



Course Syllabus

GOVT 2304 – Introduction to Political Science

Revision Date: 1/05/2017

Catalog Description: Introductory survey of the discipline of political science focusing on the scope, and methods of the field, and the substantive topics in the discipline including the theoretical foundations of politics, political interaction, political institutions and how political systems function.

Prerequisites: None

Semester Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours per Week: 3

Lab Hours per Week: 0

Contact Hours per Semester: 48

State Approval Code: 45.1001.52 25

Core Components and Related College Student Learning Outcomes

This course counts as part of the academic requirements of the Panola College Core Curriculum and an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree. Yes No: If no, skip to Instructional Goals.

The items below marked with an X reflect the state-mandated outcomes for this course **IF this is a CORE course:**

- Critical Thinking Skills – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation and syntheses of information
 - CT1: Generate and communicate ideas by combining, changing, or reapplying existing information
 - CT2: Gather and assess information relevant to a question
 - CT3: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information
- Communication Skills – to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication
 - CS1: Develop, interpret, and express ideas through written communication
 - CS2: Develop, interpret, and express ideas through oral communication
 - CS3: Develop, interpret, and express ideas through visual communication
- Empirical and Quantitative Skills – to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
 - EQS1: Manipulate and analyze numerical data and arrive at an informed conclusion
 - EQS2: Manipulate and analyze observable facts and arrive at an informed conclusion
- Teamwork – to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
 - TW1: Integrate different viewpoints as a member of a team
 - TW2: Work with others to support and accomplish a shared goal

- Personal Responsibility – to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making
 - PR1: Evaluate choices and actions and relate consequences to decision-making
- Social Responsibility – to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
 - SR1: Demonstrate intercultural competence
 - SR2: Identify civic responsibility
 - SR3: Engage in regional, national, and global communities

Instructional Goals and Purposes:

The purpose of this course is to serve as an introduction to the various forms of government and political ideologies that have prevailed throughout history.

Learning Outcomes: *[from the ACGM catalog]*

After studying all materials and resources presented in the course, the student will be able to:

1. Define and apply political terms and concepts.
2. Define political science and identify the subfields.
3. Compare and contrast different political systems and institutions.
4. Apply the methods used to study politics.
5. Critically interpret and analyze contemporary political issues and problems

Course Content:

A general description of lecture/discussion topics included in this course are listed in the Learning Objectives section of this syllabus.

Students in all sections of this course will learn the following content:

1. Ancient Political Thought
2. Enlightenment Political Thought
3. Traditional Liberalism
4. Modern Liberalism
5. Conservatism
6. Communism
7. Religious Political Thought
8. Race and Nationalism
9. Population Politics

Methods of Instruction/Course Format/Delivery:

This class will convey the course material through lectures, discussions, primary/secondary documents, guest speakers, instructional videos and PowerPoint presentations. Reciprocally, students are expected to take notes, listen proactively, ask questions, conduct service learning, and read the textbook. Instructional methods for this course will vary depending upon the instructor and format (online v. face-to-face).

Major Assignments / Assessments:

The following items will be assigned and assessed during the semester and used to calculate the student's final grade.

Assignments

1. The assignments will cover the course material. The number and style of assignments will vary based upon the length of the semester and the individual instructor. Collectively, the assignments

make up a main portion of the final grade as they ensure students are engaging the material and preparing for the exams.

2. All students will be assigned with an attendance grade. The means by which the grade is calculated shall be determined by the individual instructor and vary based upon the method of course delivery (i.e. face-to-face or internet class). This grade is given as an incentive for students to attend class on a regular basis.

Assessment(s):

1. Students must successfully demonstrate their knowledge of the course learning outcomes by completing the class assignments based on the outcomes.

