COMMON COURSE OUTLINE: Course discipline/number/title: POLS 1630: Introduction to Political Science

A. CATALOG DESCRIPTION
1. Credits: 3
2. Hours/Week: 3
3. Prerequisites (Course discipline/number): None
4. Co-requisites (Course discipline/number): None

This course introduces students to the dynamics of politics. This includes political theory, political behavior, institutions, comparative governments, international relations, and the causes of war and peace. The course will also examine power, conflict, ideology, nationalism and revolution with special emphasis in structure and change in democratic and non-democratic governments.

B. DATE LAST REVISED (Month, year): September, 2011

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:
1. Science of Politics
   a) Theories: Classic & Modern
   b) Nations, States, Governments
   c) Individuals & Constitutions
   d) Democracy/Totalitarian/Authoritarian

2. Politics
   a) Public Opinion
   b) Political Communications & The Media
   c) Interest Groups
   d) Political Parties
   e) Elections

3. The Institutions of Politics
   a) Legislatures
   b) Executives
   c) Administrations & Bureaucracies
   d) Legal Systems & Courts

4. Global Politics
   a) Political Economy
   b) Violence & Revolution
   c) International Relations
   d) Global Systems

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (GENERAL): The student will be able to:
1. Define basic terms and concepts of political inquiry; science of politics, behaviorism, empiricism and normative inquiry.
2. Understand different political systems possible in world societies; Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Burke, Paine, Hobbes.
3. Expand their knowledge in field of political science as a discipline; theory, comparative, international and American politics.
4. Understand the structure and function of democratic and non-democratic governments; rise and fall of totalitarian systems, problems of democracy, and forms of authoritarianism.
5. Expand their knowledge of politics in the international sphere; causes of war, behavior of nation-state and non-state actors, international governmental organizations and structures.
E. LEARNING OUTCOMES (MNTC):
Goal 2/Critical Thinking: The student will be able to:
1. Gather factual information and apply it to a given problem in a manner that is relevant, clear, comprehensive, and conscious of possible bias in the information selected.
2. Imagine and seek out a variety of possible goals, assumptions, interpretations, or perspectives, which can give alternative meanings or solutions to given situations or problems.
3. Analyze the logical connections among the facts, goals, and implicit assumptions relevant to a problem or claim; generate and evaluate implications that follow from them.
4. Recognize and articulate the value assumptions, which underlie and affect decisions, interpretations, analyses, and evaluations made by ourselves and others.

Goal 5/History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences: The student will be able to:
1. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
2. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.
3. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.

Goal 9/Ethical and Civic Responsibility: The student will be able to:
1. Examine, articulate, and apply their own ethical views.
2. Understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.
3. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.
4. Recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others.
5. Identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

F. METHODS FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT LEARNING:
1. Participation in Discussions
2. Exams
3. (Optional) Final Paper

G. RTC CORE OUTCOME(S) ADDRESSED:
- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Global Awareness/Diversity
- Civic Responsibility
- Personal/Professional Accountability
- Aesthetic Response

H. SPECIAL INFORMATION (if any): None