

COURSE SYLLABUS

LAST REVIEW	Spring 2021
COURSE TITLE	Introduction to Political Science
COURSE NUMBER	POSC 0101
DIVISION	Social and Behavioral Sciences & Public Services
DEPARTMENT	Political Science
CIP CODE	24.0101
CREDIT HOURS	3
CONTACT HOURS/WEEK	Class: 3
PREREQUISITES	None
COURSE PLACEMENT	Students must meet the correct placement measure for this course. Information may be found at: https://www.kckcc.edu/admissions/information/mandatory-evaluation-placement.html

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Containing a wealth of factual, historical, and theoretical materials, this course is designed to acquaint the students with a variety of political systems and their components. To help the students to fully comprehend the subject matter, the course will adopt a conceptual framework which, tracking the origin and development of different political traditions in the West (i.e., liberal democratic, socialist, and social democratic traditions). 1) Will allow us to categorize the existing political system in terms of these traditions, and 2) a “cross-sectional” approach which will show the similarities and differences among the political systems grouped within each tradition in terms of ideology, mode of representation, types of government, party system, etc.

KANSAS SYSTEMWIDE TRANSFER: POL 1010

The learning outcomes and competencies detailed in this course outline or syllabus meet or exceed the learning outcomes and competencies specified by the Kansas Core Outcomes Groups project for this course as approved by the Kansas Board of Regents.

General Education Learning Outcome

- Basic Skills for Communication
- Mathematics
- Humanities
- Natural and Physical Sciences
- Social and Behavioral Sciences

Institutional Learning Outcomes

- Communication
- Computation and Financial Literacy
- Critical Reasoning
- Technology and Information Literacy
- Community and Civic Responsibility
- Personal and Interpersonal Skills

TEXTBOOKS

<http://kckccbookstore.com/>

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

A variety of instructional methods may be used depending on content area. These include but are not limited to: lecture, multimedia, cooperative/collaborative learning, labs and demonstrations, projects and presentations, speeches, debates, panels, conferencing, performances, and learning experiences outside the classroom. Methodology will be selected to best meet student needs.

COURSE OUTLINE

I. Introduction

A. The discipline and its major subfields

II. Research Methods.

A. Empirical methods

B. Content analysis

C. Historical method

III. Intellectual and Material foundations of the Liberal Democratic Tradition

A. Transition from feudalism to capitalism in Europe

1. Economic basis of feudalism

2. Political – ideological basis of feudalism

B. Emergence and development of the “cores” of Liberal Democratic Tradition from within the feudal socio-economic system.

1. The moral core

2. The political core

3. The economic core

IV. Intellectual and material foundations of the socialist tradition.

A. The material foundation

1. Industrial Revolution

2. Development of Capitalism in England

3. The condition of working class in England

B. Intellectual foundation

1. German philosophy

2. French Utopian Socialism

3. British Political Economy

C. Marx and Engels and the rise of Socialists tradition

1. Revisionist movement in Germany (Edward Bernstein): The origin of social democracy in Europe

V. Social Democracy: A synthesis of liberal democratic and Socialist traditions

A. Crystallization of social democracy in political parts in Western Europe

VI. Components and variety of political systems within the Liberal Democratic Tradition

A. Governments

B. Party systems and representation

C. Ideologies

D. Economy

VII. Components and variety of political systems within the Socialist tradition

- A. Governments
 - B. Party Systems
 - C. Ideologies: Totalitarianism and Communism (Lininism, Stalinism, Maoism, Titoism, etc.)
 - D. Economy: Planned vs. Market Countries
- VIII. Political economy of the Third World Countries
- A. Government
 - B. Economic Systems
 - C. Ideologies: Nationalism, Religious fundamentalism and Revolution

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCIES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will:

- A. CLO #1 To explain the nature of political science.
 1. The student will be able to explain the nature of political science and political analysis.
 2. The student will be able to distinguish among the four major fields in political science.
- B. CLO #2 To discuss the research methodology used within the discipline.
 1. The student will be able to describe social and behavioral science methods regarding the study of political behavior, political socialization, and political beliefs and attitudes.
- C. CLO #3 To develop critical and analytical skills utilized in Political Science.
 1. The student will be able to prepare a written critique of a variety of presentations relating to selected current issues.
- D. CLO #4 Understand the polity as an inseparable part of the social totality.
 1. The student will be able to identify factors and causes of political indifference.
- E. CLO #5 Recognize and differentiate the major elements of the existing political traditions in the West.
 1. The student will be able to trace the origins of western classical liberalism and classical conservatism through to Contemporary American liberalism and conservatism.
 2. The student will be able to describe the structure, functions, accomplishments, limitations, and ever changing alignments of the major international organizations.
 3. The student will be able to distinguish the characteristics of the liberal democratic tradition from the feudal system that it replaced.
 4. The student will be able to state the role of intellectual thought that German, French, and British philosophers played in the emergence of the socialist tradition.
 5. The student will be able to discuss the role that Marx played in the emergence of the socialist tradition.
 6. The student will be able to discuss the role of political theory with the emergence of the 3rd world and the key components of 3rd world international politics.
- F. CLO #6 Discuss the elements and processes of different potential systems.
 1. The student will be able to trace the origins of socialism including Marxism, MarxismLeninism, Maoism, and democratic socialism.

2. The student will be able to trace the origins of fascism through to its contemporary influences.
3. The student will be able to compare the Articles of Confederation with the federalism of the U.S. Constitution.
4. The student will be able to describe the role of political parties, pressure groups, and public opinion in the American political system.
5. The student will be able to distinguish between democratic and non-democratic governments.
6. The student will be able to compare left-wing with right-wing dictatorships.
7. The student will be able to compare presidential and parliamentary government using the American and British systems as models.
8. The student will be able to describe and compare various types of local campaigns.
9. The student will be able to describe local and state-wide campaign strategies.
10. The student will be able to analyze and differentiate between campaign strategies.
11. The student will be able to discuss the role of political candidates.
12. The student will be able to examine the role of money in the political process.
13. The student will be able to identify and discuss components of direct political process.
14. The student will be able to identify and discuss components of indirect political action.
15. The student will be able to examine selected current issues and describe their impact on society.
16. The student will be able to discuss how the United States with the oldest written fundamental law continues to have a relevant document in the Constitution of the United States.
17. The student will be able to distinguish a pressure group from a political party. She/he will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each approach in a nation's development.
18. The student will be able to describe the role of foreign policy in the formation of national power for the respective nation.
19. The student will be able to explain the role of compromise in the international operations of a nation's growth and development.

ASSESSMENT OF COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCIES

Student progress is evaluated through both formative and summative assessment methods. Specific details may be found in the instructor's course information document.

COLLEGE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Student Handbook

<https://www.kckcc.edu/files/docs/student-resources/student-handbook-and-code-of-conduct.pdf>

College Catalog

<https://www.kckcc.edu/academics/catalog/index.html>

College Policies and Statements

<https://www.kckcc.edu/about/policies-statements/index.html>

Accessibility and Accommodations

<https://www.kckcc.edu/academics/resources/student-accessibility-support-services/index.html>.

