

COMMON COURSE OUTLINE

Political Science POLS 1135 Introduction to Political Ideas

COURSE DESCRIPTION

1. Credits: 3
2. Lecture Hours/Week: 3 lecture per week, no lab
3. Prerequisites: none
4. Co-requisites: none
5. MnTC Goals:
 - #5: History & the Social and Behavioral Sciences
 - #9: Ethical and Civic Responsibility
6. Description:

Explores political topics, ideas, ideologies, and movements across eras and thinkers by considering popular culture (including novels, movies, music, and articles), “classics”, and primary sources. Topics may include enduring and current controversies concerning justice, power, violence, authority, freedom, democracy, capitalism, economic prosperity, security, equality, inequality, corruption, terror, nationalism, the roles and purposes of government, the state, dystopia, and “the good life” in a political community. Course may explore contemporary topics and perspectives, such as (anti)globalization, (anti)immigration, xenophobia, systemic racism, individual discrimination, white nationalism, black power, and populism.

DATES LAST REVISED: November 2013, July 2015, November 2017 [for Transfer Pathway submission].

DATES LAST REVIEWED: August 2018

OUTLINE of MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

Enduring Political Controversies in Everyday Life

- power, authority
- government, the state, democracy
- freedom, order, equality

- capitalism and critics
- equality and inequality
- individualism and community
- utopia, dystopia, and the present
- political thought in literature, film, music

Deriving Ideologies

- conservatism, liberalism, fascism, anarchism
- capitalism, socialism, communism
- feminism
- peace and nonviolence
- violence, terror, war
- others

Case Studies: historical examples

Case Studies: current examples

Summary and Conclusions

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successfully completing this course for use as a Political Science elective in the Transfer Pathway, students will be able to do at least 75% of the learning outcomes listed immediately below (six of the eight items):

1. Explore topics and methods associated with the discipline of Political Science.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of different subfields of the discipline of Political Science, such as political theory, international relations, comparative government, American politics, and political behavior.
3. Recognize the diversity of political motives and interests of others.
4. Analyze political ideologies and explain how these lead to different goals and political conflict.
5. Examine the relationships among various values, principles, institutions, and traditions, as well as the economic, political, legal, and social orders.
6. Analyze the principles, institutions, and practices of democracy and the rights and responsibilities citizens possess in democratic societies.
7. Analyze the empirical and normative dimensions of political relationships.
8. Apply core concepts such as rights, obligations, justice, liberty, power, and (in)equality to specific issues.

More specifically, students successfully completing this course will be able to:

9. Explain the development and application of political ideas and ideologies to specific and enduring issues (MnTC goals 5b, 5c, and 5d)
10. Describe and evaluate how authors and ideologies address enduring political issues and interests (MnTC goals 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d, 9b, 9c, and 9d)
11. Assess how political interests, values, ideas, ideologies, and thoughtful political outlooks differently comment on, explain, and shape individual lives, public policies, enduring political controversies, and political, legal, economic, social, historical, and cultural conditions (MnTC goals 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d, 9b, 9c, and 9d)
12. Express, apply, and assess prominent national and personal political values and interests (MnTC goal 9a)
13. Apply such core concepts as *liberty*, *equality*, *the state*, and *justice* to interpreting, engaging, and resolving diverse political issues and controversies (MnTC goals 5bc, 9bcd)
14. Exercise and assess the rights, responsibilities, and ethical features of active, ideologically-informed citizenship (MnTC goals 9c and 9e)

METHODS FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT LEARNING

May include diagnostic, formative, and summative versions of: answering questions on exams and quizzes; long-form writing (such as writing reactions to political events and conditions, evaluating public policy, advocating policy, writing research essays and political analyses); short-form writing (such as in-class essays, book reviews, reflective writing, opinion pieces, Letters to the Editor, or other brief commentary); submitting a writing portfolio; and participating in group activities, group projects, classroom discussion, classroom presentations, classroom activities, oral presentations, or debates.

SPECIAL INFORMATION: None

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION about MnTC GOALS

From http://www.mntransfer.org/students/plan/s_mntc.php and links (viewed July 2015)

MnTC goals:

#5: History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences

Goal: To increase students' knowledge of how historians and social and behavioral scientists discover, describe, and explain the behaviors and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, events, and ideas. Such knowledge will better equip students to understand themselves and the roles they play in addressing the issues facing humanity.

Students will be able to:

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

#9: Ethical and Civic Responsibility

Goal: To develop students' capacity to identify, discuss, and reflect upon the ethical dimensions of political, social, and personal life and to understand the ways in which they can exercise responsible and productive citizenship. While there are diverse views of social justice or the common good in a pluralistic society, students should learn that responsible citizenship requires them to develop skills to understand their own and others' positions, be part of the free exchange of ideas, and function as public-minded citizens.

Students will be able to:

- a. Examine, articulate, and apply their own ethical views.
- b. Understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.
- c. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.
- d. Recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others.
- e. Identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.