politics and government;
• Apply critical thinking skills to political analysis;
• Write a research-position paper on some issue in American politics.
VIII. Content Outline: This course will be apportioned into three units. Unit A- The Constitution, Federalism, Civil Rights and Liberties; Unit B- Congress, Presidency, Courts; Unit C- Public Opinion, Socialization, Parties, Elections, and Voting.

IX. Course Procedures: Students stand for three in-class formal exams including a comprehensive final; produce an acceptable research paper on an approved topic; take multiple pop quizzes;

Grading Scale: see below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test One</th>
<th>100 points.</th>
<th>A = 450-500</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test Two</td>
<td>100 points</td>
<td>B = 400-449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test Three</td>
<td>100 points</td>
<td>C = 350-399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pop Quizzes/Short Assignments</td>
<td>100 points</td>
<td>D = 300-349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>100 points</td>
<td>F = Below 300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Points</td>
<td>500 points</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


XI. Any Issues Unique to This Course: N/A

XII Additional Issues of the Department's Choosing: N/A