CCBC, Fall 2012 School of Wellness and Education and Social Sciences

Introduction to Political Science Department of Political Science

POLS 111 Section WE1 CRN 95370

Course Description:

The student examines the concepts and methodology of Political Science as well as the various fields of the discipline including American politics, comparative politics, international politics and political philosophy and the origins of our political values. Students analyze political ideas, theories, ideologies, systems and policies in order to focus on and investigate political problems on a national and global level as well as define central concepts related to the study of political science.

Co-requisites: RNDG 052 and ENGL 052

**I. Basic Course Information**

Assistant Professor: John Dedie

Office: Room L-216

Office Phone Number : 443-840-2408 CCBC Main Phone number 443-840-2222

E-MAIL: jdedie@ccbcmd.edu (In subject line put name of course.)

Office Hours: MWF 11:15-1:00 T 2:30-5:30 and by appointment

Since there will be no face-to-face class meetings, it is imperative that you are conscientious, motivated and self-disciplined. This is a three-billable hour class and is very flexible in terms of when you put in the time, you can expect to spend at least nine hours of work per week reading, course preparation, homework, studying, etc.

Course Text: Political Science, An Introduction (PS) Author: Michael Roskin.

Remember to purchase the book with the correct code so you can complete the MYPOLSCIKIT assignments.

All course content is delivered at a distance via the Internet using the College’s learning management system (LMS). Consistent and reliable access to a computer with Internet connection is required. Computers are available for student use in the libraries on each campus. **On-site attendance is required for 2 Exams at the CCBC Testing Center at Essex**.

Please visit the Technical Requirements for CCBC online courses webpage for additional guidelines and technical requirements at <http://ccbcmd.edu/distance/technical.html>. You will also find information regarding computer Hardware, Operating Systems and Browser requirements, as well as Browser Configuration, Pop-up Blocker information, Plug-ins and Anti-virus software.

**II. Course Goals Overall**

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

1. explain the meaning of “state”, “nation”, "politics" and "power";
2. define the basic terminologies and central concepts of Political Science;
3. trace the evolution of political thoughts from several classic philosophers to contemporary political science ideologies and philosophies;
4. explain the role of political culture and political socialization in the development of the State;
5. explore the research methods and tools of political science research;
6. evaluate the significance and influence/impact of non-governmental dimensions of political systems such as public opinion, interest groups, political parties and the media;
7. analyze the basic elements of the political systems of the modern constitutional democracies, modern post communist states, authoritarian states and developing nations;
8. explain why democracy is so difficult to establish and maintain;
9. identify the various forms and functions of modern governments including representative assemblies, executives and administrative bureaucracies.
10. explain the role of a Constitution in a government;
11. determine the actors who influence public policy decision which face the modern state;
12. describe how economic policy and the political economy impact the State and the international economic system;
13. evaluate the goals and techniques of foreign policy and international politics since World War II;
14. analyze the role of globalization, terrorism, international and regional governments in the 21st Century; and
15. debate the reasons for the conflict and compromises that occur within and among nations and governments.

**Major Topics:**

1. The study of Political Science; origins and development
2. Political Philosophy
3. Comparative Government
4. International Politics
5. Democracy
6. People, Politics and Political Behavior
7. Political culture and socialization
8. Public opinion and role of citizens
9. Media and politics
10. Interest Groups
11. Political Parties and elections
12. Framework of Government
13. Executive government: Prime Ministers, President and Dictators
14. Legislative government: Parliaments, Congress’s
15. Judicial systems and justice
16. Affects of political economy and globalization on government

Course Rationale: In today's world, it is critical that the students have a solid comprehension of government and politics. The objective of this course is to familiarize students with a framework of the various fields and topic areas in Political Science including American politics, comparative politics, international politics and political philosophy. Students examine the origins of our political values, analyze political ideas, theories, ideologies, systems and policy, and then investigate political problems on a national and global level. This course is designed to promote citizenship and engagement in political issues and events. The uninformed citizen is the easiest one for political leaders and government to take advantage of.

For this course, you are required to have a library account in order to complete assignments and projects. In order to access the library at a distance, renew materials, access data bases and more, you will need to create a MyLibrary account. Please remember the library password is not your CCBC E-mail, Simon, or Bb 9.1 password. It is a password that you create for yourself.

If you do not have a library account, please go to <https://myccbc.ccbcmd.edu> to use the CCBC Student Portal.

1. **Evaluations**

Discussion Questions- Online discussion (participation) is an essential activity based on the underlying principle that students learn from one another. You are required to participate in the discussions by posting your response to the question and responding to at least two of your classmates’ posting. **I strongly recommend you make your initial post on or before the third day** (**Wednesday) of the week and return to the discussion board no later than the fifth day (Friday) to respond to at least two of your classmates posting**.

Written Assignments-A written assignment will be submitted to the instructor for evaluation. Written assignments are due the week they are assigned. You can access written assignments using the Assignments Tool located under Course Menu. Please see course schedule for due dates.

Projects, Quiz and Final Exam - Please see the schedule of assignments and activities for due dates.

