COURSE INFORMATION FORM

DISCIPLINE
Political Science

COURSE TITLE
Introduction to Political Science

CR.HR  3  LECT HR.  3  LAB HR.  CLIN/INTERN HR.  CLOCK HR.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION
An introduction to the theory of politics, government, and administration, with emphasis on the United States and Missouri constitutional systems. Comparison of governmental systems, institutions, ideologies and participation among nations and states.

PREREQUISITES
None

EXPECTED STUDENT OUTCOMES IN THE COURSE (ESO)
Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe and explain the concepts essential to an understanding of the U.S. and Missouri constitutional governments.
2. Analyze the diversity of political motivations and interests of others.
3. Identify and explain ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.
4. Compare and contrast different scholarly viewpoints about the state of nature, sovereignty and the purpose of government.
5. Identify examples of state-sponsored terrorism serving a government’s policy objectives.
6. Identify the elements of political socialization.
7. Contrast the power exercised by interest groups over party members in United States and European democracies.

GENERAL EDUCATION OUTCOMES
Specify which general education outcomes, if any, are substantially addressed by the course by completing the “Course/Program Assessment Matrix” to show the relationship between course and program outcomes and assessment measures.

Critical Thinking: Sort and classify information (ESO)

1. Distinguish among facts, feelings, judgment and inferences, and prioritize the respective role of each within a given context. 4,6,7
2. Evaluate the validity, soundness and cogency of an argument. 4,7

Critical Thinking: Define, analyze, and evaluate information, materials and data

3. Objectively consider new information from diverse sources and perspectives 2,5,6
4. Integrate information and see relevant relationships that broaden and deepen understanding. 2,4,5,7
Awareness of Social, Political, and Behavioral Environments

5. Fulfill the Missouri State statute requirements for the United States and Missouri Constitutions; describe and explain the constitutions of the United States and Missouri.

6. Explain political institutions, structures, and processes across a range of countries, cultures and viewpoints

7. Describe and compare political settings and processes from a global perspective.

8. Research and evaluate information from a variety of sources.

9. Evaluate information for its currency, usefulness, and accuracy.

PROGRAM-LEVEL OUTCOMES ADDRESSED

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Specify which occupational program outcomes, if any, are substantially addressed by the course by completing the “Course/Program Assessment Matrix” to show the relationship between course and program outcomes to assessment measures.

CLASS-LEVEL ASSESSMENT MEASURES

Student accomplishment of expected student outcomes will be assessed using the following measures. (Identify which measures are used to assess which outcomes.)

Quizzes and examinations (1,2,3,4,5,6, 7)
Short papers and research projects (1,2,3,4,5,6,7)
Class projects and group work (2,3,4,6)
Individual instructors may order this outline as fits the needs of their individual courses. In addition, they may place more emphasis on some areas than on others. What is assured is that this particular list is covered in the course. Other topics may be added to a course as the instructor sees fit, and as time and interest allow. An *asterisk can be used to mark an item as optional.

I. The purpose of government
   A. Politics
   B. Differences between government and politics
   C. Viewpoints of different scholars as to the state of nature, sovereignty and purpose of government

II. Different political systems and the role of political leaders in shaping those systems
   A. Background, formation and implementation of the United States constitutional system
   B. Authoritarianism and totalitarianism
   C. *Development of Russian communism and German fascism
   D. *State sponsored terrorism serving a government’s policy objectives.

III. Development and operation of the democratic republican form of government
   A. Political socialization
   B. Economic and social bases of democracy
   C. Three waves of democracy
   D. Theories of pluralism and elitism

IV. Public policy – how formed and expressed
   A. Political parties
   B. Interest groups in the political system
   C. *Power exercised by interest groups over party members in United States and European democracies
   D. Public opinion
   E. Politics and the media
   F. *Political tasks of a legislature in a democracy

V. Rights and responsibilities of citizens and issues involving individual rights in relation to the general welfare
   A. Political culture
   B. Inalienable rights in the Declaration of Independence
   C. Responsibilities of citizens in the United States democratic system

VI. Social problems and global issues through the lens of political science
   A. *Identify the issue of “nations against states”
   B. Alternatives to the traditional states
   C. United States domestic political and foreign policy topics
   D. *campaign financing and military spending
VII. Conflict, cooperation and interdependence for nations and organizations
   A. Cooperation of European nations resulting in the European Union
   B. Advantages and disadvantages of multi-party and two-party systems
   C. Role of the United Nations in global affairs
   D. Concept of collective security

VIII. Technology in the global community
   A. First, second and third world countries
   B. Achievements of the Newly Industrialized Countries
   C. Positive and negative human consequences of rapidly changing technology
   D. Continuing threat of nuclear technology and potential solutions

IX. Missouri Constitution
   A. Comparison with United States Constitution
   B. Key components and operational issues