

**College of San Mateo
Official Course Outline**

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; and 96.0-108.0 Homework 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:
An introduction to political science designed to familiarize students with basic political concepts, political ideologies, political systems, and subfields within political science.
4. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):**
Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:
 1. Discuss the development of political science and its subfields.
 2. Effectively communicate the key concepts in political science.
 3. Critically analyze normative and empirical approaches.
 4. Identify and critically analyze basic political systems and their differences.
 5. Critically analyze political behavior in international affairs.
 6. Discuss the impact of ethnic, cultural and economic diversity on political issues and policy.
 7. Evaluate ethical issues and conflicts inherent to political issues.
5. **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**
Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:
 1. Discuss the development of political science and its subfields.
 2. Effectively communicate the key concepts in political science.
 3. Critically analyze normative and empirical approaches.
 4. Identify and critically analyze basic political systems and their differences.
 5. Critically analyze political behavior in international affairs.
 6. Discuss the impact of ethnic, cultural and economic diversity on political issues and policy.
 7. Evaluate ethical issues and conflicts inherent to political issues.
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. 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. Lecture
- B. Discussion
- C. Guest Speakers
- D. Service Learning

8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

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

Writing Assignments:

Written assignments may include: written work emphasizing critical thinking skills (analysis of the readings and/or research); reports on fieldwork like volunteering for a political campaign or a political organization or an elected official; online discussion forums.

Reading Assignments:

Reading assignment from textbooks, periodicals, and online sources.

Other Outside Assignments:

Internet research and/or service learning with political organizations and/or government officials and/or campaigns.

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:

- A. Grigsby, E.. *Analyzing Politics*, 6th ed. Cengage, 2014
- B. Shively, W.P.. *Power and Choice: An Introduction to Political Science*, 14th ed. McGraw-Hill, 2015
- C. Danziger, J.N. and J.A. Smith. *Understanding the Political World*, 12th ed. Pearson, 2015
- D. Roskin, M.G., R.L. Cord, J.A. Medeiros, and W.S. Jones. *Political Science: An Introduction*, 14th ed. Pearson, 2016
- E. Hague, R., M. Harrop, and J. McCormick.. *Political Science*, 8th ed. Palgrave Macmillan, 2016
- F. Parson, C.. *Introduction to Political Science*, 1st ed. Pearson, 2016

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Course Originator: Lee Miller