

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:

The learning outcomes and competencies detailed in this syllabus meet or exceed the learning outcomes and competencies specified by the Kansas Core Outcomes Groups for this course as approved by the Kansas Board of Regents. (Kansas Regents Shared Number Course and Title: **KRSN Course POL 1010 Introduction to Political Science**)

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

1. Define the meaning of politics.
2. Explain the importance of politics in shaping society.
3. Discuss the nature and purpose of political science as a discipline.
4. Describe the major concepts within the subfields of political science.
5. Identify connections between political science and other fields of study.
6. Summarize career opportunities within the field of political science.

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 regular written examinations and book reviews. A research paper may also be assigned, and other assessment material may be used as the instructor deems appropriate.

Instructional Materials:

Textbook: Shively, P. (2012). *Power & Choice: An Introduction to Political Science* (13th ed.) New York, NY: McGraw-Hill. ISBN-13: 978-0073526362

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” on our [Disability Services website](#).

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.

A Note on Harassment, Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct

Highland Community College seeks to assure all community members learn and work in a welcoming and inclusive environment. Title VII, Title IX, and College policy prohibit harassment, discrimination and sexual misconduct. Highland Community College encourages anyone experiencing harassment, discrimination or sexual misconduct to talk to report to the Vice President for Student Services, the Human Resources Director or complete an [online report](#) about what happened so that they can get the support they need and Highland Community College can respond appropriately.

There are both confidential and non-confidential resources and reporting options available to you. Highland Community College is legally obligated to respond to reports of sexual misconduct, and therefore we cannot guarantee the confidentiality of a report, unless made to a confidential resource. Responses may vary from support services to formal investigations. As a faculty member, I am required to report incidents of sexual misconduct and thus cannot guarantee confidentiality. I must provide our Title IX coordinator with relevant details such as the names of those involved in the incident. For more information about policies and resources or reporting options, please review our [Equity Grievance Policy](#).