TITLE: Law In American Society

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:
This course provides an overview of the American legal system including its development, structure, and history. The course will review the legal and judicial process in the United States; explain legal sources, research, and reasoning; and introduce the various areas of law.

JUSTIFICATION FOR COURSE:

PREREQUISITES:

COREQUISITES:

ADVISORIES:
- College-level reading, writing and critical thinking skills.

ASSIGNED DISCIPLINES:
- Law
- Political science

MATERIAL FEE: Yes [ ] No [X] Amount: $0.00

CREDIT STATUS: Noncredit [ ] Credit - Degree Applicable [X] Credit - Not Degree Applicable [ ]

GRADING POLICY: Pass/No Pass [X] Standard Letter [X] Not Graded [ ] Satisfactory Progress [ ]

OPEN ENTRY/OPEN EXIT: Yes [ ] No [X]

TRANSFER STATUS: CSU Transferable[ ] UC/CSU Transferable[X] Not Transferable[ ]

BASIC SKILLS STATUS: Yes [ ] No [X] LEVELS BELOW TRANSFER: Not Applicable

CALIFORNIA CLASSIFICATION CODES: Y - Not Applicable

NON CREDIT COURSE CATEGORY: Y - Not applicable, Credit Course

OCCUPATIONAL (SAM) CODE: E

REPEATABLE ACCORDING TO STATE GUIDELINES: No [X] Yes [ ] NUMBER REPEATS:

REQUIRED FOR DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE: No [ ] Yes [X]
- Associate of Arts: Liberal Arts: Emphasis in Social and Behavioral Sciences(Associate in Arts)
- POLITICAL SCIENCE(Associate in Arts for Transfer)
- Political Science(Associate in Arts for Transfer)
- Political Science(Associate in Arts)

GE AND TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS MET:
- IGETC Area 4: Social and Behavioral Sciences
  - 4H: Political Science, Government & Legal Institutions
- CSU GE Area D: Social, Political, and Economic Institutions
  - D8 - Political Science, Government, and Legal Institutions
PROGRAM LEVEL LEARNING OUTCOME(S) Supported by this course:

demonstrate critical thinking about political issues and evaluate theories’ and arguments’ major assertions, background assumptions, the evidence used to support assertions, and their explanatory value.

utilize appropriate investigative methods and appropriate technologies to access relevant research.

manage information and prepare and present their work effectively.

demonstrate knowledge of important findings, theories, and changing issues relevant to political science.

COURSE LEVEL STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) Supported by this course:

1. Analyze whether a state action is constitutional, according to existing precedent.
2. Describe the structure of the federal and state court systems.
3. Understand the role of the judicial branch in federal and state governments.
4. Identify basic materials used in legal research.
5. Demonstrate basic legal research methods using traditional materials or online materials.
6. Explain the process a case takes from initial filing through the appellate proceedings.
7. Analyze a case using traditional methods of legal reasoning.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Analyze selected court cases.
2. Examine how American law impacts many other areas of American life.
3. Apply skills necessary to read and brief court case(s).
4. Evaluate current political issues in lieu of past and current judicial decisions.
5. Demonstrate critical thinking through analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of the course content and present their work effectively.

COURSE CONTENT:

LECTURE CONTENT:

A. INTRODUCTION TO LAW IN AMERICAN SOCIETY
B. HISTORY AND GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE
   1. Constitutional History.
      a. Independence From Colonial Rule and Efforts to Achieve Union.
         i. The Articles of Confederation.
         ii. The Constitutional Convention.
         iii. Ratification of the Bill of Rights.
      b. Concerns that were not resolved.
   2. The Governmental Structure Provided for in the 1789 Constitution.
      b. The System of Checks and Balances
   3. The Federalist System.
      a. State Governments’ Powers
   4. The Impact of Governmental Structure on the Legal System
C. EQUALITY AND CIVIL RIGHTS – CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS
1. Individual Rights Protected by the Constitution.
   b. Substantive Due Process Rights.
   c. First Amendment Freedoms
   d. Additional Enumerated and Implied Rights
2. Concerns with Infringement

D. JUSTICE AND THE LAW: Theoretical and Practical Applications
   1. Social Justice
   2. Criminal Justice.
   3. Civil Justice.
   5. Alternative Justice.
   6. Concerns with Equal Distribution of Justice.

E. THE LEGAL PROFESSION.
   1. Roles in the Legal Profession.
      a. Lawyers.
      b. Paralegals.
      c. Judges.
   2. Legal Education and Admission to the Bar.
   3. Minorities and Women in the Legal Profession.
   5. Concerns with the Regulation of Practice.

F. LEGAL METHODOLOGY.
   1. Sources of Law and Their Hierarchy.
   2. Common Law.
   5. The Form and General Nature of Case Law.
   6. The Legal Reasoning Process in Case Law.
   7. Legal Research Techniques and the Form of Legal Argument.

G. THE ADVERSARY SYSTEM AND JURY TRIALS.
   1. The Characteristics and Rationale of the Adversary System.
   2. Juries.
   3. The Adversary Jury Trial and the Lawyer’s Role in It.
   4. Evidence Law.
   5. Concerns with the Adversary System.

H. GENERAL AREAS OF LAW
   1. Civil Law.
   2. Criminal Law.
   3. Family Law.
   7. Immigration.

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

A. Lecture:
B. Online:
C. Independent Study:
D. Hybrid:
INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNIQUES:
Lectures utilizing new technology
Interactive Discussions

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:
Reading Assignments
Complete reading assignments in the assigned required text(s).
Complete required online reading assignments from a variety of scholarly websites and journals.
Complete reading of lectures (if applicable).

Out-of-class Assignments
Primary research including attendance at scholarly lectures.
Participation in discussions, presentations, debates.
Secondary research within scholarly journals, books, articles and online resources/databases.

Writing Assignments
College-level written essays or other written projects in which students will summarize, analyze and brief court cases.
College-level written essays or other written projects analyzing academic material relating to American law.
College-level written essays or other written projects in which students will apply precedent to instant cases.
College-level written essays or other written projects in which students will utilize course content, appropriate investigative methods and technologies to examine key political and/or legal issues.
Written or oral presentation, discussion and/or debate of their findings and their own interpretation of factual information.

METHODS OF STUDENT EVALUATION:
Midterm Exam
Final Exam
Short Quizzes
Written Assignments
Essay Examinations
Objective Examinations
Report
Projects (ind/group)
Problem Solving Exercises
Oral Presentations
Skills Demonstration

Demonstration of Critical Thinking:
Students will demonstrate critical thinking, reading and writing skills through analysis, synthesis and evaluation of course content.
Required Writing, Problem Solving, Skills Demonstration:

College-level written essays or other written projects in which students will summarize, analyze and briefly court cases.

College-level written essays or other written projects in which students will analyze academic material relating to American law.

College-level written essays or other written projects in which students will apply precedent to instant cases.

College-level written essays or other written projects in which students will utilize course content, appropriate investigative methods and technologies to examine key political and/or legal issues.

Written or oral presentation, discussion and/or debate of their findings and their own interpretation of factual information.

TEXTS, READINGS, AND RESOURCES:

TextBooks:

LIBRARY:

Adequate library resources include: Non-Print Materials
Online Materials

Comments:

Attachments:

Attached Files