

Minnesota State College Southeast

POLS 1140: Environment and Society

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: *.*

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci, Goal 10 - People/Environment

This course explores the political dimension of the global environmental challenges facing society today. Students will examine political concepts, policies, institutions, groups, and proposed solutions addressing a range of environmental issues. Topics that may be covered include energy and water resources, air quality, human population growth, species endangerment, waste management, climate change, and agriculture. (Fulfills MnTC Goals 5 & 10) (Prerequisite: none) (3 credits: 3 lecture/0 lab)

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 05/01/2019 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Political Theories and Concepts
2. Air Quality
3. Energy Resources
4. Water
5. Population Pressure
6. Waste and Pollution
7. Climate Change
8. Agriculture
9. Other environmental topics may also include, but are not limited to the politics of: biodiversity, species endangerment and/or invasion, consumerism, war, sustainability, food production, urbanization, environmental technologies, toxins, and other global environmental issues.

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Assess current global environmental challenges, employing political theories and concepts.
2. Assess institutional public policies relating to global environmental challenges, employing political theories and concepts.
3. Assess other organizational responses to global environmental challenges, employing political theories and concepts.
4. Compare and contrast proposed solutions to global environmental challenges.
5. Explore topics and methods associated with the discipline of Political Science.
6. Demonstrate knowledge of the different subfields of the discipline, such as political theory, international relations, comparative government, American politics, and political behavior.
7. Recognize the diversity of political motives and interests of others.
8. Analyze political ideologies and explain how these lead to different goals and political conflict.
9. Examine the relationships among various values, principles, institutions, and traditions, as well as the economic, political, legal, and social orders.
10. Analyze the principles, institutions, and practices of democracy and the rights and responsibilities citizens possess in democratic societies.
11. Analyze the empirical and normative dimensions of political relationships.
12. Apply core concepts such as rights, obligations, justice, liberty, power, and (in)equality to specific issues.

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 10 - People/Environment

1. Explain the basic structure and function of various natural ecosystems and of human adaptive strategies within those systems.
2. Discern patterns and interrelationships of bio-physical and socio-cultural systems.
3. Describe the basic institutional arrangements (social, legal, political, economic, religious) that are evolving to deal with environmental and natural resource challenges.
4. Evaluate critically environmental and natural resource issues in light of understandings about interrelationships, ecosystems, and institutions.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted