

# EASTERN ARIZONA COLLEGE

## United States and Arizona Constitution

Course Design  
2009-2010

**Course Information**

**Division** Social Sciences  
**Course Number** POS 220  
**Title** United States and Arizona Constitution  
**Credits** 3  
**Developed by** Dr. Patrick D. Lukens  
**Lecture/Lab Ratio** 3 Lecture/0 Lab

**Transfer Status**

ASU	NAU	UA
Elective Credit	POS 220	POL 210
<i>Note: MEETS U.S. &amp; ARIZONA CONSTITUTION REQUIREMENTS FOR TEACHER CERTIFICATION.</i>		

**Activity Course** No  
**CIP Code** 45.1001  
**Assessment Mode** Pre/Post-Test (65 Questions/65 Points)  
**Semester Taught** Fall  
**GE Category** None  
**Separate Lab** No  
**Awareness Course** No  
**Intensive Writing Course** No

**Prerequisites**

None

**Educational Value**

Transfer Students, particularly those intending to teach in Arizona: Fulfills requirements for teacher certification. Political Science or Social Science major or any student wishing to broaden his or her knowledge of Political Science.

**Description**

Examines constitutional features and structure of American national government and Arizona government. Surveys political history and contemporary problems of Arizona. Meets the federal and Arizona government requirement for teacher certification. This course is designed to meet certification needs of employed teachers in the area served by Eastern Arizona College. The first five weeks of the semester will deal with Arizona Constitution and history; the remaining time will deal with the U.S. Constitution.

## **Supplies**

None

### **Competencies and Performance Standards**

#### **1. Describe Arizona's territorial period, the development of the state constitution, and the steps to Arizona statehood.**

##### **Learning objectives**

*What you will learn as you master the competency:*

- a. Describe the hierarchy of laws and where the state constitution fits in that model.
- b. Discuss how to amend the state constitution.
- c. Describe colonial and territorial governments that have had jurisdiction over modern Arizona (Spanish, Mexican and US).
- d. Summarize the events that led to Arizona statehood.

##### **Performance Standards**

*Competence will be demonstrated:*

- by objective exams
- by written assignments

*Performance will be satisfactory when:*

- learner can describe the hierarchy of laws
- learner can describe how to amend the state constitution
- learner can describe colonial and territorial governments
- learner summarize the events that led to Arizona statehood

#### **2. Analyze the functions of the Arizona state legislature and law-making through direct democracy.**

##### **Learning objectives**

*What you will learn as you master the competency:*

- a. Describe the organization and structure of the Arizona State Legislature.
- b. Summarize the functions of the state legislature.
- c. Describe the legislative process.
- d. Describe how laws are made through the process of "Direct Democracy."

##### **Performance Standards**

*Competence will be demonstrated:*

- by objective exams
- by written assignments

*Performance will be satisfactory when:*

- learner can describe the organization and structure of the state legislature
- learner can summarize the functions of the state legislature
- learner can describe the legislative process
- learner can describe direct democracy

**3. Describe the structure and function of Arizona's Executive and Administrative branch.**

***Learning objectives***

*What you will learn as you master the competency:*

- a. Describe the "plural" nature of the organization and structure of Arizona's executive and administrative branch.
- b. Summarize the functions of the executive and administrative branch.
- c. Describe the powers of the Governor.
- d. Describe the powers of Arizona's other elected state officials.

***Performance Standards***

*Competence will be demonstrated:*

- by objective exams
- by written assignments

*Performance will be satisfactory when:*

- learner can describe the plural nature of the executive branch
- learner can summarize the functions of the executive branch
- learner can describe the powers of the governor
- learner can describe the powers of other elected executives

**4. Describe the structure and function of Arizona's judiciary.**

***Learning objectives***

*What you will learn as you master the competency:*

- a. Describe the organization of the judicial branch.
- b. Summarize the functions of the judicial branch.
- c. Describe how judges are selected, retained, and removed.
- d. Describe the legal process for both criminal and civil cases in Arizona.

***Performance Standards***

*Competence will be demonstrated:*

- by objective exams
- by written assignments

*Performance will be satisfactory when:*

- learner can describe the organization of the judicial branch
- learner can summarize the functions of the judicial branch
- learner can describe how judges are selected, retained and removed
- learner can describe the legal process

**5. Describe the various forms of local government that exist in Arizona.**

***Learning objectives***

*What you will learn as you master the competency:*

- a. Describe the structure and functions of county governments.
- b. Describe the structure and functions of city and town governments.
- c. Describe the structures and functions of districts (school, community

college, etc.)

**Performance Standards**

*Competence will be demonstrated:*

- by objective exams
- by written assignments

*Performance will be satisfactory when:*

- learner can describe the structure and functions of county governments
- learner can describe the structure and functions of city and town governments
- learner can describe the structure and functions of districts

**6. Analyze the development of the United States Constitution**

**Learning objectives**

*What you will learn as you master the competency:*

- a. Describe conditions leading to the revolutionary war
- b. Assess the Articles of Confederation and its weaknesses
- c. Examine the compromises made in the ratification of the Constitution
- d. List the Articles of the Constitution and give a brief summary of each
- e. Outline the Amendments of the Constitution and give a brief summary of each

**Performance Standards**

*Competence will be demonstrated:*

- by objective exams
- by written assignments

*Performance will be satisfactory when:*

- learner can describe conditions leading up to the Revolutionary War
- learner can assess the Articles of Confederation and its weaknesses
- learner can examine the compromises made in the Constitution
- learner can list the articles of the Constitution and give a brief summary of each
- learner can outline the amendments of the Constitution and give a brief summary of each

**7. Compare and contrast the three branches of government**

**Learning objectives**

*What you will learn as you master the competency:*

- a. Identify the major qualifications and duties of the executive branch
- b. Identify the major qualifications and duties of the legislative branch
- c. Identify the major qualifications and duties of the judicial branch
- d. Explain the concept of checks and balances
- e. Examine the evolution of governmental power throughout American History

**Performance Standards**

*Competence will be demonstrated:*

- by written assignments
- by objective exams

*Performance will be satisfactory when:*

- learner can identify the major qualifications and duties of the executive branch
- learner can identify the major qualifications and duties of the legislative branch
- learner can identify the major qualifications and duties of the judicial branch
- learner can discuss the concept of checks and balances
- learner can examine the evolution of governmental power throughout American history

## **8. Discuss federalism, civil liberties and civil rights**

### ***Learning objectives***

*What you will learn as you master the competency:*

- a. Define federalism and how it relates to power
- b. Compare and contrast civil liberties and civil rights

### ***Performance Standards***

*Competence will be demonstrated:*

- by written assignments
- by objective exams

*Performance will be satisfactory when:*

- learner can define federalism and how it relates to power
- learner can compare and contrast civil liberties and civil rights

### ***Types of Instruction***

Classroom Lecture

Discussion

Video Presentations

Cooperative Learning Exercises

### ***Grading Information***

#### ***Grading Rationale***

Each instructor has the flexibility to develop evaluative procedures and assignments within the following guidelines:

A Pre-test will be administered the first week of class, which will have zero weight toward the students' final grade. A Post-test will be administered the final week of class, which will have ten-percent weight toward the students' final grade.

#### ***Grading Scale***

- A 90-100%
- B 80-89%
- C 70-79%
- D 60-69%
- F 0-59%