Course Syllabus

GOVT 2304 – Introduction to Political Science

Revision Date: 12/07/2020

Catalog Description: Introductory survey of the discipline of political science focusing on the scope, and methods of the field, and the substantive topics in the discipline including the theoretical foundations of politics, political interaction, political institutions and how political systems function.

Prerequisites: None

Semester Credit Hours: 3
Lecture Hours per Week: 3
Lab Hours per Week: 0
Extended hours: 0
Contact Hours per Semester: 48

State Approval Code: 45.1001.52 25

Class section meeting time: In the event of an emergency or announced campus closure due to a natural disaster or pandemic, it may be necessary for Panola College to move to altered operations. During this time, Panola College may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include, but are not limited to: online learning management system (CANVAS), online conferencing, email messaging, and/or an alternate schedule. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor Panola College’s website (www.panola.edu) for instructions about continuing courses remotely, CANVAS for each class for course-specific communication, and Panola College email for important general information.

Core Components and Related College Student Learning Outcomes
This course counts as part of the academic requirements of the Panola College Core Curriculum and an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree. □ Yes □ No: If no, skip to Instructional Goals.

The items below marked with an X reflect the state-mandated outcomes for this course IF this is a CORE course:

☐ Critical Thinking Skills – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation and syntheses of information
  ☐ CT1: Generate and communicate ideas by combining, changing, or reapplying existing information
  ☐ CT2: Gather and assess information relevant to a question
  ☐ CT3: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information

☐ Communication Skills – to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication
  ☐ CS1: Develop, interpret, and express ideas through written communication
  ☐ CS2: Develop, interpret, and express ideas through oral communication
  ☐ CS3: Develop, interpret, and express ideas through visual communication
Empirical and Quantitative Skills – to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
   EQS1: Manipulate and analyze numerical data and arrive at an informed conclusion
   EQS2: Manipulate and analyze observable facts and arrive at an informed conclusion

Teamwork – to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
   TW1: Integrate different viewpoints as a member of a team
   TW2: Work with others to support and accomplish a shared goal

Personal Responsibility – to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making
   PR1: Evaluate choices and actions and relate consequences to decision-making

Social Responsibility – to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
   SR1: Demonstrate intercultural competence
   SR2: Identify civic responsibility
   SR3: Engage in regional, national, and global communities

Instructional Goals and Purposes:
The purpose of this course is to serve as an introduction to the various forms of government and political ideologies that have prevailed throughout history.

Learning Outcomes: [from the ACGM catalog]
After studying all materials and resources presented in the course, the student will be able to:

1. Define and apply political terms and concepts.
2. Define political science and identify the subfields.
3. Compare and contrast different political systems and institutions.
4. Apply the methods used to study politics.
5. Critically interpret and analyze contemporary political issues and problems

Course Content:
A general description of lecture/discussion topics included in this course are listed in the Learning Objectives section of this syllabus.

Students in all sections of this course will learn the following content:

1. Foundations of Politics
2. Greek Political Thought
3. Roman Political Thought
4. Early Christian Political Thought
5. Islamic Political Thought
6. Medieval Political Thought
7. Utopian Political Thought
8. Revolutionary Political Thought
9. American Founding Principles
10. Free Market Economy
11. Communism and Socialism
12. Progressivism
13. Race and identity Politics
14. Modern Conservatism

Methods of Instruction/Course Format/Delivery:
This class will convey the course material through lectures, discussions, primary/secondary documents, guest speakers, instructional videos and PowerPoint presentations. Reciprocally, students are expected to take notes, listen proactively, ask questions, conduct service learning, and read the textbook. Instructional methods for this course will vary depending upon the instructor and format (online v. face-to-face).

**Major Assignments / Assessments:**
The following items will be assigned and assessed during the semester and used to calculate the student's final grade.

**Assignments**
1. The assignments will cover the course material. The number and style of assignments will vary based upon the length of the semester and the individual instructor. Collectively, the assignments make up a main portion of the final grade as they ensure students are engaging the material and preparing for the exams.
2. All students will be assigned with an attendance grade. The means by which the grade is calculated shall be determined by the individual instructor and vary based upon the method of course delivery (i.e. face-to-face or internet class). This grade is given as an incentive for students to attend class on a regular basis.

**Assessment(s):**
1. Students must successfully demonstrate their knowledge of the course learning outcomes by completing the class assignments based on the outcomes.

**Assessment and Assignment Rules**
1. **Academic Freedom and Instructor Discretion:** The government department recognizes the necessity of academic freedom. As such, each instructor maintains the right to stipulate rules in addition to this syllabus concerning assignments, make-up work, grading rubrics, classroom recordings, excused absences, extra credit, and any other matters within the individual course offerings. All of the supplemental rules must be made available to the students at the start of the semester or in advance of the completion of individual assignments.
2. **Academic Freedom and Code of Etiquette:** The government department recognizes the right of the instructor and the students to address controversial subjects. This right to academic freedom is recognized as the principle by which truth may be pursued. Consequently, the department firmly upholds the right of instructors to appropriately express in writing, speaking or action their understanding, opinions, and knowledge on controversial subjects. Moreover, no student's grade shall be diminished because of an appropriately expressed political opinion. However, the freedom of speech does not act as an excuse for inappropriate language or behavior as it is possible to freely discuss controversial issues without being obscene. Obscenity consists of language and behavior that lacks academic value, is repugnant to the standards of the community, and/or contains libel or slander. Moreover, the freedom of speech does not act as an excuse for violating standards of academic honesty or poor performance on assignments. The instructor and the college reserve the right to remove students from the class and hold disciplinary actions in accord with college policy for obscene language or behavior.
3. **Academic Honesty:** The central theme of education is the enlightenment of the mind. This can only be achieved by hard, honest work. Consequently, cheating and plagiarism are strictly prohibited in the course. A student must not receive from or give to any other student information, answers, or help during an exam. A student must not “steal” the answers from an unsuspecting student during an exam. A student must not use any sources for answers during an exam (including, but not limited to notes, books, or electronic devices) without prior authorization from the professor. A student must not obtain exam questions illegally, tamper with the exam questions, nor change the results of an exam after it has been graded. Moreover, students are prohibited from plagiarizing any assignments. Plagiarism consists in the taking of another person's ideas, words, or information and claiming those properties as one's own. Properly quoting and citing borrowed
information is NOT plagiarism. However, since academic integrity is based on the originality of a student's work, no student may submit an assignment that contains an excessive amount of properly cited material. The standards and violations of academic honesty shall be further defined by the individual instructor (in accord with college policy). Individual instructors reserve the right to employ any ample means for proving academic dishonesty. Students have the right to contest a plagiarism or cheating claim through the college appeals process.

Course Grade:
The grading scale for this course is as follows:
- Assignments – 50%
- Class Participation – 50%

Grade Distribution
- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69
- F = 59 or below

Texts, Materials, and Supplies:
- This is an OER based course. All the required materials are published in Canvas.

Recommended Readings:

Other:
- Courses conducted via video conferencing may be recorded and shared for instructional purposes by the instructor.
- For current texts and materials, use the following link to access bookstore listings: https://www.panolacollegestore.com
- For testing services, use the following link: https://www.panola.edu/elearning/testing.html
- If any student in this class has special classroom or testing needs because of a physical learning or emotional condition, please contact the ADA Student Coordinator in Support Services located in the Charles C. Matthews Student Center or go to https://www.panola.edu/student-success/disability-support-services/ for more information.
- Withdrawing from a course is the student’s responsibility. Students who do not attend class and who do not withdraw will receive the grade earned for the course.