

# SYLLABUS

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**Code:** POLI 101

**Title:** Introduction to Political Science

**Institute:** Business and Social Science

**Department:** Political Science

**Course Description:** This course will introduce you to the discipline of political science. During the semester you will become familiar with a number of the concepts and theories central to the study. We will cover such topics as political ideologies, political culture and socialization, individuals and interest groups, electoral systems and voting, legislative, executive, and judicial politics.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Corequisites:** None

**Prerequisites or Corequisites:** None

**Credits:** 3

**Lecture Hours:** 3

**Lab/Studio Hours:** 0

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**Required Textbook/Materials:**

Instructor will inform students on Day 1 of class.

**Additional Time Requirements:**

For information on Brookdale's policy on credit hour requirements and outside class student work refer to [Academic Credit Hour Policy](#).

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

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

- Describe and explain basic political science concepts
- Describe and explain political ideologies including conservatism, liberalism, socialism, communism, and fascism
- Describe and explain concepts relating to political culture
- Summarize the ways in which individuals and groups participate in the political process
- Summarize basic political institutions and their functions (e.g. legislative, executive and judicial).

**Grading Standard:**

0-64=F 65-69=D 70-76=C 77-79=C+ 80-82=B- 83-86=B 87-89=B+ 90-92=A- 93-100=A

Please see individual instructor addendums for additional grading standards and/or policies.

**Course Content:**

**TOPICS – UNIT 1:** Political Concepts and Ideologies

- Democracy
- Oligarchy

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- Monarchy
- Autocracy
- Republicanism
- Government
- Politics
- Popular Sovereignty
- Pluralism
- Elitism
- Liberalism
- Conservatism
- Socialism
- Communism
- Fascism

## **Topics – Unit 2:** Nations, States, Constitutions

- Nation
- Nation-State
- Nationalism
- Statehood
- Sovereignty
- Sovereign State
- Diplomatic Recognition
- Political Recognition
- Constitutional Government
- Checks and Balances
- Branches of Government
- Civil Liberties
- Civil Rights

## **Topics – Unit 3:** Political Culture, Democracy, Parliamentary, Monarchy, Autocracy, Oligarchy, Dictatorship

- Culture
- Political Culture
- Civil Society
- Political Symbols
- Almond and Verba
- Cultural Relativism
- Theory of Democratic Government
- Theory of Parliamentary Government
- Theory of Monarchical Government
- Theory of Autocratic Government
- Theory of Oligarchic Government
- Theory of Dictatorial Government

## **Topics – Unit 4:** Political Parties, Elections, Interest Groups

- Single Party system
- Two Party system
- Multi-party system
- Party platforms
- Candidate recruitment
- Campaigns

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- Plurality elections
- Majority elections
- Run-off elections
- Proportional elections
- Single member districts
- Multimember districts
- Factions
- Special interest groups
- Public interest groups
- Going public
- Lobbying

## **Topics – Unit 5:** Institutions of Government: Legislature, Executive, Judicial, Bureaucracy

- Unicameral legislature
- Bicameral legislature
- Parliamentary government legislation
- Presidential government legislation
- Lawmaking process
- Chief Executive
- Head of State
- Head of Government
- Appointment process
- Veto power
- No confidence vote
- Justice
- Dispute Settlement
- Plaintiff v. Defendant
- Trial Court
- Appellate Court
- Supreme Court
- Bureaucratic Theory
- Civil Servants
- Specialization of Tasks
- Implementation
- Regulations and Standards
- Enforcement power

## **Department Policies:**

- Attendance is mandatory and being on time is imperative.
- Lateness and/or early departure are not acceptable behaviors and will be penalized.
- Cheating and/or plagiarism are unacceptable and will be dealt with accordingly, including severe penalties and disciplinary action.
- Electric devices are not permitted during class.
- Students are expected to be *attentive* and *courteous* to everyone in the class. Rudeness and other disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Rude behavior includes inappropriate talking, sleeping, reading unrelated material, texting, etc. If a student is engaging in rude conduct, they will be dismissed from class and further penalties will follow.
- Reading the textbook is required. Supplemental readings may be required.
- Paying close attention to relevant current events is necessary.
- Students are supposed to be fully engaged in all aspects of the course.

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## **College Policies:**

As an academic institution, Brookdale facilitates the free exchange of ideas, upholds the virtues of civil discourse, and honors diverse perspectives informed by credible sources. Our College values all students and strives for inclusion and safety regardless of a student's disability, age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, country of origin, immigration status, religious affiliation, political orientation, socioeconomic standing, and veteran status. For additional information, support services, and engagement opportunities, please visit [www.brookdalecc.edu/support](http://www.brookdalecc.edu/support).

For information regarding:

- ◆ Brookdale's Academic Integrity Code
- ◆ Student Conduct Code
- ◆ Student Grade Appeal Process

Please refer to the [BCC STUDENT HANDBOOK AND BCC CATALOG](#).

## **NOTIFICATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

Brookdale Community College offers reasonable accommodations and/or services to persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who wish to self-identify must contact the Disabilities Services Office at 732-224-2730 (voice) or 732-842-4211 (TTY) to provide appropriate documentation of the disability, and request specific accommodations or services. If a student qualifies, reasonable accommodations and/or services, which are appropriate for the college level and are recommended in the documentation, can be approved.

## **ADDITIONAL SUPPORT/LABS:**

See the Tutoring Center for information <https://www.brookdalecc.edu/academic-tutoring/tutoring-center/>.

## **MENTAL HEALTH:**

- Mental Health Crisis Support: From a campus phone, dial 5555 or 732-224-2329 from an external line; off-hours calls will be forwarded to BCC police (2222 from a campus phone)
- Psychological Counseling Services: 732-224-2986 (to schedule an appointment during regular hours)

*The syllabus is intended to give student guidance in what may be covered during the semester and will be followed as closely as possible. However, the faculty member reserves the right to modify, supplement, and make changes as the need arises.*