

# Minnesota State University Moorhead

## **POL 105: Making Sense of Politics**

### **A. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

This course is designed to help the citizens of modern society understand the recurring principles, practices, and patterns of politics. Having learned how politics affects our lives every day, students can become informed participants at the local, national, and global levels. MnTC Goal 5.

### **B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES:** 02/17/1999 - Present

### **C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS**

1. What is politics? The approach of political science.
2. Democracy - principles and expectations of citizens
3. Ideology
4. Organizing politics: federalism/unitary states, democracy/totalitarianism, presidential/parliamentary democracy
5. Linkage mechanisms: electoral systems, political parties, interest groups
6. The policy process

### **D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)**

1. Students will understand the principles of democracy and the responsibilities placed on citizens in democratic societies.
2. Students will be able to describe major classic and contemporary ideologies, and explain how these lead to different goals and political conflict.
3. Students will understand methods used by political scientists to understand and analyze political events.
4. Students will understand both the empirical and normative dimensions of political relationships in society.
5. Students will understand the opportunities for political participation through the variety of institutions in democracies.

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

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.
4. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

**F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT**

As noted on course syllabus

**G. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

None noted