

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

POLITICAL SCIENCE 120 – INTRODUCTION TO POLITICS AND POLITICAL ANALYSIS

3 hours lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description

The primary aim of this course is to assist the student/citizen in the development of a set of skills which can be helpful in analyzing political situations in the world today. In order to accomplish this objective, students will be introduced to the basic approaches, perspectives, techniques and models of the political scientist. Accordingly, this course covers some universal aspects of political stability and change, ideologies, conflicts, institutions, political economy and issues.

Prerequisite

None

Course Content

- 1) The origins and purpose of political analysis
- 2) What is political science?
- 3) Types of political knowledge
- 4) Political belief systems, political culture and political ideology
- 5) Political actions (parties, interest groups)
- 6) Influences on beliefs and actions
- 7) Political systems (the concepts of state and nation)
- 8) Political economy (relationship between politics and economics)
- 9) Various forms and structures of political life
- 10) Political processes (elite, class and group approaches)
- 11) Political communication
- 12) Change and political development
- 13) Politics between states
- 14) Developed, transitional and developing countries in the post-Cold War world
- 15) Current political trends at home (U.S.) and abroad

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Identify and describe the main tenets of the major political ideologies.
- 2) Evaluate major political ideologies in relation to political freedom and adherence to democratic principles.
- 3) Identify and describe the major sub-disciplines of political science, including political economy, international relations, and political philosophy.
- 4) Define and describe the institutions, structures, and processes that comprise the political system.
- 5) Compare and contrast the structure, functions and processes of modern government and politics.

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) Formative or summative quizzes
- 2) Written assessments: short answers or essays

- 3) Discussion posts and replies, in-class or online
- 4) Analysis of peer-reviewed journal articles
- 5) Simulations
- 6) Projects, individual or group-based

Special Materials Required of Student

None

Minimum Instructional Facilities

- 1) Smart classroom
- 2) Preferred: Technology Enabled Active Learning classroom
- 3) Computer-based maps:
 - a. Physical, political maps of the world, United States, Europe
 - b. Economic activity, resources map of the world
 - c. Population density map of the world

Method of Instruction

- 1) Lecture
- 2) Small and large group discussions
- 3) Individual and group projects
- 4) Individual, small, and large-scale simulations
- 5) Guest speakers

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) Canvas enhancement shell for:
 - a. Individual and group assignments
 - b. Class discussions
 - c. Formative and summative quizzes
 - d. Individual reflections
- 2) Individual and group assignments can include:
 - a. Analysis and interpretation of chapters in assigned text
 - b. Analysis of current events
 - c. Analysis of diversity, equity, and inclusion and its relation to course content
 - d. Analysis of peer-review journal articles
 - e. Public policy-related project

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative examples):
 - a. Riemer, et al. *The Challenge of Politics: An Introduction to Political Science*. 6th edition. CQ Press, 2019.
 - b. Whitman Cobb, Wendy N. 2019. *Political Science Today*. SAGE Publications.
- 2) Supplemental: None

Student Learning Outcomes

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

- 1) Define political science and describe its philosophical roots.
- 2) Identify and describe the traditional sub-fields of political science. Traditional sub-fields include political philosophy/theory, American Politics, comparative politics, and international relations.
- 3) Define and describe major political ideologies and governmental systems.