

Master Syllabus PLS 200: Political Life

1. Course Information

College: Liberal Arts
Department: Political Science
Course Title: Political Life
Course Number: PLS 200
GE Area: Area III: Human Behavior - Political Science

Writing Intensive: ___Yes X No

Methods of Instruction: X Lecture
 X Web-enhanced

Includes Lab ___Yes X No

Prerequisites: None

2. Objectives

GE Program Objectives:

- a. To develop skills and knowledge that will form the basis for lifelong learning.
- b. To increase knowledge and understanding of the past, of the world in which we live, and of how both past and present have an impact on the future.

GE Area Objectives:

- a. To use multiple approaches/perspectives to analyze complex individual and institutional behavior culturally, subculturally, and cross-culturally.
- b. To recognize appropriate ethical uses of social scientific knowledge.

Course Objectives and GE learning Outcomes:

PLS 200 is a course about political ideas and issues. The course provides students with an introduction to systems of political thought. These foundation concepts are applied to an analysis of contemporary political issues.

Area Three learning outcomes addressed:

- a. Use of multiple approaches and perspectives:
 1. Comparison of diverse systems of political thought
 2. Analysis of specific issues in national politics
 3. Analysis of issues in international affairs
 4. Analysis of regional issues in world politics
 5. Discussion of impact of cultural differences on world politics

- b. Recognize appropriate ethical uses of social scientific knowledge
 1. Analysis of the philosophical and ethical basis of diverse systems of political thought
 2. Discussion of ethical considerations raised by specific political issues

3. Suggested Course Materials

Texts: Robert G. Thobaben, Donna M. Schlagheck and Charles Funderburk, **Issues in American Political Life: Money, Violence, and Biology**. (Fourth Edition), Prentice Hall.

Charles Funderburk and Robert G. Thobaben, **Political Ideologies: Left Center Right**. (Fourth Edition), Pearson Publishing.

4. Suggested Methods of Evaluation

Three exams using short answer, identification and multiple choice format.

5. Grading Policy

All courses are graded A-F.

6. Suggested Weekly Course Outline Including Typical Assignments

DATES	TOPICS:	READINGS:
PART I.	POLITICAL IDEAS: IDEOLOGIES: Left, Center, Right	
Wk 1:	The LEFT Communism	F & T, Ideologies , Chapter 1 F & T, Ideologies , Chapter 3
Wk 2:	The Democratic Left The CENTER Liberals	F & T, Ideologies , Chapter 4 F & T, Ideologies , Chapter 5
Wk 3:	Conservatives The RIGHT	F & T, Ideologies , Chapter 6 F & T, Ideologies , Chapter 8
Wk 4:	The Right in America	
	EXAM # ONE	
PART II.	POLITICAL ISSUES	
Wk 5	Ideologies: Conclusion African-American Political Thought Gender Ideologies	F & T, Ideologies , Chapter 9 F & T, Ideologies , Chapter 10
Wk 6	Money and Politics America Today Poverty and Welfare	TSF, Issues , Introduction (pages 1-10) TSF, Issues , Chapter 1

Wk 7	The Politics of Health Care Political Corruption Crime	TSF, Issues , Chapter 2 TSF, Issues , Chapter 3 TSF, Issues , Chapter 4
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Wk 8 **EXAM # TWO**

PART III ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Wk 8 (contd)	Terrorism	TSF, Issues , Chapter 5
Wk 9	Arms and Arms Control Biomedical Issues	TSF, Issues , Chapter 6 TSF, Issues , Chapter 7
Wk 10	Biotechnology Environment and Population	TSF, Issues , Chapter 8 TSF, Issues , Chapter 9

EXAM # THREE

7. Other

Syllabus distributed to students should employ the format approved by UCAP and must include:

- Instructor name, office hours and contact information
- Office of Disability Services information
- Information on how grades will be determined
- Attendance Policy