This course is a survey of contemporary political issues confronting the United States and the global community. The focus will be on issues and problems of political significance. The course provides students with the necessary tools to evaluate political issues, analyze opposing viewpoints and develop argumentation skills.

JUSTIFICATION FOR COURSE:

PREREQUISITES:

ADVISORIES:

ENGL G100: Freshman Composition

ASSIGNED DISCIPLINES:

Political science

MATERIAL FEE: Yes [ ] No [X] Amount: $0.00

CREDIT STATUS: Noncredit [ ] Credit - Degree Applicable [X] Credit - Not Degree Applicable [ ]

GRADING POLICY: Pass/No Pass [X] Standard Letter [X] Not Graded [ ] Satisfactory Progress [ ]

OPEN ENTRY/OPEN EXIT: Yes [ ] No [X]

TRANSFER STATUS: CSU Transferable[ ] UC/CSU Transferable[X] Not Transferable[ ]

BASIC SKILLS STATUS: Yes [ ] No [X] LEVELS BELOW TRANSFER: Not Applicable

CALIFORNIA CLASSIFICATION CODES: Y - Not Applicable

NON CREDIT COURSE CATEGORY: Y - Not applicable, Credit Course

OCCUPATIONAL (SAM) CODE: E

REPEATABLE ACCORDING TO STATE GUIDELINES: No [X] Yes [ ] NUMBER REPEATS:

REQUIRED FOR DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE: No [ ] Yes [X]

Associate of Arts: Liberal Arts: Emphasis in Social and Behavioral Sciences(Associate in Arts)
Global Studies(Certificate of Achievement)
International Studies(Certificate of Achievement)
POLITICAL SCIENCE(Associate in Arts for Transfer)
Political Science(Associate in Arts)
Political Science(Associate in Arts for Transfer)
Political Science(Associate in Arts)

GE AND TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS MET:

IGETC Area 4: Social and Behavioral Sciences

4H: Political Science, Government & Legal Institutions
CSU GE Area D: Social, Political, and Economic Institutions
D8 - Political Science, Government, and Legal Institutions

PROGRAM LEVEL LEARNING OUTCOME(S) Supported by this course:

- manage information and prepare and present their work effectively.
- demonstrate knowledge of important findings, theories, and changing issues relevant to political science.
- utilize appropriate investigative methods and appropriate technologies to access relevant research.
- demonstrate critical thinking about political issues and evaluate theories’ and arguments’ major assertions, background assumptions, the evidence used to support assertions, and their explanatory value.
  - Students will demonstrate knowledge of global issues, processes, trends and systems.

COURSE LEVEL STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) Supported by this course:

1. Identify key national and international political issues and problems.
2. Utilize appropriate investigative methods and technologies to access research and examine key political issues.
3. Evaluate important findings, theories and opposing viewpoints concerning political issues.
4. Demonstrate critical thinking through analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of the course content and analyze potential solutions to political problems.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
1. Describe current events and issues in American and/or world politics.
2. Explain the history of current events and issues in American and/or world politics.
3. Apply problem solving skills to analyze, evaluate and summarize opposing viewpoints.
4. Assess the success or failure of American and international policies designed to solve social and political problems.
5. Relate contemporary issues to their lives and communities.

COURSE CONTENT:

LECTURE CONTENT:

I. Introduction to Political Inquiry
   1. Methodology: Critical Thinking, Research Methods and Evaluation
   2. Key terms and concepts
   3. Factors of politics

II. Overview of Political Systems
   1. Modern world systems
   2. Principles of American government and politics

III. Current Political Issues
A. Identification and definition of issues, events and problems

B. Relevant historical information

C. Issues may be included in the following topical categories:
   a. The Political World Order
   b. Politics and Globalization
   c. Nations, States and Sovereignty
   d. Non-Governmental Actors and World Politics
   e. Political Power and World Politics
   f. Democracy and the Process of Democratization
   g. The World Political Economy
   h. Armaments, War and Conflict
   i. International Law and Organizations
   j. Political Tolerance

IV. Opposing Viewpoints
   A. Ideological foundations
   B. Findings and sources of conflict
   C. Analysis of arguments

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:
   A. Lecture:
   B. Online:
   C. Hybrid:

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNIQUES:

Lectures utilizing new technology

Interactive Discussions

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

Reading Assignments

Complete reading assignments in the assigned required text(s).

Complete required online reading assignments from a variety of scholarly websites and journals.

Out-of-class Assignments

Primary research including attendance at scholarly lectures; participation in discussions, presentations, debates; and secondary research utilizing scholarly journals, books, articles and online resources/databases.

Writing Assignments

1. college-level written essays or other projects (i.e. interactive assignments) in which students will summarize and analyze opposing viewpoints, their assumptions and arguments, ideological foundations, and strengths and weaknesses relevant to various political issues.

2. college-level written term papers in which students will utilize course content, appropriate investigative methods and technologies to examine key political issues and analyze potential solutions to political problems.

3. written or oral presentation, discussion and/or debate of their findings and their own interpretation of factual information.
METHODS OF STUDENT EVALUATION:
Midterm Exam
Final Exam
Written Assignments
Essay Examinations
Objective Examinations
Report
Projects (ind/group)
Oral Presentations

Demonstration of Critical Thinking:
Students will demonstrate critical thinking, reading and writing skills through analysis, synthesis and
evaluation of course content.

Required Writing, Problem Solving, Skills Demonstration:
Writing, problem solving and skills demonstration shall include

1. written essays or other projects (i.e. interactive assignments) in which students will summarize and
   analyze opposing viewpoints, their assumptions and arguments, ideological foundations, and strengths
   and weaknesses relevant to various political issues.

2. written term papers in which students will utilize course content, appropriate investigative methods an
technologies to examine key political issues and analyze potential solutions to political problems.

3. written or oral presentation, discussion and/or debate of their findings and their own interpretation of
   factual information.

TEXTS, READINGS, AND RESOURCES:
TextBooks:
2. George McKenna, Stanley Feingold. *Taking Sides-Clashing View on Controversial Political Issues*,

LIBRARY:
Adequate library resources include: Online Materials
Services
Comments:

Attachments:
Attached Files