



El Camino College
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD – Official

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| Course Acronym: | POLI |
| Course Number: | 3 |
| Descriptive Title: | Introduction to Principles and Methods of Political Science |
| Division: | Behavioral and Social Sciences |
| Department: | Political Science |
| Course Disciplines: | Political Science |
| Catalog Description: | This course focuses on analysis of the basic concepts, political theories and subfields of political science. Major topics include a description of the methodology and research techniques employed by contemporary political scientists. Major political theories of the individual and the state, and the impact of these themes on modern political ideologies will also be examined. |
| Prerequisite: | |
| Co-requisite: | |
| Recommended Preparation: | English 1 or eligibility for English 1A or qualification by appropriate assessment |
| Enrollment Limitation: | |
| Hours Lecture (per week): | 3 |
| Hours Laboratory (per week): | 0 |
| Outside Study Hours: | 6 |
| Total Course Hours: | 54 |
| Course Units: | 3 |
| Grading Method: | Letter Grade only |
| Credit Status: | Credit, degree applicable |
| Transfer CSU: | Yes |
| Effective Date: | Prior to July 1992 |
| Transfer UC: | Yes |
| Effective Date: | |
| General Education: ECC | Area 2C - Social and Behavioral Science |
| Term: | |
| Other: | |
| CSU GE: | Area D - Social Sciences |
| Term: | |

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| Other: | |
| IGETC: | Area 4 - Social and Behavioral Sciences |
| Term: | |
| Other: | |
| Student Learning Outcomes: | <p>SLO #1 Ideologies</p> <p>In a written essay, the students will discuss and critically analyze the major political ideologies found among contemporary political systems.</p> <p>SLO #2 Presidential and Parliamentary Systems</p> <p>In a written essay students will demonstrate knowledge and analyze the differences between presidential and parliamentary systems found in democracies today.</p> <p>SLO #3 Methodology</p> <p>In a written essay, students will demonstrate knowledge and distinguish the differences among the various methodological techniques used to study Political Science.</p> |
| Course Objectives: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Examine the scope of the political science discipline in terms of its major subfields. 2. Distinguish between the differences among various methodological techniques such as statistical analysis and public opinion surveys. 3. Explain the relationships between political science and other disciplines. 4. Identify the most common structural characteristics and common functions of different types of governments, institutional arrangements, and political processes. 5. Evaluate the major concepts in political science such as nations, states, power, institutions, and political behavior. 6. Compare and contrast unitary and federal systems of democracy. 7. Evaluate theories of law and justice. 8. Contrast various types of legal systems. 9. Analyze the major ideas and contributions of selected political philosophers. 10. Compare and contrast the assumptions and tenets of major political ideologies. 11. Evaluate the subfields of international relations including theories, actors, and levels of analysis. |
| Major Topics: | <p>I. Introduction and Course Overview (3 hours, lecture)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Definition and History of Political Science and its Relationship to Other Disciplines B. Sub-Fields of Political Science <p>II. Survey of Major Approaches to the Study of Politics (7 hours, lecture)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Behavioral and Scientific Approaches B. Traditional History and Philosophy Based Approaches C. Case and Comparative Methods D. Methods of Gathering and Analyzing Quantitative Data <p>III. Examination of Linkage Institutions (8 hours, lecture)</p> |

