I. RATIONALE:

The focus of this course is the interaction, strengths, and weaknesses of the U.S. federal government. The course includes a study of selected Supreme Court cases which have clarified the roles of government and police power. It also includes a description of the U.S. federal system contained in the Constitution as amended formally and through legislation, the institutions which make up the vertical and horizontal separations of powers, the role of interest groups and elections in the society, and the concept of civil rights and equality as opposed to freedoms in the culture.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

GOAL A: The student will have a basic understanding of the historical evolution of the constitutional

Learning Objectives: The student will:

A-1 Explain the historical background and impact of the Magna Carta, English Bill of Rights, Declaration of Independence, and Articles of the Confederation
A-2 Describe the three sections of the United States Constitution
A-3 Identify the other sources of U.S. law
A-4 Define federalism and checks and balances, and describe the authority given to each branch under the Constitution
A-5 Examine the relationship between the federal government and the states
A-6 Examine how the federal government applies inherent powers to the enumerated powers granted under the Constitution
A-7 Explain the concept of separation of powers
A-8 Recognize and apply fundamental Constitutional concepts

GOAL B: The student will have an understanding of the Bill of Rights

Learning Objectives: The student will:

B-1 List and examine the various types of fundamental rights expressed in the Bill of Rights
B-2 List the five rights included in freedom of expression
B-3 Describe the types of protected and unprotected speech
B-4 List the amendments in the Bill of Rights that provide constitutional protection in criminal cases
B-5 Compare and contrast the Establishment Clause with the Free Exercise Clause
B-6 Explain the breadth and limitations of the 10th amendment
B-7 Define the dormant commerce clause

GOAL C: The student will have an understanding of the Constitutional powers of the President

Learning Objectives: The student will:
C-1 Identify the various presidential powers and their sources
C-2 Explain the nature of presidential privilege, immunity and impeachment

GOAL D: The student will have an understanding of the Constitutional powers of the Congress

Learning Objectives: The student will:
D-1 Describe the origins and parameters of the legislature's taxation and spending powers
D-2 Describe the limits on the legislature's power to regulate commerce through the commerce clause

GOAL E: The student will have an understanding of the Constitutional powers of the Supreme Court

Learning Objectives: The student will:
E-1 Describe the basic requirements for procedural due process whenever the government deprives a person of life, liberty, or property
E-2 Identify the sources of Due Process protection
E-3 Examine the development of procedural and substantive Due Process
E-4 Apply the standards used by the Supreme Court when it reviews for substantive due process violations
E-5 Apply the three-part test used by the Supreme Court to determine violations of the Establishment Clause
GOAL F: The student will have an understanding of landmark legal cases and how they have shaped Constitutional interpretation

Learning Objectives: The student will:
F-1 Identify cases that have molded the Commerce Clause
F-2 Examine Civil Rights and how the courts apply them to Due Process and the Commerce Clause
F-3 Describe how the 4th, 5th, 6th, and 8th Amendments apply to criminal law
F-4 Examine personal privacy cases and how the courts apply the 9th Amendment

GOAL G: The student will use appropriate written and oral communication skills

Learning Objectives: The student will:
G-1 Communicate information orally in a logical and grammatically correct manner
G-2 Present written information using standard APA style
G-3 Write clearly, concisely, and appropriately using correct English grammar, punctuation, usage, mechanics sentence structure, and vocabulary