I. VERNON COLLEGE CORE CURRICULUM PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

Vernon College’s Core Curriculum reflects the institution’s deep conviction that successful, satisfying lives require a wide range of skills and knowledge. We are dedicated to providing educational opportunities that develop the academic, career, and personal capabilities of individuals so they may achieve self-fulfillment and participate fully and positively in a democratic society. In accordance with Texas Education Code, Vernon College offers a 42 semester credit hour Core Curriculum. The State of Texas has identified Foundational Component Areas and Core Objectives that enable students to gain a foundation of knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world, develop principles of personal and social responsibility for living in a diverse world, and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning.

CORE CURRICULUM FOUNDATIONAL COMPONENT AREA

Government and Political Science:

- Courses in this category focus on consideration of the Constitution of the United States and the constitutions of the states, with special emphasis on that of Texas.
- Courses involve the analysis of governmental institutions, political behavior, civic engagement, and their political and philosophical foundations.
- The following four Core Objectives must be addressed in each course approved to fulfill this category requirement: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility.

CORE OBJECTIVES*

A. **Critical Thinking**: Students will demonstrate creative thinking, recognize innovation, practice inquiry, perform analysis, and evaluate and synthesize information.
B. **Communication Skills**: Students will effectively develop, interpret, and express ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.
C. **Empirical and Quantitative Skills**: Students will manipulate and analyze numerical data or observable facts resulting from informed conclusions.
D. **Teamwork**: Students will develop abilities to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.
E. **Personal Responsibility**: Students will demonstrate an ability to recognize and connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision making.
F. **Social Responsibility**: Students will develop intercultural competency, civic knowledge, and an ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

*Core competencies highlighted in bold are emphasized in this core course.
COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: GOVT 2305 Federal Government (Federal Constitution & Topics)

II. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Origin and development of the U.S. Constitution, structure and powers of the national government including the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, federalism, political participation, the national election process, public policy, civil liberties, and civil rights. Special Fee: $2.00

III. REQUIRED BACKGROUND:

High school graduate, successful completion of GED, or concurrently enrolled high school student

IV. TEXTS AND OTHER REFERENCE MATERIALS:


A good College level dictionary.

V. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

A. Lectures by instructor and guests
B. Class discussion
C. Use of appropriate multimedia tools and materials.

Students desiring auxiliary aids and services for this course should make their requests to the instructor and the Special Services Director.

VI. COURSE CONTENT:

TOPICS

A. Foundations of the American Political Systems
B. American Political Heritage: U.S. Constitution
C. The Federal System
D. The Legislatures: The U.S. Congress
E. The Chief Executive: U.S. President
F. The Judiciary: Federal Court System
G. Public Opinion, Interest Groups, Political Socialization
H. Political Parties, Campaigns and Elections
I. Civil Liberties, Civil Rights
J. Domestic and Foreign Policy

VII. COURSE OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:
A. Explain the origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States.
B. Demonstrate knowledge of the federal system.
C. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice.
D. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the Federal Government
COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: GOVT 2305 Federal Government (Federal Constitution & Topics)

E. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in the political system.

F. Analyze the election process

G. Analyze issues and policies in U.S. politics.

VIII. ASSESSMENT:

Each student will demonstrate mastery of the stated course outcomes both by passing examinations and other evaluation instruments administered by the Instructor.