

# Minnesota State University Moorhead

## POL 210: Introduction to Political Science

### A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: None

An introduction to the major questions of political science and the scientific study of politics. Conceptual development is examined as represented in the major fields of political science.

**B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES:** 02/20/1999 - Present

### C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. History of the discipline of Political Science
2. Scientific method in the social sciences
3. Normative and empirical approaches to social science research
4. Description, explanation, correlation, and prediction
5. Confirmation and falsification of political hypotheses
6. Construction and application of theory
7. Research design---unit of analysis, experimental and quasi-experimental design
8. Unique methodological issues---time series and cross-sectional data
9. Randomization and sampling
10. Conducting ethical research

### D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Students shall become familiar with the range of questions asked in political science and develop the ability to identify said questions.
2. Students shall learn the types of theoretical structures, arguments, and theories underlying the discipline.
3. Students shall begin to learn to identify, read, and assess scholarly literature and become familiar with recent political science scholarship.
4. Students shall begin to learn to communicate clearly and logically, both orally and in writing.
5. Students shall begin to learn to identify and use concepts of research design, methodology, literature reviews, policy assessment and evaluation in order to express scientific conclusions about political phenomena.

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

None

### F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

## **G. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

None noted