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| | <p>A. Parties, Interest Groups, Media and Unconventional Methods in Democratic Societies</p> <p>B. Linkage in Non-Democratic States</p> <p>IV. Examination of Contrasting Forms of Government (8 hours, lecture)</p> <p>A. Presidential and Parliamentary Systems</p> <p>B. Legislative Organization and Representation Theory</p> <p>V. Systems of Democracy (3 hours, lecture)</p> <p>A. Unitary Systems</p> <p>B. Federal Systems</p> <p>C. Advantages and Disadvantages of Each System</p> <p>VI. Theories of Law and the Meanings of Justice (4 hours, lecture)</p> <p>A. Constitutionalism and the Rule of Law</p> <p>B. Contrast Legal and Social Justice</p> <p>C. Contrasting Legal Systems</p> <p>VII. Ideas of Major Political Philosophers As They Relate to Concepts of the Individual, Society and the State (7 hours, lecture)</p> <p>A. Plato</p> <p>B. Hobbes</p> <p>C. Locke</p> <p>D. Rousseau</p> <p>VIII. Major 19th and 20th Century Ideologies (12 hours, lecture)</p> <p>A. Conservatism</p> <p>B. Liberalism</p> <p>C. Fascism</p> <p>D. Marxism and Socialism</p> <p>E. Democratic Socialism</p> <p>IX. Theories and Concepts of International Relations (2 hours, lecture)</p> <p>A. Theories</p> <p>B. Actors</p> <p>C. Levels of Analysis</p> |
| Total Lecture Hours: | 54 |
| Total Laboratory Hours: | 0 |
| Total Hours: | 54 |
| Primary Method of Evaluation: | 1) Substantial writing assignments |

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| Typical Assignment Using Primary Method of Evaluation: | In a three- to five-page essay, discuss your research on the origins, evolution and effects of passive or nonviolent resistance to unfair or even evil laws in a society. Your focus might be on either Gandhi or Martin Luther King's tactics and the relative success or failure of these tactics. |
| Critical Thinking Assignment 1: | In a three- to five-page essay, either compare and contrast attitudes toward the negative impact of property and/or the abolition of private property as expressed by Plato, Rousseau and Marx; OR compare the notions of the state of nature and the resultant social contract in Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau and explain the implications of each in terms of the implied legitimate scope of government. |
| Critical Thinking Assignment 2: | In a three- to five-page essay, examine the main characteristics of parliamentary systems in comparison to presidential ones. Analyze in what respects they are more or less successful in dealing with development of legislative solutions to social or economic problems facing society. What aspects of the parliamentary model are most responsible for your conclusions? Provide specific examples. |
| Other Evaluation Methods: | Completion, Essay Exams, Matching Items, Multiple Choice, Term or Other Papers, Written Homework |
| Instructional Methods: | Discussion, Lecture, Multimedia presentations |
| If other: | |
| Work Outside of Class: | Answer questions, Required reading, Study, Written work (such as essay/composition/report/analysis/research) |
| If Other: | |
| Up-To-Date Representative Textbooks: | W. Phillips Shively, <u>Power and Choice: An Introduction to Political Science</u> , 15th edition, Rowman & Littlefield, 2018. |
| Alternative Textbooks: | |
| Required Supplementary Readings: | |
| Other Required Materials: | |
| Requisite: | |
| Category: | |
| Requisite course(s): List both prerequisites and corequisites in this box. | |
| Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s). | |
| Requisite Skill: | |
| Requisite Skill and Matching Skill(s): Bold the requisite skill(s). If applicable | |
| Requisite course: | English 1 or |

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| Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s). | Students need well-developed reading skills in order to understand and interpret information in their textbooks and writing skills to develop essays and assignments. ENGL 1 - Summarize, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize college-level texts. ENGL 1 - Write a well-reasoned, well-supported expository essay that demonstrates application of the academic writing process. |
| Requisite Skill: | eligibility for English 1A or qualification by appropriate assessment |
| Requisite Skill and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s). If applicable | This course involves reading college level textbooks, written assignments and answering essay questions. A student's success in this class will be enhanced if they have these skills. Summarize, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize college-level texts. Write a well-reasoned, well-supported expository essay that demonstrates application of the academic writing process. |
| Enrollment Limitations and Category: | |
| Enrollment Limitations Impact: | |
| Course Created by: | John P. Carney |
| Date: | 01/01/1964 |
| Original Board Approval Date: | |
| Last Reviewed and/or Revised by: | Laurie Houske |
| Date: | 10/21/2021 |
| Last Board Approval Date: | 12/20/2021 |