

## Category D – Political, Economic, and Geographic Sciences

### Catalog Description

Institutions are formal ways which societies and cultures create over time to pursue activities important to them. Two of the most basic institutions in any large, collective society are its governmental structure and its economic system — that is, the ways which a society has chosen to regulate the interaction between individuals and groups and the ways which it has chosen to satisfy and organize its material needs. Both of these frameworks and the remaining institutions of any society are all affected and shaped by their physical environment, the geography in which they are set. In an era of increasingly complex global interaction, an understanding of these institutions in today’s society and the influences which have helped to pattern their development are vital to the citizens of a participatory democracy.

### Commonalities among the Courses

Category D courses introduce the student to a disciplinary perspective—either economic, political, or spatial—on areas of state organization and behavior.

- The focus of these courses is on states:
  - Policies (both internal and external)
  - Economic, political, or spatial interaction among states
- International perspective, discipline focus
  - These courses adopt an international perspective in investigating or focusing on the fundamental concepts and techniques of each discipline.
- Examination of the interactions of individuals and sub-groups.
  - These courses compare and contrast how individuals, sub-groups, and states interact (economically, politically, or spatially) with other individuals, sub-groups, and states.

### Learning objectives

All Category D courses will meet objectives 1 and 2, some will also meet objective 3.

1. Students will investigate, using the tools particular to each field, the economic, political, social, or spatial interaction among states.
2. Students will compare and contrast how individuals and sub-groups interact (economically, politically, socially, spatially) with other individuals, sub-groups, and states.
3. Students will demonstrate an international perspective when examining the policies (both internal and external) that individuals, sub-groups, and states adopt under various scenarios of interaction.