

POLS 111

Introduction to Political Science

3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County
Common Course Outline

Description

POLS 111 – Introduction to Political Science: is a course which introduces students to the origins of political values and concepts; the methodology of political science and the various fields in the discipline; including American politics, comparative politics, international politics, and political philosophy. Students examine the history of political science to understand American democracy and its global impact. Students analyze political ideas, theories, ideologies, systems, and policies to focus on and investigate political problems on a national and global level as well as related to the study of political science.

Pre-requisites: ACLT 052

Co-requisites: ACLT 053 or (ESOL 052 and ESOL 054)

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. define the basic terminologies including state, nation, politics, power, and ethics, and central concepts of political science;
2. summarize the evolution of political thought from several classic philosophers to contemporary political science ideologies and philosophies;
3. explain the role of political culture and political socialization in the development of the State;
4. explain the research methods and tools of political science research;
5. evaluate the significance and influence of non-governmental dimensions of political systems such as ethics, public opinion, interest groups, political parties, and the media;
6. analyze the basic elements of the political systems of the modern constitutional democracies, modern post-Communist states, authoritarian states, and developing nations;
7. explain why democracy is so difficult to establish and maintain;
8. identify the forms and functions of modern governments including representative assemblies, executives, and administrative bureaucracies;
9. determine the entities who influence public policy decisions which impact the modern state and the role of a constitution in a government;
10. describe how economic policy and the political economy impact the State and the international economic system;
11. evaluate the goals and techniques for foreign policy and international politics since World War II;
12. analyze the roles of global diversity, globalization, terrorism, international, and regional governments in the 21st Century;

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For more information, see your professor's syllabus.

13. debate the reasons for conflict and compromises that occur within and among nations and governments;
14. use contemporary technology to solve problems, validate information, and meet challenges with respect to political science concepts; and
15. find, evaluate, use, and cite academic sources on political issues and events based on criteria discussed in the course according to timeliness, credibility, and reliability.

Major Topics

- I. The study of political science; origins and development
 - a. Political philosophy and ideology
 - b. Comparative government
 - c. International politics
 - d. Democracy
- II. People, politics, and political behavior
 - a. Political culture, socialization, and diversity
 - b. Public opinion and the role of citizens
 - c. Role of media in politics
 - d. Interest groups
 - e. Political parties and elections
- III. Framework of Government
 - a. Executive government: Prime ministers, presidents, and dictators
 - b. Legislative government: Parliaments and congresses
 - c. Judicial and justice systems: Courts and tribunals
 - d. The effects of political economy and globalization on government

Course Requirements

Grading will be determined by the individual faculty member, but shall include the following, at minimum:

- Participation in the following: Debates, oral presentations, and/or online discussion forums about current political events and topics
- Four exams
- Research assignment or project

Written assignments and research projects: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources in their research and cite sources according to the style selected by their professor.

Other Course Information

This course is an approved 3–credit General Education course in the Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Assignments will infuse CCBC General Education Program objectives; at least one assignment (minimum of 5 pages) worth a minimum of 10% of the total course grade will allow students to demonstrate at least 5 of the 7 General Education Program outcomes.

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