

Roxbury Community College
Social Sciences Course Outcomes

SSI 118: Principles of Political Science

Outcomes	Activities	Assessment Tools
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Upon completion of this general survey political science course, students will be able to demonstrate: ➤ Knowledge and understanding of politics such as descriptive, explanatory, and prescriptive. ➤ Knowledge and understanding of sources of political knowledge such as authority, personal thought, science, and political science. ➤ Knowledge and understanding of political theories and beliefs, including, but not limited to: normative political theory, political ideology, classical liberalism, conservatism, and socialism. ➤ An understanding of and ability to explain political actions, including, but not limited to: individual political actions, group political actions, political interest groups, and political parties. ➤ An intellectual and analytical capability to distinguish and explain political systems, with particular emphasis on states and nations. ➤ Intellectual competence and analytical skills to discuss and explain how political institutions and their structures function, including the roles of the legislative, executive and judiciary branches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Utilize a variety of instructional and learning strategies, including, but not limited to: lectures, use of audio-visual media such as PowerPoint, slides, films/videos, and, whenever necessary, the Internet. ➤ Organize student debates and discussion groups on key political issues such as equal or proportional representation in the legislative, executive and judiciary branches of the government. ➤ Work with students to analyze the causal and relational relationship of certain key variables such as funding of education or healthcare that limit equal participation politically and/or economically. ➤ Utilizing primary and secondary sources such as constitutions, human rights charters, and international treaties on the environment, students will undertake political actions by writing letters to political leaders to take appropriate actions (This activity is designed to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills). 	<p>Students must demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mastery and comprehension of materials from the assigned textbook(s) and academic research journals by performance on tests/exams at a level of at least 85%. ➤ Critical thinking and problem-solving skills through active participation in class discussions, debates, and group projects, and submission of written reports; ➤ Analytical and critical thinking skills in reading and interpreting primary and secondary sources, dealing with particular political issues. ➤ Ability to identify a political issue and undertake political action to resolve it. ➤ Ability to produce political science research paper of ten (10) pages. ➤ Ability for planning and presenting a research report to the class.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Knowledge of and intellectual ability to explain and distinguish between political institutions in terms of democracies and nondemocracies, and constitutional and nonconstitutional regimes.➤ Intellectual and analytical competence to explain how a presidential, political system differs from a parliamentary, political system; and how one-two-and multiparty political systems function.➤ Intellectual and analytical skills to discuss and explain political processes, including, but not limited to: power sharing, public policy formulation, and decision-making; elite, class, and group or popular approaches to participation in political systems.➤ Intellectual and analytical competence to discuss and explain the key concept of political economy, showing the relationship of politics to economics.➤ Intellectual and analytical competence to discuss and explain the very important concept of political violence, its use against individuals and groups by the state; its use by individuals and groups against the state; its use between and among states, and in wars.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ To develop critical thinking and analytical skills, students will read and analyze at least three major political documents such as The Bill of Rights to the U.S. Constitution, and The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and write a three-five page report.➤ Working in groups of 3-5 members, the students will investigate an instance of political violence such as 9/11 in the United States, the Iraq war, or the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the Middle East.➤ The students will develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and political science research skills, using the group projects.	
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