

Inver Hills Community College

POLS 1101: Introduction to Political Science

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci, Goal 08 - Global Perspective

Introduces students to major topics, approaches, and methods in Political Science with an emphasis on comparative analysis. Topics will include: purpose and methods of comparison and classification, understanding political processes and public policy (what is politics; purpose of government; common policy challenges). Specifically, you will explore the following foundational concepts: sovereignty, authority, power, institutions, citizenship, society, the state, and political and economic change. In your comparative exploration of the Political Science discipline and contemporary issues, you will critically examine your own political values, experiences and behaviors.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 01/01/1998 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Purpose of comparison/classification, foundational concepts (e.g. state, nation, government) 20%
2. Sovereignty, authority, citizenship, culture, and power 20%
3. Political Institutions (e.g. legislatures, executives, parties, interest groups, international orgs) 20%
4. Citizens, society, and the state 20%
5. Political and economic change, public policy 20%

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Assess political institutions using the comparative method
2. Assess political processes/phenomena using the comparative method
3. Assess political cultures using the comparative method
4. Compare and contrast perspectives on comparative politics
5. Reflect on or participate in the roles and responsibilities of national citizens in a global context
6. Reflect critically on one's own national values, opinions, and experiences in contrast to those of people elsewhere

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

1. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
2. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.
3. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
4. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

Goal 08 - Global Perspective

1. Describe and analyze political, economic, and cultural elements which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences.
3. Analyze specific international problems, illustrating the cultural, economic, and political differences that affect their solution.
4. Understand the role of a world citizen and the responsibility world citizens share for their common global future.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted