

**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) Participation in class conversations, role playing, simulations, or debates about students' engagement with course content and course assessments.
- 2) Formative and summative writing prompts, quizzes, or exams that prepare students to confidently

engage in course content.

- 3) Written assignments, such as students' reflections on course content.
- 4) Analysis of peer-reviewed journal articles.
- 5) Research papers or projects that are scaffolded over the course, so students have time to engage with challenging course content.
- 6) Oral presentations to give students the opportunity to practice their communication skills and share their research papers or projects with peers.

### **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. Rom, Mark Carl, Masaki Hidaka, and Rachel Bzostek Walker. 2022. *Introduction to Political Science*. OpenStax, Rice University.
  - b. Riemer, et al. *The Challenge of Politics: An Introduction to Political Science*. 7th edition. SAGE Publications, 2022.
  - c. Whitman Cobb, Wendy N. 2023. *Political Science Today*. 2nd Edition. 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) Explain major political ideologies and governmental systems.