

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
CANTON, NEW YORK**



MASTER SYLLABUS

POLS 101: Introduction to Political Science

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**SCHOOL of BUSINESS AND LIBERAL ARTS
SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT
Last Updated: June 2015
FALL 2021**

- A. **TITLE:** Introduction to Political Science
- B. **COURSE NUMBER:** POLS 101
- C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 3 Lecture Hours per Week for 15 Weeks
- D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** No
- E. **GER CATEGORY:** 3
- F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Fall and Spring

G. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

In this course students will be introduced 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 related to the theories and systems presented.

- H. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:** None

I. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

<i>Course Student Learning Outcome [SLO]</i>	<i>GER 3</i>	<i>ISLO & Sub-Sets</i>
a. Describe fundamentals of the four main fields of political science: political theory, American politics, comparative politics, and international relations.	2	#1 Communication [W]
b. Examine the fundamental theories underlying politics in both ancient and contemporary political theory and ideologies.	1	#2 Critical Thinking [IA]
c. Explain the basic mechanisms of American government, including federalism, branches of government, elections, and the Constitution.	2	#2 Critical Thinking [IA]
d. Compare and contrast forms of government, including democracies and authoritarian regimes.	2	#2 Critical Thinking [CA]
e. Apply theories of international relations to historical and contemporary issues in foreign policy.	2	#2 Critical Thinking [PS]
GER 3 Students will demonstrate: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding of the methods social scientists use to explore social phenomena, including observation, hypothesis development, measurement and data collection, experimentation, evaluation of evidence, and employment of mathematical and interpretive analysis. Knowledge of major concepts, models and issues of at least one discipline in the social sciences. 		

KEY	<u>Institutional Student Learning Outcomes [ISLO 1 – 5]</u>
ISLO #	ISLO & Subsets
1	Communication Skills Oral [O], Written [W]
2	Critical Thinking <i>Critical Analysis [CA], Inquiry & Analysis [IA], Problem Solving [PS]</i>
3	Foundational Skills <i>Information Management [IM], Quantitative Lit./Reasoning [QTR]</i>
4	Social Responsibility <i>Ethical Reasoning [ER], Global Learning [GL], Intercultural Knowledge [IK], Teamwork [T]</i>
5	Industry, Professional, Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

J. APPLIED LEARNING COMPONENT: No

K. TEXTS: To be determined by the instructor

L. REFERENCES:

Danziger, James N. 11th ed. 2013. *Understanding the Political World: A Comparative Introduction to Political Science*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.

Dooley, Kevin L. and Joseph N. Patten. 3rd ed. 2012. *Why Politics Matters: An Introduction to Political Science*. Independent, KY: Wadsworth Publishing.

Dyck Rand (Ed.). 2012. *Studying Politics: An Introduction to Political Science*. Scarborough, ON: Nelson Education.

Mintz, Eric, David Close, and Osvaldo Croci. 2011. *Politics, Power, and the Common Good: An Introduction to Political Science*. Toronto, ON: Pearson Education.

Shively, W. Phillips. 13th ed. 2011. *Power and Choice: An Introduction to Political Science*. Columbus, OH: McGraw-Hill.

M. EQUIPMENT: Technology Enhanced Classroom

N. GRADING METHOD: A -F

O. SUGGESTED MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS:

Exams • Quizzes • Assignments • Participation/Discussion

P. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:

I. What is Politics?

- i. Defining Politics
- ii. Politics and Power
- iii. Politics and the State
- iv. Political Culture & Socialization

II. Political Ideologies and Philosophies

- i. American Ideologies
- ii. Liberalism & Conservatism
- iii. Socialism & Communism
- iv. Fascism
- v. Religion and Political Philosophy

III. The State

A. The Modern State

- i. State development
- ii. State-building
- iii. Government and the State
- iv. Challenges to the State

B. Policies of the State

- i. Military and defense
- ii. Education
- iii. Development
- iv. Health and social welfare
- v. Economy

IV. Regimes

A. Democracies

- i. Theories of Democracy
- ii. Waves of democratization

- iii. Wealth and democracy
 - iv. Types of Democracy
 - v. Parliamentary democracy
 - vi. 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
 - v. Marxism
 - vi. Feminist theory
 - vii. Dependency theory
 - C. Issues
 - i. Collective security
 - ii. Nuclear security
 - iii. Non-state actors