Department:

Political Science

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the field of political science. The course will examine the nature of politics and political power, the institutions of government, and how governments operate to make decisions, enforce rules, and resolve conflicts. The course will also cover the nature of public opinion and political participation, major political ideologies and philosophers, and international politics. The course will focus on American politics but will also provide some comparison with other nations.

Course Competencies:

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Identify the major research methods, approaches, and theories of political science.
2. Summarize major generalizations, discoveries, principles, and concepts of political science.
3. Describe the concepts of citizenship and political leadership in terms of communities, societies, and the global community.
4. Discuss various topics related to political science.
5. Analyze and compare political systems, practices, and procedures.
6. Describe how ethnic and cultural diversity affects the political process in societies, including voting and political party affiliations, educational and socioeconomic status, and changes in societal groups.

Course Content:

A. The Idea of Politics
B. Modern Ideologies and Political Philosophy
C. The Modern State
D. Policies of the State
E. Economic Policy of the State
F. Questions of Justice and Effectiveness
G. Democracies and Authoritarian Systems
H. Political Culture and Political Socialization
I. Constitutions and the Design of Government
J. Elections
K. Political Parties
L. Structured Conflict: Interest Groups and Politics
M. Social Movements and Contentious Politics
N. Decision-Making Institutions
O. Bureaucracy and the Public Sector
P. Law and the Courts
Q. Global Politics

Learning Assessments:

Course competencies will be assessed by use of regular written exams, class assignments, and book reviews.

Instructional Materials:

ISBN: 9780073526362

Guidelines for Requesting Accommodations Based on Documented Disability or Medical Condition

It is the intention of Highland Community College to work toward full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to make instructional programs accessible to all people, and to provide reasonable accommodations according to the law.

Students should understand that it is their responsibility to self-identify their need(s) for accommodation and that they must provide current, comprehensive diagnosis of a specific disability or medical condition from a qualified professional in order to receive services. Documentation must include specific recommendations for accommodation(s). Documentation should be provided in a timely manner prior to or early in the semester so that the requested accommodation can be considered and, if warranted, arranged.

In order to begin the process all students must complete the “Disabilities Self-Identification Form” at this link: https://highlandcc.edu/pages/disability-services.

This form can also be accessed at the Highland Community College homepage under Students Services/Student Resources/Disability Service or by contacting the Disabilities Coordinator.