



Reviewed by: H. Pease
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Date reviewed: Spring 2016
C&GE approved: March 14, 2016
Board approved: April 13, 2016

Political Science (POSC) 2005 Contemporary Political Topics (3 Units) CSU:UC
[formerly Political Science 5]

Advisory: Eligibility for English 1000 and Reading 1005 strongly recommended

Total Hours: 48 hours lecture

Catalog Description: An examination of selected contemporary political problems is presented in this course. Subjects vary each semester but might include such topics as the politics of energy, the politics of leadership, the politics of foreign affairs, etc.

Type of Class/Course: Degree Credit

Text: Close Up Foundation. *Current Issues*. (Most recent edition). Washington DC.

Additional Instructional Materials: None

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, a successful student should be able to

1. Identify current political problems and events that affect individuals, the nation, and the world,
2. demonstrate awareness of issues affecting political policy making at all levels of governance,
3. demonstrate awareness of individual political responsibilities and duties, and
4. demonstrate understanding of processes for problem solving using political primary sources.

Course Scope and Content:

Unit I Domestic Policy Issues
A. Crime and Security
B. The Economy
C. Education
D. Health Care
E. Immigration
F. Jobs and Welfare

Unit II Foreign Policy Issues



- A. Defense
- B. Democracy and Foreign Aid
- C. Global Environment
- D. International Trade
- E. Weapons Proliferation

Unit III Geographical Issues

- A. Africa
- B. Asia
- C. Europe and Russia
- D. Latin America
- E. Middle East

Learning Activities Required Outside of Class:

The students in this class will spend a minimum of 6 hours per week outside of the regular class time doing the following:

1. Studying
2. Completing required reading
3. Written work
4. Performing independent research on selected topic(s)
5. Performing group research on selected topics(s)
6. Creating presentations for class discussion

Methods of Instruction:

1. Assigned current reading from current news magazines and newspapers
2. Class discussion on current problems
3. Lectures by the instructor
4. Audiovisual presentations
5. Research on instructor or student determined project/topic

Methods of Evaluation:

1. Substantial writing assignments, including:
 - a. writing summary of discussion perspective(s)
 - b. writing reviews of assigned readings
 - c. writing research paper
 - d. in-class writing assignment
2. Other examinations, including:
 - a. objective and/or subjective assessment of discussion contributions
 - b. presentation on student chosen topic(s) with supportive evidence

Supplemental Data:

TOP Code:	220700: Political Science
SAM Priority Code:	E: Non-Occupational
Distance Education:	Not Applicable
Funding Agency:	Y: Not Applicable(funds not used)
Program Status:	1: Program Applicable
Noncredit Category:	Y: Not Applicable, Credit Course
Special Class Status:	N: Course is not a special class
Basic Skills Status:	N: Course is not a basic skills course
Prior to College Level:	Y: Not applicable
Cooperative Work Experience:	N: Is not part of a cooperative work experience education program
Eligible for Credit by Exam:	E: Credit By Exam
Eligible for Pass/No Pass:	C: Pass/No Pass
Taft College General Education:	CSD8: CSU Area D8 IG4H: IGETC Area 4H LSBS: Local GE Social/Behavioral Sci