Module 1- The Bases of Politics: Group Project Part 1, 3 Quizzes

Module 2- Political Attitudes: Group Project Part 2

Module 3 – Political Interactions: Group Project Part 3

Module 4 – Political Institutions

Module 5- What Political Systems Do: Final Exam

3 Quizzes and Final Exam- You are required to take 3 quizzes and a final exam. The first quiz is The Scavenger Hunt at week 1. The second quiz is a Greek learning styles quiz at week 2. The third quiz covering material in weeks 2 & 3 to be done at the CCBC Essex test center. The last week is the Final Exam. Exam and quiz material will be taken from the textbook and learning resources. You will have 60 minutes to complete the quiz at week 3 and 120 minutes to complete the final exam. Make sure you set aside enough time to complete the exam and quiz. The quiz and final exam will be done at the test center at ESSEX in the Classroom and Academic Support Center **Building A Room 214/215 Phone number#** 443-840-1901. You must call to make an appointment.

Group Project, Create a Country-For this assignment you will work in groups of at least three but no more than four in which the group will create a foundation, political activism and structure of government for a country. This assignment is to be done in three (3) parts. All of you are required to participate in the group project and collaborate with the other members of the group using the Group Tool in Blackboard.

Each one of you will have the opportunity to evaluate your group member’s participation and performance by completing and submitting peer review form while you are working on the project. You will submit the peer review form at the end of the project. You can find the peer review form in Assignments.

You will receive 20 points for completing all the class assignments.

Evaluation and Grading Scale

Grades will be determined by the total of points earned on all assignments. Grades will be posted online in the grade book and will be updated frequently throughout the semester. Specific evaluation criteria for each type of assignment are located in the Course Documents folder. Grading for weekly assignments and discussion board postings and responses will be completed within 1 week of the assignment due dates.

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| --- | --- |
| Discussion Postings and Responses | 15 points x 16 = 240 |
| Essay Written AssignmentsMYPOLSCIKIT Assignments | 15 points x 7 = 10515 points x 10 =150 |
| Extra Credit Week 2 | 10 Points  |
| AssessmentsScavenger Hunt QuizGreek QuizQuiz at CCBC week 3Final Exam | 25 points20 points40 points100 points |
| Create a Country Group ProjectCreate a FoundationCreate Political ActivismCreate a System of Government | 30 points30 points40 points |
| Complete All Assignments | 20 points |
| Total | 810 Points |

\* A rubric for written assignments and discussion questions is available in the “Course Documents” folder. Each written assignment will be scored according to the rubric, which details specific criteria for evaluation. Please read the rubrics before completing and submitting assignments.

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| Grade | Percent | Points |
| A | 90-100 | 720-810 |
| B | 80-89 | 640-719 |
| C | 70-79 | 560-639 |
| D | 60-69 | 480-559 |
| F | Below 60 | Below 479 |

Attendance and Participation Policy

Regular and active participation in the discussion board is an important, unmistakably essential aspect of this online course. Your full participation in the discussion board is a requirement; it is a critical of the piece of the online learning process. You are expected to log on a minimum of three times a week to read and complete assignments as well as post and respond to the discussion board. **Please note**: if the college closes when a major assignment is due or if heavy snow or precipitation causes wide-spread power outages an extension equal to the time of disruption (on the CCBC campus) may be given. If your power or web connection is slow to be restored, you may need to come to campus or another location (Library, etc.) to submit your work.

College writing policy: The College recognizes that clear, correct, and concise use of language is characteristic of an educated person. Therefore, whenever possible, students in all disciplines will be required to do written assignments. Also, Instructors will consider the quality of writing in determining a grade for some or all written assignments as indicated in their course syllabus.

Written assignments within a given week are cumulative and reinforcing. Therefore, all course assignments are to be completed and submitted. *Written assignments will be returned no later than one week after the assignment due date.*

Methods for Delivering Assignments

All discussion postings and responses are to be submitted in each module’s discussion area. Please do not email postings to me or other students. All assignments are to be submitted using the Assignment Tool. For instructions on how to complete this task, see Bb Student Help under the Course Menu. Do not email assignments to me. Be sure all documents are saved to an external source (flash drive/CD or on your computer’s hard drive) before you submit them as a **doc or rtf file**. ALL assignments must be typed, double spaced with one inch margins and submitted as an attachment using the Assignment Tool.

Failure to do so may result in a loss of points for assignments not submitted as a typed attachment in the Assignment Tool. All Assignments must be submitted on or before 11:59 PM EST the day they are due.

Feedback Schedule

I will provide regular feedback to you throughout the semester. If you believe you are not receiving enough feedback, please feel free to contact me and ask for more. I will respond to your message or phone message within 48 hours (provided it is not the weekend or holiday). If you leave me a phone message remember to speak clearly and leave your name and a number where I can reach you. Please note I will log on to the discussion board 4-6 days a week to read, evaluate and respond to discussions. However, I will not respond to every posting/response.

If you have a question you believe the entire class would benefit from, please post the question in the “Ask the Instructor Discussion Board. If you have a personal or private matter to discuss please do not post it in the “Ask the Instructor” Discussion Board. Please send me a private message. If you wish to speak to me by phone, please send a message within the Bb course to arrange a phone appointment.

