Instructor: Michael Fisher          Office Hours: TBD

Semester Year: Fall 2015          Phone: 989-860-1807

Class Days and Times: M 5:30-8:20  Instructor Email: mfisher@sagchip.org

Location: West 1          Credits: 3 credits

Course Description
Emphasis on the structure and function of the national government of the United States. Explores basic political concepts, including the characteristics and mechanisms of a democracy, the political role of the individual citizen. Also, delineates the forces, ideas, and individuals that shaped the U.S. Constitution. In addition this course will cover political theory, the political parties, and elections.

Prerequisites and/or Co-requisites
N/A

Student Email Responsibility
Students will receive notification regarding class cancellations, midterm grade warnings, and other important course/school information via their sagchip.edu email ONLY. It is a student responsibility to register for, check, and maintain their student email account. Student email accounts can be obtained from Marco Angiolini in the West Building.

Instructional Materials
ISBN: 0133914747

Program Learning Goals
• Students will demonstrate competency in reading, writing, oral communication, and numerical literacy.
• Students will be able to evaluate information.
• Students will consider multiple perspectives from the diversity of human experience.
Student Learning Outcomes
1. Students will identify and evaluate the major events that have shaped American Government.
2. Students will analyze a political issue of personal importance from multiple points of view.
3. Students will design an action plan that can be implemented to solve a specific political issue of personal importance.
4. Students will distinguish between Federal, State, and Tribal Constitutions to understand the impacts these documents have on our modern society.
5. Students will be able to interpret, critique, and amend public policy at the Tribal, local, State, and Federal level.

Components of Student Evaluation

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage of Grade</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quiz 1*</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quiz 2*</td>
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<td>Quiz 4*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Civic Engagement Issue Selection**</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Week 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Civic Engagement Outline**</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Week 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Civic Engagement First Draft**</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Week 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Civic Engagement Final Draft**</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Week 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Civic Engagement Presentation**</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Week 15</td>
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<td>Mid-term Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Week 8</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>Week 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation***</td>
<td>15%</td>
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*Any unexcused absence on the day of a quiz results in an automatic 0%.
**For each day these assignments are late, the final score will drop by 20%.
***Any unexcused absence results in an automatic 5% deduction in class participation.

Grading Scale
Grades will be given as letter grades. Letter grades and numerical equivalents are given below.

- 95 – 100% A
- 90 – 94% A-
- 86 – 89% B+
- 83 – 85% B
- 80 – 82% B-
- 76 – 79% C+
- 73 – 75% C
- 70 – 72% C-
- 66 – 69% D+
- 63 – 65% D
- 60 – 62% D-
- 59 & below F
- F-2 Nonattendance

SCTC Attendance Policy
Students are expected to attend all classes for which they are registered. A student who is absent from a class misses a portion of the subject matter of the course and misses an opportunity to contribute to class. Each student is responsible for all coursework missed, regardless of the reason. Prolonged absence from class may result in a loss of financial aid and usually results in a
reduction of grade. Attendance requirements may vary from instructor to instructor. Student travel for college related events is a privilege, not an entitlement. Students wishing to go on field trips or overnight travel must make arrangements with each of their instructors at least two weeks in advance. Travel status does not excuse students from due dates and other course requirements. Permission for student travel is at the discretion of each instructor (SCTC 2011-2012 Catalog).

Course Attendance Policy
Students must attend all scheduled courses. Each unexcused absence will result in a 5% deduction in class participation. If a student misses a quiz due to an unexcused absence they will receive a 0% on that particular quiz. In addition, students are responsible for any missed coursework, and must make arrangements with the instructor to submit late work or reschedule a quiz within one week of the absence. Quizzes can only be rescheduled for excused absences. Finally, an excused absence is granted only for extenuating circumstances, and students must let the instructor know before class begins in order to be excused.

SCTC Plagiarism Policy
(Adopted with permission from Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, December 8, 2009) Plagiarism is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct described in SCTC 2011 Student Handbook. Such a violation may result in failure of the assignment, failure of the course, and suspension or expulsion from the college.

Course Policies
Classroom Behavior
Because a bulk of the class material will be presented through discussion, it is imperative that all students maintain a high level of respect for one another. This respect includes listening to and attempting to understand the viewpoints of others in the class. Disruptions during class will not be tolerated.

