

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



**MASTER SYLLABUS**

**POLS 101: Introduction to Political Science**

CIP Code: 45.1001

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**SCHOOL of BUSINESS AND LIBERAL ARTS  
SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT  
Spring 2026**

A. **TITLE:** Introduction to Political Science

B. **COURSE NUMBER:** POLS 101

C. **CREDIT HOURS:**

# Credit Hours per Week	3
# Lecture Hours per Week	3

D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:**

Yes	
No	X

E. **GER CATEGORY: 7**

[1-2] Communication	
[3] Diversity: Equity, Inclusion & Social Justice	
[4] Mathematics & Quantitative Reasoning	
[5] Natural Science & Scientific Reasoning	
[6] Humanities	
[7] Social Sciences	
[8] Arts	
[9] US History & Civic Engagement	
[10] World History & Global Awareness	
[11] World Languages	

F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:**

Fall	
Spring	
Fall and Spring	X

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:**

<b><u>Course Student Learning Outcome [SLO]</u></b>	<b><u>GER 7</u></b>	<b><u>ISLO &amp; Sub-Sets</u></b>
a. Describe fundamentals of the four main fields of political science: political theory, American politics, comparative politics, and international relations.	7:1	2 [CA]
b. Examine the fundamental theories underlying politics in both ancient and contemporary political theory and ideologies.	7:1	2 [CA]
c. Explain the basic mechanisms of American government, including federalism, branches of government, elections, and the Constitution.	7:1	2 [CA]
d. Compare and contrast forms of government, including democracies and authoritarian regimes.	7:2	2 [CA]
e. Apply theories of international relations to historical and contemporary issues in foreign policy.	7:2	2 [CA]

**GER 7**

Students will:

1. describe major concepts and theories of at least one discipline in the social sciences; and
2. demonstrate an understanding of the methods social scientists use to explore social phenomena.

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

**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 / Learning Management System****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