I. INTRODUCTION

A. This course is an introductory survey of the discipline of political science, focusing on the scope and methods of the field, and the substantive topics in the discipline including the theoretical foundations of politics, political interaction, political institutions and how political systems function.

B. Through this course, students will prepare for contemporary challenges by developing and demonstrating the following core objectives: critical thinking skills, communication skills, social responsibility, and empirical and quantitative skills.

   • Critical Thinking Skills: to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
   • Communication Skills: to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
   • Empirical and Quantitative Skills: to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
   • Social Responsibility: to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

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.
III. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The instructional materials identified for this course are viewable through www.ctcd.edu/books

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Reading Assignment: your instructor will discuss the role of reading assignments for the course.

B. Projects, Oral Reports, Case Studies, Book Reports, Research Papers: Your instructor will assign one of these items for you to complete as a part of the requirements for this course. He/she will provide specific instructions regarding content, format, timelines, etc.

C. Class Performance: Your instructor will summarize and discuss CTC’s academic policies. You may refer to the CTC catalog for details. Your instructor will provide his/her policies on absences, make up work, etc.

D. Class Participation: Your instructor will explain how class participation affects your course grade, if applicable.

V. EXAMINATIONS

Your instructor will determine how many exams will be given during the course, their content, and when they will be administered. Make-up exams will be handled according to the policy of the individual instructor.

VI. SEMESTER GRADE COMPUTATIONS

A. It is the student’s responsibility to complete the course requirements as defined within this syllabus.

B. Your instructor will explain how to compute your semester grade based upon:

   1. Examinations
   2. Written work
   3. Other measurable requirements (if any)

C. Grades are computed as follows:
   Point/percentage-to-Grade Ratio
   > 89 - 100 A
   > 79 - 89 B
   > 69 - 79 C
   > 59 - 69 D
   < 59 F
VII. NOTES AND ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE INSTRUCTOR

A. Withdrawal from Course: It is the student's responsibility to officially drop a class if circumstances prevent attendance. Any student who desires to, or must, officially withdraw from a course after the first scheduled class meeting must file an Application for Withdrawal or an Application for Refund. Please refer to the current CTC catalog for specific withdrawal requirements and processes.

B. Administrative Withdrawal: An administrative withdrawal may be initiated when the student fails to meet College attendance requirements. The instructor will assign the appropriate grade on the Administrative Withdrawal Form for submission to the registrar.

C. Incomplete Grade: An “IP” grade may be assigned by an instructor if a student has made satisfactory progress in a course but encounters extenuating circumstances beyond his/her control. The instructor makes the final decision concerning the granting of the incomplete grade.

D. Disability Support Services provide services to students who have appropriate documentation of a disability. Students requiring accommodations for class are responsible for contacting the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) located on the central campus. This service is available to all students, regardless of location. Explore the website at www.ctcd.edu/disability-support for further information. Reasonable accommodations will be given in accordance with the federal and state laws through the DSS office.

E. Instructor Discretion: The instructor reserves the right of final decision in course requirements.

F. Civility: Individuals are expected to be cognizant of what a constructive educational experience is and respectful of those participating in a learning environment. Failure to do so can result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

VIII. COURSE OUTLINE

A. Unit One:

1. Unit Objectives: Upon successful completion of this unit, the student will be able to:

   a. Describe the basic concepts of the study of politics and explain both how and why politics is studied.

   b. Identify and describe constitutional democracy, and the various
models of representation.

c. Identify and describe specific historical utopian state concepts.

d. Identify and describe several historical models of representative democracy.

e. Describe authoritarian and totalitarian models of politics

2. Learning Activities:

Readings: Chapters 1–6 (as assigned by instructor)

3. Unit Outline: Follows the sequence of the unit objectives (see textbook and instructor's specific course outline).

B. Unit Two:

1. Unit Objectives: Upon successful completion of this unit, the student will be able to:

   a. Describe the concept of Parliamentary Democracy and identify several national examples.

   b. Identify and describe several specific states undergoing political and economic transitions.

   c. Identify and describe specific examples of dysfunctional states.

2. Learning Activities:

Readings: Chapters 7–9 (as assigned by instructor)

3. Unit Outline: Follows the sequence of the unit objectives (see textbook and instructor's specific course outline).

C. Unit Three:

1. Unit Objectives: Upon successful completion of this unit, the student will be able to:

   a. Explain the concept and process of political socialization.

   b. Describe the various aspects of political participation and the specific avenues of participation and identify various forms of political leadership.
c. Identify various issues and practices involved with public policy.

2. **Learning Activities:**

   Readings: Chapters 10-13 (as assigned by instructor)

3. **Unit Outline:** Follows the sequence of the unit objectives (see textbook and instructor's specific course outline)

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D. **Unit Four:** Functions and Workings of Government

1. **Unit Objectives:** Upon successful completion of this unit, the student will be able to:

   a. Describe the nature of revolution in both theory and practice.

   b. Describe the nature of terrorism - its origins, tactics and psychology.

   c. Describe the nature of war - identify both the different types of war and the different purposes of war.

   d. Explain the complex nature of international relations. Identify some competing paradigms of international relations. Explain the process of globalization and the role of international organizations.

2. **Learning Activities:**

   Reading assignment: Chapters 14-18 (as assigned by instructor)

3. **Unit Outline:** Follows the sequence of the unit objectives (see textbook and instructor's specific course outline).