COLLEGE OF
THE ROCKIES

POLI-100 – Introduction to Politics & Government

University Arts and Science

Effective Term & Year: Fall 2022
Course Outline Review Date: 2023-04-01

Program Area: Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

Description:

This course introduces students to political science, assisting them to gain a foundational understanding of first, the discipline's key concepts and second, its practicalities. In order to do so, study will start with the fundamental nature of politics; power in all its guises; political beliefs, attitudes, and values acquisition; and the theoretical bases/action plans of various ideologies. Consideration will then turn to an exploration of peoples' efforts to create proper sized political units; set fundamental rules; lead and make decisions; debate and pass laws; offer advice for and put in place government programs; organize to achieve goals and aims; and devise electoral systems to make choices. To clarify and solidify learning this information, students will work up case studies so they can develop better-informed political opinions and proceed to other political science courses.

Program Information:

This course is can be used as either a required course or an elective in several University Studies Programs. Refer to the College Program Guide for additional information.

Delivery Methods: On-campus (Face-to-Face)

Credit Type: College of the Rockies Credits

Credits: 3

Course type/s: Social Sciences

Instructional Activity and Hours:

Activity	Hours
Classroom, Directed Studies or Online Instruction	45
Seminar/Tutorials	
Laboratory/Studio	
Practicum/Field Experience	
Co-op/Work Experience	
Other	
Total	45

Course Requisites:

None

Flexible Assessment: Yes

In some cases students may be able to apply for recognition of prior learning outside the classroom. This flexible assessment process provides equivalent course credit. It is a rigorous process that may include external evaluation, worksite assessment, demonstration, standardized test, self-assessment, interview, products/portfolio, and challenge exam, or other measures as appropriate. Tuition fees apply. Contact an education advisor for more information.

Course Transfer Credit:

For information about receiving transfer credit for courses taken at other BC institutions, please see http://www.bctransferguide.ca. All requests for course transfer credit from institutions in BC or elsewhere should go to the College of the Rockies Enrollment Services office.

Textbook Resources:

Textbook selection varies by instructor and may change from year to year. At the Course Outline Effective Date the following textbooks were in use:

Studying Politics, An Introduction to Political Science. Fifth Edition Christopher G. Anderson and Rand Dyck, eds. Toronto: Nelson Education 2016.

Please see the instructor's syllabus or check COTR's online text calculator https://textbook.cotr.bc.ca/ for a complete list of the currently required textbooks.

Learning Outcomes:

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

- identify and describe key terms, core concepts, and practical fundamentals of political science;
- formulate a critical understanding of the forces/processes leading to political developments and government actions in Canada and other countries;
- comprehend their significance to political scientists;
- articulate a thoughtful approach to the themes and nature of political science; and
- assess findings from research sources and construct an academic argument to demonstrate multi-faceted understanding of a chosen political science term.

Course Topics:

- Politics
- Political Science
- Power
- State
- Forms of Government
- Political Culture
- Political Socialization
- Political Ideologies
- Constitutions
- Executive
- Legislatures
- Public Administration and Bureaucracy
- Political Parties
- Political Interest Groups
- Elections
- Voting Systems
- International Relations

See instructor's syllabus for the detailed outline of weekly readings, activities, and assignments.

Evaluation and Assessments

Assessment Type: On-Campus (face-to-face)

Assessment Type	% of Total Grade
Class Participation	5%

Quizzes	5%
Midterm	15%
Final Exam	15%
Issue of the Day Presentations/Discussions	25%
Research Findings Essay	35%
Total	100%

Grade Scheme

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
>=90	89-85	84-80	79-76	75-72	71-68	67-64	63-60	59-55	54-50	<50

Pass requirements: None

Evaluation Notes: A grade of "D" grants credit, but may not be sufficient as a prerequisite for sequential courses.

Evaluation Notes Comments:

Please see the instructor's syllabus for specific classroom policies related to this course, such as details of evaluation, penalties for late assignments, and use of electronic aids.

Exam Attendance:

Students must attend all scheduled exams at the appointed time and place. Instructors may approve an alternate exam to accommodate an illness or personal crisis. Department heads will consider other written requests. Any student who misses a scheduled exam without prior approval will receive a "0" on the exam.

Academic Policies:

College of the Rockies policies related to courses can be found at https://cotr.bc.ca/about-us/college-policies/ and include the following:

- Policy 2.4.3 Students with Documented Disabilities
- Policy 2.4.4 Student Conduct (plagiarism, other cheating, behavioral misconduct)
- Policy 2.5.8 Academic Performance
- Policy 2.5.3 Grade Appeal
- Policy 2.4.9 Student Concerns Re Faculty

Course Changes:

The College of the Rockies updates course outlines regularly to meet changing educational,

employment and marketing needs. The instructor will notify students in writing of any updates to this outline during the semester. The instructor reserves the right to revise, add or delete material while meeting the learning outcomes of this course outline.