



Course Name: Introduction to Political Science

Course Number: POL*101

Credits: 3

Catalog description:

This course is a study of political ideology and power in the modern world. This course presents a broad introduction to political theory, political philosophy and accompanying contemporary concepts. The history and development of basic political themes such as justice, law, equality, democracy and nationalism will be discussed in a comparative context.

Prerequisite: ENG*E101 – Composition

General Education Competencies Satisfied:

- **HCC General Education Requirement Designated Competency Attribute Code(s):** None
- **Additional CSCU General Education Requirements for CSCU Transfer Degree Programs:** None
- **Embedded Competency(ies):** None
- **Discipline-Specific Attribute Code(s):** SSCI Social Science elective

Course objectives:

General Education Goals and Outcomes:

Embedded Appreciation of the Ethical Dimensions of Humankind: Students will identify ethical principles that guide individual and collective actions and apply those principles to the analysis of contemporary social and political problems.

1. Respond critically to ethical issues.
2. Apply appropriate concepts and terminology in identifying ethical problems, proposing and defending solutions to them.
3. Apply standards and practices of scholarship, research, and documentation to defend positions and beliefs, including reevaluating beliefs in light of unforeseen implications or new evidence.

Course Specific Objectives:

1. Acquire a basic understanding of common themes in political science.
2. Learn about the origins and development of classic and modern-day political theory and political philosophy.
3. Acquire basic knowledge of political history, and its application to contemporary political ideologies and processes.
4. Acquire a basic of knowledge of major political thinkers of the past and present.
5. Demonstrate the ability to argue and make informed judgements concerning legal and ethical issues related to political science.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of the ever-changing ethical and legal issues in political science.
7. Recognize and reflect critically on ethical issues in political science.
8. Develop and defend a position on an ethical issue in the field of political science.

Course Content:

- 1. Foundations of Political Thought**
 - a. Plato
 - b. Aristotle
 - c. Socrates
 - d. Machiavelli
- 2. The Social Contract**
 - a. Thomas Hobbes
 - b. Jean-Jacques Rousseau
 - c. John Locke
- 3. Liberalism**
 - a. John Stuart Mills
 - b. Montesquieu
 - c. Adam Smith
- 4. Marxism and Hegelianism**
 - a. Karl Marx
 - b. Friedrich Engels
 - c. Hegel
- 5. Contemporary Issues in Political Theory**
 - a. Citizenship
 - b. Multiculturalism
 - c. Racism
 - d. Feminism