Assessment and Assignment Rules

1. **Academic Freedom and Instructor Discretion:** The government department recognizes the necessity of academic freedom. As such, each instructor maintains the right to stipulate rules in addition to this syllabus concerning assignments, make-up work, grading rubrics, classroom recordings, excused absences, extra credit, and any other matters within the individual course offerings. All of the supplemental rules must be made available to the students at the start of the semester or in advance of the completion of individual assignments.
2. **Academic Freedom and Code of Etiquette:** The government department recognizes the right of the instructor and the students to address controversial subjects. This right to academic freedom is recognized as the principle by which truth may be pursued. Consequently, the department firmly upholds the right of instructors to appropriately express in writing, speaking or action their understanding, opinions, and knowledge on controversial subjects. Moreover, no student's grade shall be diminished because of an appropriately expressed political opinion. However, the freedom of speech does not act as an excuse for inappropriate language or behavior as it is possible to freely discuss controversial issues without being obscene. Obscenity consists of language and behavior that lacks academic value, is repugnant to the standards of the community, and/or contains libel or slander. Moreover, the freedom of speech does not act as an excuse for violating standards of academic honesty or poor performance on assignments. The instructor and the college reserve the right to remove students from the class and hold disciplinary actions in accord with college policy for obscene language or behavior.
3. **Academic Honesty:** The central theme of education is the enlightenment of the mind. This can only be achieved by hard, honest work. Consequently, cheating and plagiarism are strictly prohibited in the course. A student must not receive from or give to any other student information, answers, or help during an exam. A student must not "steal" the answers from an unsuspecting student during an exam. A student must not use any sources for answers during an exam (including, but not limited to notes, books, or electronic devices) without prior authorization from the professor. A student must not obtain exam questions illegally, tamper with the exam questions, nor change the results of an exam after it has been graded. Moreover, students are prohibited from plagiarizing any assignments. Plagiarism consists in the taking of another person's ideas, words, or information and claiming those properties as one's own. Properly quoting and citing borrowed information is NOT plagiarism. However, since academic integrity is based on the originality of a student's work, no student may submit an assignment that contains an excessive amount of properly cited material. The standards and violations of academic honesty shall be further defined by the individual instructor (in accord with college policy). Individual instructors reserve the right to employ any ample means for proving academic dishonesty. Students have the right to contest a plagiarism or cheating claim through the college appeals process.

Course Grade:

The grading scale for this course is as follows:

- Assignments – 75%
- Class Participation – 25%

Grade Distribution

- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69
- F = 59 or below

Texts, Materials, and Supplies:

- None

Required Readings:

- **None**

Recommended Readings:

- Plato, "The Allegory of the Cave"
- Aristotle, "The Politics"
- St. Augustine, "The City of God"
- Cicero, "On Moral Duties"
- Thomas Hobbes, "The State of Nature and the Basis of Obligation"
- Machiavelli, "The Prince"
- Alexis de Tocqueville, "Democracy in America"
- Johnathan Swift, "A Modest Proposal"
- John Dewey, "The Future of Liberalism"
- FDR, "The Commonwealth Club Address"
- Terence Ball, "A Libertarian Utopia"
- Barack Obama, "First Inaugural Address"
- Edmund Burke, "Reflections on the French Revolution"
- Calvin Coolidge, "Speech on the 150 Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence"
- Russell Kirk, "Ten Conservative Principles"
- Ronald Reagan, "A Time for Choosing"
- Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, "The Communist Manifesto"
- Vladimir Lenin, "The State and Revolution"
- Mao Tse-tung, "The Well-being of the Masses"
- Mao Zedong and China's Cultural Revolution (documentary video)
- Russian Revolution (documentary)
- Pope Leo XIII, "Rerum Novarum"
- Fulton Sheen, "Life is Worth Living"
- Thomas Moore, "Utopia"
- Thomas Aquinas, "Summa Theologica"
- Fulton Sheen, "Profits of Communism, Capitalism, and Atheism"
- Islamic Foundation UK, "Understanding the Koran"
- Sayyid Qutb, "Milestones"
- Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, "the Necessity for Islamic Government"
- Osama Bin Laden and Others, "Jihad Against Jews and Crusaders"
- History of Islam (documentary)
- Benito Mussolini, "The Doctrine of Fascism"
- Adolf Hitler, "Nation and Race"
- SCOTUS, "Buck v. Bell"
- Thomas Malthus, "An Essay on the Principle of Population"
- A Mother's Ordeal
- Demographic Winder (documentary)

Other:

- For current texts and materials, use the following link to access bookstore listings: <http://www.panolacollegestore.com>
- For testing services, use the following link: <http://www.panola.edu/elearning/testing.html>
- If any student in this class has special classroom or testing needs because of a physical learning or emotional condition, please contact the ADA Student Coordinator in Support Services located in the Administration Building or go to <http://www.panola.edu/student-success/disability-support-services/> for more information.
- Withdrawing from a course is the student's responsibility. Students who do not attend class and who do not withdraw will receive the grade earned for the course.
- Student Handbook, *The Pathfinder*: <http://www.panola.edu/student-success/documents/pathfinder.pdf>