

Common Course Outline
POLS 111
Introduction to Political Science
3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County

Description

POLS 111 - 3 credits – Introduction to Political Science examines the concepts and methodology of political science as well as the various fields of the discipline including American politics, comparative politics, international politics and political philosophy and the origins of political values. Students analyze political ideas, theories, ideologies, systems and policies in order to focus on and investigate political problems on a national and global level as well as define central concepts related to the study of political science.

3 credits

Prerequisites: ACLT 052 or ACLT 053

Overall Course Objectives

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

1. explain the meaning of state, nation, politics, power and ethics;
2. define the basic terminologies and central concepts of political science;
3. trace the evolution of political thoughts from several classic philosophers to contemporary political science ideologies and philosophies;
4. explain the role of political culture and political socialization in the development of the State;
5. explore the research methods and tools of political science research;
6. evaluate the significance and influence/impact of non-governmental dimensions of political systems such as ethics, public opinion, interest groups, political parties and the media;
7. analyze the basic elements of the political systems of the modern constitutional democracies, modern post-Communist states, authoritarian states and developing nations;
8. explain why democracy is so difficult to establish and maintain;
9. identify the various forms and functions of modern governments including representative assemblies, executives and administrative bureaucracies;
10. explain the role of a constitution in a government;
11. determine the actors who influence public policy decisions which face the modern state;
12. describe how economic policy and the political economy impact the State and the international economic system;
13. evaluate the goals and techniques of foreign policy and international politics since World War II;

14. analyze the role of global diversity, globalization, terrorism, international and regional governments in the 21st Century;
15. find, evaluate, use and cite academic sources on political issues and events based on criteria discussed in the course, and
16. debate the reasons for the conflict and compromises that occur within and among nations and governments.

Major Topics

- I. The study of political science; origins and development
 - a. Political philosophy
 - b. Comparative government
 - c. International politics
 - d. Democracy
- II. People, politics and political behavior
 - a. Political culture, socialization and diversity
 - b. Public opinion and role of citizens
 - c. Media and politics
 - d. Interest groups
 - e. Political parties and elections
- III. Framework of Government
 - a. Executive government: Prime Ministers, President and Dictators
 - b. Legislative government: Parliaments, Congress
 - c. Judicial systems and justice
 - d. Effects of political economy and globalization on government

Course Requirements

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

- Participation in, at least, 5 collaborations, debates, oral presentations and online discussions about current political events and topics
- A minimum of 4 exams
- A minimum of one research assignment or project on a selected topic of interest
- Multiple assignments will infuse CCBC General Education Program objectives; at least one assignment (minimum of 5 pages) worth a minimum of 10% of the total course grade will allow students to demonstrate at least 5 of the 7 General Education Program outcomes.

Students are required to utilize appropriate academic resources.

Other Course Information

This course is an approved General Education course in the Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Revised 6/5/15