GROSSMONT COLLEGE

Official Course Outline

POLITICAL SCIENCE 120 – INTRODUCTION TO POLITICS AND POLITICAL ANALYSIS

1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units Semester Hours

POSC 120 Introduction to Politics 3 3 hours lecture: 48-54 hours

and Political Analysis 96-108 outside-of-class hours

144-162 total hours

2. Course Prerequisites

None.

Corequisite

None.

Recommended Preparation

None.

3. 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, the student 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. *(Does not meet American Institutions requirement.)*

4. Course Objectives

The student will:

a. Analyze the scope and methods of political science and demonstrate an understanding of philosophical matters such as epistemology and political philosophies of living and demonstrate that understanding through the evaluative process.

b. Appraise the pervasive phenomenon of modern government and their causes, benefits, and problems.

c. Evaluate the goals, methods, and problems of government and politics, and become critically alert to bias and to simplified panaceas.

d. Assess and debate the structure, functions, and processes of modern government and politics.

5. Instructional Facilities

a. Audiovisual equipment – television, video clips, overhead projector, projection screen, digital processing presenter, computer with data projector monitor and internet access.

b. Chalkboards or dry-erase boards.

6. Special Materials Required of Student

None.

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7. Course Content

a. The origins and purpose of political analysis.

b. What is political science?

c. Types of political knowledge.

d. Political belief systems, political culture, and political ideology.

e. Political actions (parties, interest groups).

f. Influences on beliefs and actions.

g. Political systems (the concepts of state and nation).

h. Political economy (relationship between politics and economics).

i. Various forms and structures of political life.

j. Political processes (elite, class, and groups approaches).

k. Political communications.

l. Change and political development.

m. Politics between states.

n. Developed, transitional, and developing countries.

o. Current political trends, both domestically and abroad.

8. Method of Instruction

a. Lecture.

b. Classroom discussion and group discussion.

c. Simulations.

d. Group projects and reports.

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

a. Students will be evaluated on the basis of their understanding of the subject matter presented in the required reading, lectures, class discussion and reports, and on their ability to apply this knowledge with insight to modern national and international problems.

b. Quizzes and examinations, including a final exam; these will contain analytical essay questions.

c. A written and/or oral report, stressing analysis and evaluation, and including an internet research component on topics such as minor political parties, non-democratic political systems, parliamentary vs. presidential executives.

10. Outside Class Assignments

a. Textbook reading

b. Conducting research in preparation for written and/or oral projects on topics such as stressing analysis and evaluation, and including an internet research component on topics such as minor political parties, non-democratic political systems, parliamentary vs. presidential executives.

11. Texts

a. Required Text(s):

(1) Danziger, James N. Understanding the Political World. New York, NY: Longman, 2012.

(2) Sargent, Lyman. Contemporary Political Ideologies: A Comparative Analysis. Wadsworth Publishing, 2008.

(3) Roskin, Michael G. Political Science: An Introduction. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2011.

(4) Baradat, Leon P. Political Ideologies: Their Origins and Impact. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2011.

b. Supplementary texts and workbooks:

None.

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Addendum: Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, our students will be able to do the following:

* 1. Identify why governments are created; compare and contrast how power and freedom are balanced in various political systems.
  2. Analyze the strengths and shortcomings of political institutions at the domestic and international levels
  3. Utilize the basic tools of political science to analyze contemporary political situations
  4. Distinguish between different ideologies and explain the historical factors underpinning their development.

Date approved by the Governing Board: May 21, 2013