

**JEFFERSON COLLEGE**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**PSC100**

**MISSOURI CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT**

1 Credit Hour

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## **PSC100 Missouri Constitutional Government**

### **I. CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION**

- A. Pre-requisite and/or co-requisite: reading proficiency
- B. 1 semester hour credit
- C. This course is a study of the US and Missouri constitutions. Focus is on the principles and government institutions of both the State and Federal constitutions. (F, S, SU)

### **II. EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES/CORRESPONDING ASSESSMENT MEASURES**

Expected Learning Outcomes	Assessment Measures
Identify and analyze the differences between the US and Missouri constitutions	Short answer test Multiple choice questions Comparative paper
Discuss the development of Missouri's 1945 Constitution	Short answer test
Identify and analyze the current structure of the three branches of Missouri government	Short answer test Multiple choice questions on quizzes and test
Discuss with meaningful understanding the fundamental rights described in the Missouri Constitution and how the rights are applied in a practical setting	Comparative paper
Demonstrate and comprehend the effects of government and its policies on everyday life.	Short answer test Multiple choice test Comparative paper

### **III. OUTLINE OF TOPICS**

- A. Introduction section of the text
  - 1. The US Constitution
  - 2. Passing the US Constitution
- B. The Missouri State Constitution
  - 1. Constitutions of 1820, 1875, and 1943
  - 2. Articles of the Missouri Constitution
- C. The Bill of Rights and distribution of power
  - 1. Missouri Bill of Rights
  - 2. Distribution of state government power

- D. The state legislature
  - 1. Legislative functions
  - 2. Missouri house and senate
  - 3. Legislative process
  
- E. The executive department
  - 1. Missouri governor
  - 2. Other statewide elected offices
  - 3. Executive bureaucracy
  
- F. The judiciary
  - 1. Selection of local judges
  - 2. Selection of Supreme Court judges
  - 3. Judicial structure
  - 4. Cases considered by the Missouri Supreme Court
  
- G. The miscellaneous articles and the conclusion
  - 1. Local governments
  - 2. Public officers
  - 3. Voting
  - 4. Education
  - 5. Taxation
  
- H. Comparing the Missouri Constitution and the US Constitution
  - 1. Compare Bill of Rights
  - 2. Compare selection of judges
  - 3. Compare General Assembly to US Congress
  - 4. Compare elections of president and governor

#### IV. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- A. Online PowerPoint notes (narrated for each topic)
  
- B. Students will be required to read a chapter in the text for each topic

#### V. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Fulton, Richard M., and Jerald D. Brekke. *Understanding Missouri's Constitutional Government*. Columbia: U of Missouri, 2010. (ISBN 9780826219039)

#### VI. REQUIRED MATERIALS

Students will also need a copy of the US Constitution. It may be found online at [http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution\\_transcript.html](http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution_transcript.html).

## VII. SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES

None needed

## VIII. METHODS OF EVALUATION

- A. Course requirements: Please note that this is a self-paced semester course. It is up to students to budget their time to pass the quizzes and pass the exam with appropriate scores. Students must pass all quizzes with a score of 8 or higher before taking the exam. Once students have scored at least an 8 out of 10 points on all quizzes, passed the comparative paper, with at least a 40 out of 50 points, then they may take the final exam. Once students have passed the exam (75 points or higher), they are finished with the course. After passing, students may take the exam as often as they wish to improve their overall grade for the course.
- B. Quizzes: Students are expected to learn how to analyze and understand their readings. This class will have quizzes that will cover each chapter of the assigned reading material. Each quiz will be worth 10 points. Students are responsible to budget their time and make sure that they have a reliable internet connection and reliable computer. Students must take and earn at least an 8 out of possible 10 points on each of the quizzes. Students may take each quiz as often as they like. The highest quiz score on each quiz will count towards students' grades. Students may use book, notes or any other aids to take the quizzes.
- C. Exam: There will be one exam for the course. The test will consist of true-false, multiple choice, and short answer questions. There will be a study guide provided to the students before the exam. **In order to pass the course students must score at least 75 points out of a possible 100 points on the exam.** Students may take the exam as often as desired. The highest exam score will count towards the final grade. The exam must be taken at a Jefferson College Testing Center by the end of the semester. Students are allowed to take this exam as often as needed to pass or improve their grades in the course. Please keep in mind that all quizzes must be passed with a score of 8 or higher before the exam can be taken. Students may not use any materials when taking the exam.
- D. Comparative paper: The paper should be at least 3 full pages in length. The margins should be one inch and 12 point font Times New Roman should be used. The assignment is to examine the US and Missouri Constitution for similarities and differences. For example, the differences in judicial selection at the state and federal levels could be examined. Similarities between the Missouri General Assembly and the US Congress could also be examined. Students must complete the paper and receive grades of at least 40 out of 50 points before taking the exam. The paper is worth 50 points.

E. Grading scale (possible 230 points total)

A= 215 to 230 pts

B= 195 to 214 pts

C= 194 to 180 pts

D= 179-171 pts

F= 170 points or less

IX. ADA AA STATEMENT

Any student requiring special accommodations should inform the instructor and the Coordinator of Disability Support Services (Library; phone 636-481-3169).

X. ACADEMIC HONESTY STATEMENT

All students are responsible for complying with campus policies as stated in the Student Handbook (see College website, <http://www.jeffco.edu>).

XI. ATTENDANCE STATEMENT

Students earn their financial aid by regularly attending and actively participating in their coursework. If a student does not actively participate, he/she may have to return financial aid funds. Consult the College Catalog or a Student Financial Services representative for more details.

XII. OUTSIDE OF CLASS ACADEMICALLY RELATED ACTIVITIES

The U.S. Department of Education mandates that students be made aware of expectations regarding coursework to be completed outside the classroom. Students are expected to spend substantial time outside of class meetings engaging in academically related activities, such as reading, studying, and completing assignments. Specifically, time spent on academically-related activities outside of class, combined with time spent in class meetings, is expected to be a minimum of 37.5 hours over the duration of the term for each credit hour.