COURSE OUTLINE

POLS 101 – Introduction to Political Science

Prepared By: Lenore Vander Zee

Revised By: Dr. Amani M. Awwad
A. **TITLE**: Introduction to Political Science

B. **COURSE NUMBER**: POLS 101

C. **CREDIT HOURS**: 3

D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE**: Optional

E. **COURSE LENGTH**: 15 weeks

F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED**: Fall or spring

G. **HOURS OF LECTURE, LABORATORY, RECITATION, TUTORIAL, ACTIVITY**: 3 lecture hours per week

H. **CATALOG DESCRIPTION**: This course introduces students to the study of politics and government and examines the impact of politics in our lives. Students learn about the fundamentals of political theory and American government, examine the differences between forms of government and politics around the world, and analyze the relations between countries in the international community. Students consider contemporary issues of civil and human rights, political violence, globalization, and the workings of democracy in light of the theories and systems presented throughout the semester.

I. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES**: (List courses or indicate “none”)
   a. Pre/Co-Requisites: None

J. **GOALS (STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES)**:
   By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Objective</th>
<th>Institutional SLO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| a. Describe fundamentals of the four main fields of political science: political theory, American politics, comparative politics, and international relations | 1. Critical thinking  
|                                                                                | 3. Communication skills                     |
| b. Examine the fundamental theories underlying politics in both ancient and contemporary political theory and ideologies | 1. Critical thinking  
|                                                                                | 3. Communication skills                     |
|                                                                                | 4. Inter/Intrapersonal skills               |
| c. Explain the basic mechanisms of American government, including federalism, branches of government, elections, and the Constitution | 1. Critical thinking  
|                                                                                | 3. Communication skills                     |
| d. Compare and Contrast forms of government, including democracies and authoritarian regimes | 1. Critical thinking  
|                                                                                | 3. Communication skills                     |
| e. Apply theories of international relations to historical and contemporary issues in foreign policy | 3. Communication skills                     |

K. **TEXTS**: At instructor’s discretion
L. REFERENCES:


M. EQUIPMENT: At instructor’s discretion

N. GRADING METHOD: A-F

N. MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS: At instructor’s discretion; may include:
   a. Exams
   b. Quizzes
   c. Presentations
   d. Essays
   e. Papers
   f. Projects (individual and/or group)

P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:

I. What is Politics?
   A. Defining Politics
   B. Politics and Power
   C. Politics and the State
   D. Political Culture & Socialization

II. Political Ideologies and Philosophies
   A. American Ideologies
   B. Liberalism & Conservatism
   C. Socialism & Communism
   D. Fascism
   E. Religion and Political Philosophy

III. The State
   A. The Modern State
      a. State development
      b. State-building
      c. Government and the State
      d. Challenges to the State
   B. Policies of the State
      a. Military and defense
      b. Education
c. Development

d. Health and social welfare

e. Economy

IV. Regimes

A. Democracies
   i. Theories of Democracy
      1. Waves of democratization
      2. Wealth and democracy
   ii. Types of Democracy
      1. Parliamentary democracy
      2. Presidential democracy

B. Authoritarian and Other Regimes
   i. Authoritarianism
   ii. Military Regimes
   iii. One-Party States
   iv. Monarchies & Theocracies

V. Governance

A. Constitutions
   i. Constitutional design
   ii. Federal and unitary systems
   iii. Civil and human rights
   iv. The rule of law

B. Elections
   i. Electoral systems
   ii. Electoral participation

C. Political Parties

D. Interest Groups

E. Social Movements

F. Political Violence

G. Law and the Courts
   i. Case law vs. code law
   ii. Religious law
   iii. Judicial review

VI. International Politics

A. Concepts
   i. Anarchy
   ii. Balance of power
   iii. The polarized world

B. Theories
   i. Realism
   ii. Liberalism
   iii. Constructivism
   iv. “Radical” alternatives
      1. Marxism
      2. Feminist theory
      3. Dependency theory

C. Issues
   i. Collective security
   ii. Nuclear security
   iii. Non-state actors
Q. LABORATORY OUTLINE: None