

SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DIVISION OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Social Science
Revision Date: 07-01-23

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Course Number: POLS1080
Course Title: Introduction to Political Science
Prerequisite: None
Catalog Description: Introduction to Political Science will address major political concepts and controversies that have developed in the world: liberty, equality, democracy, human nature, among others. The course will provide students with an overview of basic principles, approaches and methods of the discipline representing the social scientific mode of inquiry. Students will be exposed to national, comparative, and international politics as well as political thought.
Credit Hours: 3.0
Class Hours: 45
Lab Hours: 0
Total Contact Hours: 45

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES: *Course will:*

- A. Examine the major political concepts and structures.
- B. Examine the underlying theories of ideology.
- C. Analyze the approaches and methods to the social science inquiry.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES

- A. Student Learning Outcomes: *Student will be able to:*
 - 1. Acquire an understanding of and appreciation for the discipline of Political Science as well as the major political theorists who have contributed to the field.
 - 2. Gain a well-rounded knowledge of significant political concepts crucial to understanding institutions, ideas, and political relationships between people and their nations, their foundational ideologies, as well as basic interactions among nations.
 - 3. Comprehend the causes, events, results and significance of the topic explored and be aware of the different schools of thought of various political scientists.
 - 4. Understand the difference between primary and secondary sources along with how political scientists utilize each and apply this information in a research paper.
 - 5. Improve communication skills, verbally and written.
 - 6. Develop critical thinking skills.
 - 7. Improve their research skills, including the ability to do quality research in a library and distinguish between appropriate and inappropriate sources
- B. General Education Learning Outcomes
 - 1. GELO #3: Critical Thinking & Problem Solving
 - Outcome: Collect, identify, interpret and analyze data.
 - Outcome: Synthesize information to arrive at reasoned solutions to problems.
 - Outcome: Evaluate ideas presented in writing, medial, speech, or artistic presentations.
 - Outcome: Evaluate the validity of arguments, alternatives, data, outcomes, and/or impacts of actions.
 - Outcome: Acquire and integrate knowledge and construct relationships across disciplines.
 - 2. GELO #4: Global Awareness and Citizenship

Outcome: Demonstrate awareness and knowledge of U.S. history and culture as it relates to race, class, gender, sexual orientation, and culture.

Outcome: Explain the connections between historical and recent events and current global situations related to political systems, economic systems, social systems, and /or environmental issues.

Outcome: Function effectively in multicultural settings.

Outcome: Discuss issues from a global perspective.

IV. CONTENT/TOPICAL OUTLINE (*course outline may provide more detailed information*)

- A. Politics: Setting the Stage
- B. Modern Ideologies and Political Philosophies
- C. The Modern State
- D. Policies of the State
- E. Political Economy of the State
- F. Political Choices: The Problems of Fairness and Efficiency
- G. Authority and Legitimacy: The State and the Citizen
- H. Democracy and Its Recent Surge in the World
- I. Autocratic Government
- J. Constitutions and the Design of Government
- K. Elections
- L. Parties: A Linking and Leading Mechanism in Politics
- M. Structured Conflict: Interest Groups and Politics
- N. National Decision-Making Institutions: Parliamentary Government
- O. National Decision-Making Institutions: Presidential Government
- P. Bureaucracy and the Public Sector
- Q. Laws and the Courts
- R. Global Politics: Politics Among States (and Others)

V. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL

- A. Required Text(s):
 - 1. Roskin, Michael G., et al. *Political Science: An Introduction*. 14th ed. Boston: Pearson, 2017. ISBN-13: 978-0-13-440628-2. ISBN-10: 0-13-440628-1. (New editions updated frequently online; check the bookstore website.)
Material provided in class through Canvas (look for email) – Account will be charged.
- B. Other resources:
 - 1. Handouts supplied by instructor or web address links to appropriate websites
- C. Outside Reading / Research required:
 - 1. A research paper based on an appropriate topic for the course.

VI. METHODS OF PRESENTATION/INSTRUCTION

A variety of instructional methods will be incorporated into the course. The methods used will be based on class size, class motivation, and instructor preference. The methods may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A. Lecture
- B. Class/Group discussion
- C. Documentaries/film clips
- D. Student presentations/project(s)

VII. METHODS OF EVALUATION

- A. Methods of evaluation typically include a combination of the following:
 - 1. Attendance/class participation

2. Quizzes
 3. Small group activities/debates
 4. Written Assignment
 5. Class Presentation(s)
 6. Examination #1 Midterm
 7. Examination #2 Final
 - B. SCC Standard Grading Scale Policy
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|----|--------|----|-------|---|------------|
| A+ | 95-100 | C+ | 75-79 | F | 59 or less |
| A | 90-94 | C | 70-74 | | |
| B+ | 85-89 | D+ | 65-69 | | |
| B | 80-84 | D | 60-64 | | |

VIII. SPECIFIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- A. Attendance
- B. Quizzes
- C. Major research paper
- D. Variety of small group activities/debates
- E. Class presentation(s)
- F. Three exams