Class Participation
This course is going to rely heavily on active group participation. The instructor will guide discussion on readings, presentations, and relevant current topics, but student participation is essential to create a vibrant learning environment. All students are expected to participate and contribute to this positive learning environment. The instructor will base the allocation of class participation points based on the quality and quantity of student participation. Class participation will be worth 15% of the student’s overall grade.

Class Reading
All students are expected to come to class having read the assigned material for that particular class. Quizzes, exams, and class discussion will be based on the assigned reading. It is essential
for all students to come to class prepared. Class participation grades will be assigned based on
the student’s demonstrated understanding of the assigned reading. In addition, students are
encouraged to outline and take notes on all assigned reading. These notes can be used on all
quizzes and exams in this course.

**Quizzes**
Quizzes will be assigned at the instructor’s discretion. Quiz content will be based off of assigned
reading, presentations, lecture content, and class discussion. Each exam will have 10 questions
composed of multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short answer. Students are allowed to use
their own outlines and notes on quizzes. Two quizzes will be given prior to the mid-term exam
and two will be given after the mid-term exam, prior to the final exam. Each quiz will be worth
5% of the student’s overall grade.

**Exams**
Two exams will be delivered in this course, a mid-term examination and a final examination.
Exam content will be based off of assigned reading, presentations, lecture content, and class
discussion. Exams will contain 25 questions composed of multiple choice, fill in the blank, short
answer, and an essay. Students are allowed to use their own outlines and notes on exams. Each
exam will be worth 15% of the student’s overall grade.

**Civic Engagement Project**
The civic engagement project is designed to familiarize students with American government by
allowing students to address an issue of personal importance. Each student will select their own
topic, conduct appropriate research, determine the correct method of addressing the issue, find
contact information for all appropriate policy makers, and develop a plan of action for addressing
their issue. This project will allow students freedom to pursue solutions to issues of importance,
and it will be broken up into five parts that will be due throughout the semester. The entire civic
engagement project will be worth 35% of the student’s overall grade.

**Part 1: Issue Selection**
The first component of this project is to identify an issue that is important for the student.
This issue should be something tangible, that they can learn more about and determine an
appropriate solution and action plan for. This could be a Tribal, local, State, or Federal
issue, the only requirement being that it is important for to the student personally. Each
student will submit a half page (double spaced, 1 inch margin, 12pt Times New Roman
Font) summary of their issue, discussing what level and branch of government is
involved, how it impacts society, what potential solutions there may be, and why it is
important to them. This component will be worth 5% of the student’s overall grade.

**Part 2: Outline**
The second component of this project is to write a well thought out outline of the final paper. This outline will be the backbone of the first draft, and it will determine the overall structure of the paper. The outline provides an opportunity to present ideas and research in a logical and coherent manner. The outline is to include, at minimum, the following information:

- Introduction to the issue and why it is personally important
- History and context of the issue
- The level of government involved in decision making on this issue and their current stance
- Proposed solution to the issue and the potential benefits and drawbacks
- Action plan to implement solution including answers to the following questions:
  - Who makes the decision and how are they influenced?
  - Who will be in support and how will you involve them?
  - Who will be in opposition and how will you change their mind or defeat them?
  - Who will implement the change once it is decided on?
  - How long will your plan take from start until finish?
- Conclusion
- References, must have at least four relevant sources cited (APA format).

This component will be worth 5% of the student’s overall grade.

Part 3: First Draft
The third component of this project is to expand on your outline and your research to write a coherent first draft. The first draft should be approximately 4-6 pages in length (double spaced, 1 inch margins, 12pt Times New Roman). It should accurately present your position and proposed plan, and should be easy to read and free of grammatical and spelling errors. This draft will be graded for content only, and the instructor will provide suggestions that will help to both improve your paper and implement your plan. This component will be worth 5% of the student’s overall grade.

Part 4: Final Draft
The fourth component of this project is the final draft of your paper. Students are to improve their first draft, implementing recommendations from the instructor. The final draft should be free of all spelling and grammatical errors and properly formatted for delivery. This component will be worth 15% of the student’s overall grade.

Part 5: Presentation
Each student is to prepare a 10-15 minute PowerPoint presentation on their plan for the class. This presentation will summarize their paper, describing both the issue and the proposed action plan. There will be time at the end of each presentation for questions from the class and instructor. This presentation should not be delivered by merely reading the PowerPoint slides; rather the student is expected to have a firm understanding of their plan that they can present to class. Students will be graded on their delivery, presentation, and mastery of content. This component will be worth 5% of the student’s overall grade.

