

**PELLISSIPPI STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
MASTER SYLLABUS**

**INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**POLS 1020**

**Class Hours: 3.0**  
**Laboratory Hours: 0.0**

**Credit Hours: 3.0**  
**Revised: Fall 2016**

**Catalog Course Description:**

Analysis of politics and political systems in various countries. Topics include model states; democratic, authoritarian, and totalitarian states; political socialization and participation; political leadership; public policy; international relations; and revolution, terrorism, and war.

**Prerequisites:**

None

**Textbook(s) and Other Course Materials:**

To be determined by the instructor.

**Week/Unit/Topic Basis:**

1. The study of politics
2. Comparative Political Systems, Model States
3. Constitutional Democracy
4. Authoritarian and Totalitarian States
5. Parliamentary Democracy
6. New and emerging democracies
7. Developing Countries
8. Political Socialization
9. Political Participation
10. Political Leadership
11. Ideology, Public Policy
12. Revolution, terrorism, War
13. Revolution, Terrorism, War
14. International Relations
15. Final Exam Period

**Course Goals:**

Note: Roman numerals after course objectives reference TBR's general education goals.

- A. Develop an understanding of the key concepts and ideas upon which different systems of government are based. III.1, 111.2

- B. Demonstrate a clear understanding of how the political process works in different systems. III.1, 111.3, 111.4, 111.7
- C. Develop critical thinking skills necessary to evaluate political information and to participate in a global world. 111.2, 111.3, 111.4, 111.5V. 3

### **Expected Student Learning Outcomes:**

Note: Capital letters after Expected Student Learning Outcomes reference the course goals listed above.

1. Understand basic societal rules and political theories. A
2. Understand the purpose and function of political structures and processes.
3. Recognize differences between the U.S. political system and other systems A, B
4. Identify the mechanisms individuals use to influence government in various political systems A, B
5. Understand how the electoral system and balance of power operate in various political systems. A, B C
6. Identify causes of political conflicts and methods for resolving them B. C.
7. Complete written/oral projects demonstrating the ability to apply course content, using appropriate resources to access information. B, C

### **Evaluation:**

- A. Testing Procedures:50-70% of the grade  
The final course grade will be determined by a combination of quizzes and exams and other assignments such as written and oral reports and group projects. Examinations may come from any combination of lecture, text, videos and reading assignments
- B. Laboratory Expectations:  
Not applicable.
- C. Field Work:  
Not applicable.
- D. Other Evaluation Methods: 30-50% of grade  
In addition to quizzes and exams, students will be asked to complete other assignments such as written and oral reports and group projects
- E. Grading Scale  
The precise grading scale will be determined by individual instructors.

### **Policies:**

#### **A. Attendance Policy:**

Pellissippi State expects students to attend all scheduled instructional activities. As a minimum, students in all courses (excluding distance learning courses) must be present for at least 75 percent of their scheduled class and laboratory meetings in order to receive credit for the course. Individual departments/programs/disciplines, with the approval of

the Vice President of Academic Affairs, may have requirements that are more stringent. In very specific circumstances, an appeal of the policy may be addressed to the head of the department in which the course was taken. If further action is warranted, the appeal may be addressed to the Vice President of Academic Affairs.

#### **B. Academic Dishonesty:**

Academic misconduct committed either directly or indirectly by an individual or group is subject to disciplinary action. Prohibited activities include but are not limited to the following practices:

- Cheating, including but not limited to unauthorized assistance from material, people, or devices when taking a test, quiz, or examination; writing papers or reports; solving problems; or completing academic assignments.
- Plagiarism, including but not limited to paraphrasing, summarizing, or directly quoting published or unpublished work of another person, including online or computerized services, without proper documentation of the original source.
- Purchasing or otherwise obtaining prewritten essays, research papers, or materials prepared by another person or agency that sells term papers or other academic materials to be presented as one's own work.
- Taking an exam for another student.
- Providing others with information and/or answers regarding exams, quizzes, homework or other classroom assignments unless explicitly authorized by the instructor.
- Any of the above occurring within the Web or distance learning environment.

Please see the Pellissippi State Policies and Procedures Manual, Policy 04:02:00 Academic/Classroom Conduct and Disciplinary Sanctions for the complete policy.

#### **C. Accommodations for disabilities:**

Students that need accommodations because of a disability, have emergency medical information to share, or need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated should inform the instructor immediately, privately after class or in her or his office. Students must present a current accommodation plan from a staff member in Disability Services (DS) in order to receive accommodations in this course.

[Disability Services](http://www.pstcc.edu/sswd/) (<http://www.pstcc.edu/sswd/>) may be contacted via [email](#) or by visiting Alexander 130.

#### **D. Other Policies:**

Students are expected to demonstrate respectful behavior towards their instructor and their classmates. Conduct that disrupts the learning environment could result in a student's expulsion from the class. For more information, please refer to the "Student Disciplinary Rules" section of the college catalogue.