Late Assignment Policy

Timeliness and good time management are essential skills for success in the workplace, school and life in general. If you should encounter an unanticipated and uncontrollable life event that may prevent you from completing an assignment by the scheduled due date, contact me immediately to request an extension. Any request for repeated or longer extensions will be given at my discretion. Persistent late submission of work will adversely affect your grade.

Examples of unexpected and uncontrollable life events are a health crisis/emergency for you or an immediate family member in which you are the primary caregiver, extended and extraordinarily severe weather events that disrupt communications, Bb outages, or being called to military duty. Poor time management, other work commitments, vacations, not reading or following the syllabus or failure to obtain the appropriate books are not events that warrant special consideration.

Late work is strongly discouraged. Points will be deducted for written assignments that are submitted past the due dates. Deadlines will be imposed whereby written assignments will no longer be accepted for credit. It is your responsibility to prepare assigned materials on time and to discuss problems with deadlines with me.  *However, if you should encounter a problem submitting assignments through Bb you must contact the CCBC Help Desk to resolve the issue.  If the assignment is late and you want me to consider the assignment for a grade I will require the work order # from your helpdesk correspondence.*

Resubmitting Assignments

Resubmission of revised work may be requested by me or you for significant instructional purposes only, i.e. including previously omitted work or revising substandard writing. I will determine the due date for submitting revised work. The final grade will be the average of the original grade and the grade awarded to the resubmitted work.

Dropping, Withdrawing and Auditing

If you find yourself in a situation where you are considering leaving the course, please talk to me about all your options FIRST. If you wish to audit this course you are required to confer with me to ensure you understand the audit requirements for this course. You are required to participate in course activities and complete assignments. You are not required to take exams. If you do not meet these requirements you will have your grade changed from an AU to a W. **You can switch to audit only during the first 3 weeks. The last day to change to audit status is Friday September 14, 2012.** The last day to drop the course with a grade of “W” is Friday November 2 at 4PM. If you stop participating in class and do not officially withdraw from the course you will receive an “F” on your transcript. If you decide to leave the course, regardless of the reason, please remember to fill out all the official paperwork. If you cease to attend but remain on my class role, I will have to give you a failing grade. For legal reasons, I CAN NOT drop you. You MUST do this yourself.

**IV. Course Procedures**

For college wide syllabus policies such as the Code of Conduct related to Academic Integrity and Classroom Behavior or the Audit/Withdraw policy please go to the Syllabus Tab on the [MyCCBC](https://myccbc.ccbcmd.edu/_layouts/login3.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f_layouts%2fAuthenticate.aspx%3fSource%3d%252f&Source=%2f) page. You need to log in to myCCBC to access the MySyllabiPolicies information.



C. Students should first attempt to take any classroom concerns to the faculty member. If students are unable to resolve course-related concerns with the instructor they should contact Mr. Thomas Robertson, Social Science Department Chairperson, CCBC Essex.

D. Course calendar/schedule

The course schedule can be found in the “Getting Started” folder.

This syllabus may be changed with notification to the class.

Course Schedule

A complete course schedule of assignments and due dates can be found in the “Getting Started” folder. I suggest you print the schedule of assignments and activities.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism on papers, copying from other students, buying papers, or any other form of dishonesty is ABSOLUTELY UNACCEPTABLE under any circumstance. I reserve the right to have any and all papers/posts/projects examined by the SafeAssign plagiarism web site. Please see the student handbook for the policies on Academic Honesty. To discourage cheating, penalties for academic dishonesty are straightforward – at the very least you can expect to lose all the points available on a specific assignment. If the plagiarism is substantial or occurs on more than one occasion, you can fail the entire course. Plagiarism, therefore, can cause you to lose eligibility for sports, scholarships, or transfers to a 4-year school. DON’T DO IT!

Civility and Netiquette

The CCBC Code of Conduct is in effect at all times when you are in our virtual classroom or on campus. If you are unfamiliar with the Code of Conduct or proper Netiquette guidelines, please see the Helpful Links for CCBC students on the “Getting Started” folder for guidelines on online proper behavior.

Services for students with Disabilities

CCBC is committed to providing equal access to educational opportunities for all students by arranging support services and reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. A student with a disability may contact the appropriate campus office for an appointment to discuss reasonable accommodations. An appointment must be scheduled within a time period which allows staff adequate time to respond to the special needs of the student. The student must provide the appropriate office with proper documentation supporting the need for reasonable accommodations.

For more information, contact:

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| CCBC Catonsville | CCBC Dundalk | CCBC Essex |
| 443-840-5246 | 443-840-3774 | 443-840-1741 |
| 443-840-4553 (TTY) | 443-840-3529 (TTY) | 443-840-1601 (TTY) |

Fall academic calendar: <http://www.ccbcmd.edu/registration/fall_collegecal.html>

DO NOT PARK ILLEGALY ON CAMPUS. RESPECT PUBLIC SAFETY & ALL MEMBERS OF THE COLLEGE COMMUNITY. PUBLIC SAFETY HAS POLICE POWERS & SHOULD BE TREATED WITH THE RESPECT THEY DESERVE.