

Montgomery County Community College  
POL 101  
An Introduction to Political Science  
3-3-0

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

An introduction to the field of political science and its various divisions. A study of political systems, institutions, processes, and behavior. The purpose of the course is to sensitize the student to the promise and limits of political analysis and to prepare him to pursue more advanced courses.

**REQUISITES:**

*Previous Course Requirements*

None

*Concurrent Course Requirements*

None

LEARNING OUTCOMES Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
1. Demonstrate reading and writing skills within the conceptual framework of political science.	Lecture/Discussion AV/LRC Materials Reports/Essays Guest Speakers Government Models Assignment Part I Government Models Assignment Part II	Government Models Assignment Part I Government Models Assignment Part II Exams Class Discussion
2. Demonstrate oral communication skills within the conceptual framework of political science.	Lecture/Discussion MCCC Legislator in Residence Program (Guest Lecturers – Members of the PA State Delegation)	Classroom Discussion – Index Card Requirement
3. Identify, analyze and question the principle conceptual issues in political science.	Lecture/Discussion Exams MCCC Legislator in Residence Program (Guest Lecturers – Members of the PA State Delegation)	Government Models Assignment Part I Government Models Assignment Part II Exams Class Discussion

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
4. Describe the various components of political science and express an appreciation of their global and multicultural nature.	Lecture/Discussion Exams MCCC Legislator in Residence Program (Guest Lecturers – Members of the PA State Delegation)	Government Models Assignment Part I Government Models Assignment Part II Exams Class Discussion
5. Examine the ethical issues contained in political science.	Lecture/Discussion Exams MCCC Legislator in Residence Program (Guest Lecturers – Members of the PA State Delegation)	Government Models Assignment Part I Government Models Assignment Part II Exams Class Discussion
6. Examine the nature and importance of the aesthetic within political science.	Lecture/Discussion Exams MCCC Legislator in Residence Program (Guest Lecturers – Members of the PA State Delegation)	Government Models Assignment Part I Government Models Assignment Part II Exams Class Discussion
7. Utilize the major technological tools used in political science.	Lecture/Discussion Exams MCCC Legislator in Residence Program (Guest Lecturers – Members of the PA State Delegation)	Government Models Assignment Part I Government Models Assignment Part II Exams Class Discussion

At the conclusion of each semester/session, assessment of the learning outcomes will be completed by course faculty using the listed evaluation method(s). Aggregated results will be submitted to the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. The benchmark for each learning outcome is that *70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria.*

#### SEQUENCE OF TOPICS:

##### Part I: Rules of the Game

1. Games Politicians Play
2. Politics and Choice
3. Political Science: Components, Tasks, and Controversies
4. The Physical, Social and Cultural Environment of Politics

##### Part II: Political Philosophy and Ideology

5. The Quest for the Good Political Life
6. Liberal Democracy
7. Democratic Socialism and Communism: Ideologies to the Left

##### Part III: American, Comparative and World Politics

8. Key Dilemmas: Political Form, Culture and Values
9. American Politics and Government

- 10. Comparative Politics
- 11. International Politics and the Global Community

Part IV: Political Judgment and Policy

- 12. War and Peace in the Modern Age
- 13. The Battle of Behalf of Human Rights
- 14. The Struggled for Economic Well-Being
- 15. The Imperative of Ecological Health

LEARNING MATERIALS:

Text(s) will be selected, as needed, by the Political Science Faculty.

Present selected text:

Riemer, Neal, Douglas W. Simon and Joseph Romance. *The Challenge of Politics* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Sage/CQ Press.

Other learning materials may be required and made available directly to the student and/or via the College's Libraries and/or course management system.

COURSE APPROVAL:

Prepared by: Carol-Rae Sodano, D. Creciun	Date: 7/1995
Reviewed by: Professor Rhoda McFadden	Date: 9/1998
Revised by: Thomas Kolsky and Jodi Empol-Schwartz	Date: 3/2009
VPAA/Provost Compliance Verification: Dr. John C. Flynn, Jr.	Date: 9/11/2009
Revised by: Thomas Kolsky	Date: 7/6/2012
Revised by: Thomas Kolsky	Date: 4/2013
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D.	Date: 4/18/2013
Revised by: Jodi Empol-Schwartz	Date: 1/10/2018
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification:	Date: 1/30/2018



*This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College's mission. It was developed, approved and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.*