

El Paso Community College

Syllabus

Part II

Official Course Description

SUBJECT AREA	<u>Government</u>
COURSE RUBRIC AND NUMBER	<u>GOVT 2304</u>
COURSE TITLE	<u>Introduction to Political Science</u>
COURSE CREDIT HOURS	<u>3 3 :</u> Credits Lec Lab

I. Catalog Description

Introduces students to the major subfields, concepts, principles, and methods of political science. This course touches upon the substantive topics in the discipline, including the theoretical foundations of politics and how political institutions and systems work. Enables students to critically analyze the relationships between the various political forces and institutions present in any society. **Prerequisite: INRW 0311 or ESOL 0340 or by placement exam or ENGL 1301 with a “C” or better or ENGL 1302 with a “C” or better. (3:0)**

II. Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of this course, the student will be able to:

I. PART 1. FOUNDATIONS

1. Acquire the basic discipline language and central concepts of Political Science, such as the concepts of “politics,” “government,” “institutions,” “state,” “democracy,” “nation,” and “power.”
2. Trace the intellectual evolution of political questions and thoughts from classic to contemporary philosophies and their applications in contemporary political science.
3. Explore the principal research methods and tools of political science research.
4. Explain the concept of “political culture” and “ideology” in the development of the State.

II. PART 2. COMPARATIVE POLITICS

1. Identify the logic and aims of the subfield of comparative politics.
2. Explore the “State” in its formation, its institutions, and its social and political development.
3. Explore the concepts of “nation,” “nation-state,” and “nationalism” and the process of political socialization.
4. Explain the concepts of ethnicity and citizenship.
5. Determine the non-state actors who influence public policy decisions in the modern state (e.g., political parties, interest groups, NGO’s, organized crime, terrorism).
6. Describe how different economic policies impact the State and the international economic system.
7. Explore the concept of “government” and explore authoritarian and other different configurations and functions of modern governments.

III. PART 3. DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT

1. Describe the evolution of democracy, its institutions (e.g., freedoms, electoral systems, capacity, tolerance, etc.), and its variants (e.g. liberal democracy, constitutional democracy, illiberal democracies, social democracies, etc.).
2. Critically explain why democracy is so difficult to establish and maintain (formation, maintenance, demise, and transitions).
3. Explain the concept of representation and explore basic electoral systems.

4. Identify different domestic institutions (executive, legislative, court systems, federalism, borders, bureaucracies,)

IV. PART 4. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND THINKING POLITICALLY

1. Evaluate the different theories of the subfield of International Relations.
2. Evaluate the goals and techniques of foreign policy and international politics since World War II under the light of International Relations theories.
3. Analyze the concepts and role of globalization and international and regional governments in the 21st century.
4. Debate the reasons for the conflict and compromises that occur within and among nations and governments.
5. Critically interpret and analyze contemporary political issues and problems.
6. Demonstrate social responsibility skills through intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and/or the ability to engage effectively in local, regional, national, and/or global communities.

III. THECB Learning Outcomes (ACGM)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

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.

IV. Evaluation

Students may be evaluated using various techniques not limited to but may include testing and examinations, research papers, community projects, extra credit, and other written and electronic assignments. Unless noted otherwise by the Instructor (Syllabus, Part I), the current college catalog policy on Attendance and Course Pursuit will apply to this course and may impact grading.

Grading will follow current EPCC catalog standards. The assignment of letter grades to numerical or percentage scores is to be determined by the Instructor and is noted in Part I of the Syllabus.

Grade Scale:

- A = Excellent
- B = Above Average
- C = Average
- D = Below average
- F = Failing
- I = Incomplete (See current college catalog)
- W = Withdrew or withdrawn (See current college catalog)

V. Disability Statement (Americans with Disabilities Act [ADA])

EPCC offers a variety of services to persons with documented sensory, mental, physical, or temporary disabling conditions to promote success in classes. If you have a disability and believe you may need services, you are encouraged to contact the Center for Students with Disabilities to discuss your needs with a counselor. All discussions and documentation are kept confidential. Offices located: VV Rm C-112 (831-2426); TM Rm 1400 (831-5808); RG Rm B-201 (831-4198); NWC Rm M-54 (831-8815); and MDP Rm A-125 (831-7024).

VI. 6 Drop Rule

Students who began attending Texas public institutions of higher education for the first time during the Fall 2007 semester or later are subject to a 6-Drop limit for all undergraduate classes. Developmental, ESL, Dual Credit and Early College High School classes are exempt from this rule. All students should consult with their instructor before dropping a

class. Academic assistance is available. Students are encouraged to see Counseling Services if dropping because exemptions may apply. Refer to the EPCC catalog and website for additional information.

VII. Title IX and Sex Discrimination

Title 9 (20 U.S.C. 1681 & 34 C.F.R. Part 106) states the following "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) prohibits stalking, date violence, sexual violence, and domestic violence for all students, employees and visitors (male and female). If you have any concerns related to discrimination, harassment, or assault (of any type) you can contact the Assistant to the Vice President for Student and Enrollment Services at 915-831-2655. Employees can call the Manager of Employee Relations at 915-831-6458. Reports of sexual assault/violence may also be reported to EPCC Police at 915-831-2200.