Course Information Form (CIF)

Course Code: POS 120 (IAI S5 903)

Course Title: Introduction to Political Science

Department: Arts, Media, and Social Sciences
PCS Code: 1.1 - Baccalaureate/Transfer
CIP Code: 45.1001
Repeatability: 0

Effective Date: Summer 2026

Credit Hours

Catalog Notation: 3-0-3
Credit Hour Distribution:

Lecture: 3	Lab: 0	Clinical: 0	**Total: 3**

General Course Information

Catalog Description

Introduction to politics and its meaning for the individual through consideration of power, the state, ideology, legitimacy, political linkages, institutions, constitutions, and change.

General Course Objectives

To provide formal information about politics and to show its relevance to the individual.

Minimum Placement Levels

English	Reading	Math
None	Placement out of CCS 098	None

Prerequisites

None

Methods of Evaluation

4 hourly exams and weekly chapter reading quizzes, combination of multiple choice, completion, and essay questions. Several writing assignments (each assignment worth 30 points). Students will select a country or state to present to the class as project. The students will also complete a group presentation where they track an active campaign in the current election cycle.

Instructional Materials and Additional Supplies

Analyzing Politics: An Introduction to Political Science, by Ellen Grigsby, 6th edition. 978-1285465593

Course Content

General Learning Outcomes (GLOs)

- Critical Thinking and Information Literacy: Students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate perspectives, evidence, and implications, and to locate, assess, and use information effectively.

Course Segments and Student Learning Outcomes

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Introduction	1. Describe and apply basic principles and methods of political science, the nature of politics, and theories of power.	3	0	0
Ideology	1. Discuss the meaning and uses of ideology. 2. Identify and differentiate between American conservatism and liberalism, and between classic European liberalism and conservatism. 3. Discuss the development of socialism, Marxism, and Fascism.	7	0	0
The State	1. Describe the origin and meaning of the state and the industrial revolution. 2. Describe the principle of political economy and the rise of the Newly Industrialized Countries (NIC).	5	0	0
The State and Citizen	1. Describe and apply the concepts of legitimacy, authority, and the role of citizenship in the modern state.	5	0	0
Fairness	1. Analyze the importance of values to the modern state, such as: a) justice, b) fairness, and c) due process of law (non-arbitrariness).	3	0	0
Elections	1. Describe the origin and operation of the two primary types of election systems: single member district-plurality (SMDP) and proportional representation (PR).	5	0	0
Constitutions	1. Explain the major segments of the US Constitution and distinguish it from the British system.	7	0	0
Democratic Governments	1. Identify and explain the major institutions and processes of parliamentary and presidential governments.	5	0	0
Law	1. Describe the notion of jurisprudence by comparing and contrasting legal principles and precedents from the United States with legal principles and precedents from around the world.	5	0	0

Total Contact Hours

Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
45	0	0