POLS 101: Introduction to Political Science

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Updated by: Amani Awwad, Ph.D.
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:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Student Learning Outcome [SLO]</th>
<th>GER 3</th>
<th>ISLO &amp; Sub-Sets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Describe fundamentals of the four main fields of political science: political theory, American politics, comparative politics, and international relations.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>#1 Communication [W]</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. Examine the fundamental theories underlying politics in both ancient and contemporary political theory and ideologies.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>#2 Critical Thinking [IA]</td>
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<tr>
<td>c. Explain the basic mechanisms of American government, including federalism, branches of government, elections, and the Constitution.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>#2 Critical Thinking [IA]</td>
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<tr>
<td>d. Compare and contrast forms of government, including democracies and authoritarian regimes.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>#2 Critical Thinking [CA]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Apply theories of international relations to historical and contemporary issues in foreign policy.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>#2 Critical Thinking [PS]</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**GER 3**
Students will demonstrate:
1. 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.
2. Knowledge of major concepts, models and issues of at least one discipline in the social sciences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KEY</th>
<th>Institutional Student Learning Outcomes [ISLO 1 – 5]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ISLO #</td>
<td>ISLO &amp; Subsets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Foundational Skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Social Responsibility</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Industry, Professional, Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Oral [O], Written [W]
- Critical Analysis [CA], Inquiry & Analysis [IA], Problem Solving [PS]
- Information Management [IM], Quantitative Lit./Reasoning [QTR]
- Ethical Reasoning [ER], Global Learning [GL], Intercultural Knowledge [IK], Teamwork [T]
J. **APPLIED LEARNING COMPONENT:** No

K. **TEXTS:** To be determined by the instructor

L. **REFERENCES:**

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