

PALOMAR COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD FOR
DEGREE CREDIT COURSE

X Transfer Course X A.A. Degree applicable course
(check all that apply)

COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: POSC 100 Introduction to Political Science

UNIT VALUE: 3

MINIMUM NUMBER OF SEMESTER HOURS: 48

BASIC SKILLS REQUIREMENTS: Appropriate language skills

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

PREREQUISITE: None

COREQUISITE: None

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION: None

SCOPE OF COURSE:

Introduction to the scope and methods of political science; basic political concepts and policies; comparative government institutions, stressing the United States; an overview of political theories, international politics, and political economy.

SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The successful student will:

1. examine the concepts of personal and political power
2. analyze the process of political socialization and identify the ways in which children and adults acquire and maintain political orientations.
3. analyze mainstream as well as extremist political ideologies in order to evaluate these beliefs and their power in the political world.
4. evaluate the ways in which the electronic media shapes our views and understandings about politics.
5. identify the paradoxes of nationalism as a political ideology.
6. compare and contrast presidential and parliamentary democratic systems.
7. compare and contrast authoritarian and totalitarian political systems .
8. identify the characteristics of Nazism and the events leading to the holocaust.

9. analyze political issues facing third and fourth world countries.
10. explore the issue of violence within the USA.
11. analyze the causes of international terrorism.
12. identify theories about the cause of war.
13. analyze the domestic consequences of the cold war and the arms race.
14. explain methods of conflict resolution and strategies used to enhance cooperation.

CONTENT IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC BODY OF KNOWLEDGE:

- I. The study of politics
 - A. Politics as the making of common decisions
 - B. Politics as the development of community
 - C. Politics as the exercise of power
 1. Difficulties in analyzing power
 2. The varied forms of power
 3. Resources that form a power base
- II. Political socialization
 - A. Key factors affecting early childhood socialization
 - B. Key factors influencing political views of adults
 - C. The role of the electronic media
- III. Political ideologies in the US
 - A. The mainstream views
 1. Liberalism
 2. Conservatism
 - B. Reactionary perspectives
 - C. Radical perspectives
- IV. Analysis of selected contemporary political issues
- V. Nationalism
 - A. Origins of the state
 - B. The paradox of nationalism
- VI. Authoritarian and totalitarian states
 - A. Characteristics of authoritarian states
 - B. Characteristics of totalitarian states
 1. Nazism
 2. The Soviet State under Stalin
- VII. Democratic states
 - A. Varying definitions of democracy
 - B. A comparison of parliamentary and presidential systems
- VIII. Violence
 - A. Crime in the USA
 - B. International terrorism
 - C. The causes of war
- IX. International relations
 - A. The balance of power perspective
 - B. Political issues facing third world countries
 - C. The legacy of the cold war
 1. The nuclear arsenal
 2. Proliferation
 - D. Strategies for regional cooperation

REQUIRED READING:

Lawson, Kay. *The Human Polity: A Creative Introduction to Political Science*. 5th Edition. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2003.

SUGGESTED READING:

Anyone of the following on a daily basis:

New York Times

Washington Post

Christian Science Monitor

Wall Street Journal

REQUIRED WRITING:

Students are required to write two three-page papers. One consists of a political profile in which students reflect on the origins of their political beliefs. A second three-page paper is a comparative article review in which students analyze two articles on the same political topic taken from major political science journals. Students are further required to write essays on examinations.

OUTSIDE ASSIGNMENTS:

Students are expected to spend a minimum of three hours per unit per week in class and on outside assignments, prorated for short-term classes.

Students are expected to read the text, read one of the newspapers noted in Suggested Readings, study for examinations, and prepare the two three-page papers.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY:

Check all that apply:

- lecture
- laboratory
- lecture-laboratory combination
- directed study

DISTANCE LEARNING:

This course may be offered as a distance learning course and meets Title 5 regulations 55370, 55372, 55374, 55376, 55378, and 55380.

Yes No

If yes, check all that apply:

- Television Course (Video one-way, e.g. ITV, video cassette, etc.)
- Online Course (Text one-way, e.g. newspaper, correspondence, electronic file, etc.)
- Two-Way Video Conferencing (Two-way interactive video and audio)
- One-Way Video Conferencing (One-way interactive video and two-way interactive audio)
- Computer Assisted Instruction (A specialized form of mediated instruction relying primarily on student access to information and prepared lessons or teaching materials through a computer terminal, but not under immediate supervision of a qualified instructor.)

GRADING POLICY AND STANDARDS (include methods of determining whether the stated objectives have been met by students): Student tests consisting of a combination of essays and multiple choice questions will comprise 80% of the grade. Students are expected to participate in small group discussion and write several essays on assigned topics which will comprise the remainder of points earned.

IS COURSE REPEATABLE FOR REASON(S) OTHER THAN DEFICIENT GRADE?

Yes ____ No X Number of times course may be taken for credit: 1

If yes, identify specific provision of Title 5 Division 2 section(s), 55761-55763 and 58161 which qualifies course as repeatable:

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SIGNATURES ON FILE