Available Support
SCTC offers tutoring services through the Student Resource Center located in the West Building. SRC hours are posted throughout the campus. Additional support services may be available. Please check with your instructor or SCTC staff for more information.

Notification of Services for Students with Disabilities
Students wishing to request accommodations due to a disability must contact the Dean of Student Services and provide documentation of the need for accommodation. You may contact support services at 989-775-4123.

Equal Opportunity and Nondiscrimination
The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College prohibits discrimination against applicants, employees or students on the basis of race, religion, creed, color, national origin or ancestry, sex, age, height, weight, marital status, disability or handicap, sexual orientation, nor will sexual harassment be tolerated in its employment practices and/or educational programs or activities.

Last Day to Withdraw with No Grade Reported
Students that are earning an overall grade of a “C-” or worse will be notified by the Dean of Students near the midterm via their sagchip.edu account. Those students should speak with the instructor regarding the feasibility of earning a passing grade. Those students who are unable/unlikely to earn a passing grade are advised to withdraw from the course. Withdrawal from a course is a student responsibility. Contact the Registrar for the appropriate form. The last day to withdraw from this course is (fill in date from academic calendar).

Tentative Completion Deadlines
Week 1 – Overview of PSC 120
- Syllabus review
- Discuss assignments and expectations
- Assign issue selection
- Go over Chapter 1 as a class

Week 2 – Structure of American Government
• ASSIGNMENT DUE: Read Chapters 2-4
• Lecture and discussion: Chapters 2-4
• Discuss issue selection for Civic Engagement Project

Week 3 – Public Opinion and News Media
• ASSIGNMENT DUE: Read Chapters 5 and 6
• ASSIGNMENT DUE: Issue Selection, Part I of Civic Engagement Project
• Lecture and discussion: Chapters 5-6
• ***Potential guest lecturer on news media
• Discuss issue selection and development of outline

Week 4 – Interest Groups, Corporations, and Social Movements
• ASSIGNMENT DUE: Read Chapters 7 and 8
• Lecture and discussion: Chapters 7 and 8
• ***Potential guest lecturer on social movements
• Discuss development of outline

Week 5 – Political Parties, Voting, Campaigns, and Elections
• ASSIGNMENT DUE: Read Chapters 9 and 10
• Lecture and discussion: Chapters 9 and 10
• ***Potential guest lecturer from County/Tribal Clerks office.
• Discuss development of outline

Week 6 – Congress and Legislature
• ASSIGNMENT DUE: Read Chapter 11
• Lecture and discussion: Chapter 11
• ***Potential guest lecturer from local legislator

Week 7 – Presidency and Executive Branch
• ASSIGNMENT DUE: Read Chapter 12 and 13
• ASSIGNMENT DUE: Outline, Part II of Civic Engagement Project
• Lecture and discussion: Chapters 12 and 13
• REVIEW FOR: Mid-term Exam

Week 8 – MID-TERM EXAM

Week 9 – The Court System
• ASSIGNMENT DUE: Read Chapter 14
• Lecture and discussion: Chapter 14
• Go over graded Mid-term Exam
• ***Potential guest lecture from court system.
• Discuss first draft

**Week 10 – Civil Liberties and Civil Rights**
• ASSIGNMENT DUE: Read Chapter 15 and 16
• Lecture and discussion: Chapter 15 and 16
• Discuss first draft

**Week 11 – Domestic Policy**
• ASSIGNMENT DUE: Read Chapter 17
• ASSIGNMENT DUE: First Draft, Part III of Civic Engagement Project
• Lecture and discussion: Chapter 17

**Week 12 – Foreign Policy**
• ASSIGNMENT DUE: Read Chapter 18
• Lecture and discussion: Chapter 18
• Return first drafts with markups and suggestions

**Week 13 – Tribal Governance**
• ASSIGNMENT DUE: Read SCIT Tribal Constitution
• Discussion: How has the Tribal Constitution shaped SCIT today?
• ***Potential guest lecture from SCIT Administration
• Discuss final draft, presentation

**Week 14 – GAP WEEK (Thanksgiving?)**

**Week 15 – Civic Engagement Presentations**
• ASSIGNMENT DUE: Final Draft, Part IV of Civic Engagement Project
• ASSIGNMENT DUE: Presentation, Part V of Civic Engagement Project
• REVIEW FOR: Final Exam

**Week 16 – FINAL EXAM**