

Print Date: 12/6/19
Spokane Community College
Course Learning Outcomes and Outline

Course Title: *Introduction to Political Science*

Prefix and Course Number: *POLS 101*

Course Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, a student should be able to:

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

- understand Political Science as an academic discipline;
- explain the difference between normative and empirical theory;
- understand the difference between ancient and modern normative theory
- explain the concepts of power, legitimacy, and authority;
- discuss the origins and developments of the nation-state;
- discuss the political socialization process;
- identify the different types of electoral systems and assess the implications of those systems;
- identify the different types of nation-states from a comparative perspective;
- describe and evaluate the general principles of presidential and parliamentary political systems;
- identify and evaluate the principles of authoritarian and totalitarian governments;
- describe the origins and principles of subfield of international relations;
- identify and assess the influence of major international organizations
- describe and analyze the causes of international war, diplomacy and trade.

Course Outline:

1. Introduction

What is Political Science and how is it studied?

2. Political Science Theories

What is normative and empirical theory

Different types of normative theory

Ancients

Mid-evil

Modern

3. American Government in a Comparative Perspective

Compare American institutions to other democratic nations including:

Comparing executives

Comparing legislatures

Comparing judicial institutions

Comparing elections systems

4. Authoritarian States

How do authoritarian states differ from totalitarian states

Fascism, Nazism, Marxism

5. International Relations

Theories in international relations:

Realism

Liberalism

Dependency Theory

6. The Modern International System

1648 and the Treaty of Westphalia

International system since WWII

Collective Security

Contemporary Global Issues

Terrorism

Global Climate Change

Pandemics

Human Rights

International Trade