

Minnesota State University Moorhead

POL 150: Comparative Political Traditions

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: *.*

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 08 - Global Perspective, Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

Comparative survey of the ways in which human societies organize themselves into political systems as influenced by their geography, religions, resources and context. MnTC Goals 5 and 8.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 08/22/2011 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. The earliest governments: hunting, gathering, chieftans
2. Nomadic empires
3. City States and the Concept of the Oligarchical polis
4. Citizenship and Constitutions
5. Elites and the monopoly of force
6. Theocracy and Religious influence on Governmental formation
7. Aristocracy and Comparative Feudalism
8. Empires and their peripheries: Tribute systems

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Students will be able to recognize basic forms of government (democracy, oligarchy, monarchy, etc.) across cultural and historical examples.
2. Students will know specific examples of these forms as they exist in the world as part of a broad background of cultural literacy and global citizenship.
3. Students will understand how these systems are affected by the religious, economic, demographic and geographic context in which they exist.
4. Students will be able to view these systems in light of ongoing global events, analyzing them as they evolve through technology, crises, regime changes and transitions of undergirding beliefs.
5. Students will examine the workings of large, complex imperial systems from the perspective of both the core and the periphery in order to appreciate the different ways in which people participating in these systems experience them.

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 08 - Global Perspective

1. Describe and analyze political, economic, and cultural elements which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences.
3. Analyze specific international problems, illustrating the cultural, economic, and political differences that affect their solution.
4. Understand the role of a world citizen and the responsibility world citizens share for their common global future.

Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

1. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
2. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.
3. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted