1. **COURSE ID:** PLSC 100  **TITLE:** Introduction to Political Science  **C-ID:** POLS 150  
**Units:** 3.0 units  **Hours/Semester:** 48.0-54.0 Lecture hours  
**Method of Grading:** Letter Grade Only  
**Recommended Preparation:**  
Eligibility for ENGL 100 or ENGL 105, and completion of, or concurrent enrollment in, any READ 400-level course.

2. **COURSE DESIGNATION:**  
Degree Credit  
**Transfer credit:** CSU; UC  
**AA/AS Degree Requirements:**  
CSM - GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS: E5b. Social Science  
CSU GE:  
CSU GE Area D: SOCIAL SCIENCES: DSI - Social Institutions  
IGETC:  
IGETC Area 4: SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES: Social and Behavioral Sciences

3. **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**  
**Catalog Description:**  
Introduction to the nature of politics and to political science as a field of study. Examines the nature of the state, forms of government, political institutions, political theory, political ideology, public law, public administration, and international relations.

4. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):**  
Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:  
1. Use the scientific method in the study of politics.  
2. Explain the major concepts of political science, such as power, nation, state and nation-state.  
3. Discuss key concepts in political theory, such as the ethical foundations of politics and political equality.  
4. Evaluate key concepts of political ideology, such as fascism, feminism, liberalism, conservatism, environmentalism, etc.  
5. Evaluate key concepts from comparative politics, such as differences between liberal democracies, illiberal democracies and nondemocratic regimes.  
6. Discuss the roles of the mass media, interest groups, political parties and elections in a political system.  
7. Evaluate the impact on international relations of international law, international institutions, military power and economic power.

5. **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**  
Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:  
1. Use the scientific method in the study of politics.  
2. Explain the major concepts of political science, such as power, nation, state and nation-state.  
3. Discuss key concepts in political theory, such as the ethical foundations of politics and political equality.  
4. Evaluate key concepts of political ideology, such as fascism, feminism, liberalism, conservatism, environmentalism, etc.  
5. Evaluate key concepts from comparative politics, such as differences between liberal democracies, illiberal democracies and nondemocratic regimes.  
6. Discuss the roles of the mass media, interest groups, political parties and elections in a political system.  
7. Evaluate the impact on international relations of international law, international institutions, military power and economic power.

6. **COURSE CONTENT:**  
**Lecture Content:**  
1. Political science methodology and the scientific method.  
2. Political theory: power, states, nations and nation-states.  
3. Political ideologies.  
4. Comparative politics: political institutions in liberal democracies, illiberal democracies and nondemocratic regimes  
5. International relations: international law, international institutions, military power and economic power.
5. Non-state actors, such as interest groups, the mass media, and political parties.
6. The legal framework: constitutions and comparative legal systems.
7. Public administration.
8. Political economy.
9. Contemporary political issues.
10. International relations and foreign policy.

7. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:
   Typical methods of instruction may include:
   A. Discussion
   B. Other (Specify): Lecture, classroom discussions and debates, small group discussions, individual and group
      presentations, use of multimedia (including Power Point presentations and use of Internet sources to
      supplement the textbooks). Student assignments include written work emphasizing critical thinking skills
      (analysis of the readings and/or research), as well as fieldwork like volunteering for a political campaign
      or a political organization or an elected official. Students will read 50 to 100 pages per week in the
      textbook and other sources.

8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS
   Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:

9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION
   Representative methods of evaluation may include:
   A. Exams/Tests
   B. Homework
   C. Oral Presentation
   D. Papers
   E. Students' progress in achieving course objectives is measured through periodic examinations and written
      assignments covering the course content, as described in sections 7 and 8, above. Short answer and
      multiple choice questions will test students' mastery of factual elements of the material covered in the
      course; essay questions will test their analytical and critical thinking skills with respect to ideas, concepts
      and principles. Questions will cover not only history and institutions, but also a critical examination of
      some of the current issues animating the American political discourse. Students will be expected to present
      reasoned arguments, and to provide facts in support of their arguments. In addition, instructors will
      evaluate assignments described in the preceding section, such as reports from fieldwork, research papers,
      and oral presentations.

10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):
    Possible textbooks include:
       Longman, 2009

Origination Date: November 2010
Curriculum Committee Approval Date: October 2010
Effective Term: Fall 2016
Course Originator: Lee Miller