

## NVCC COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY

### PLS 120 - INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE (3 CR.)

#### COURSE INFORMATION

PLS 120 teaches basic concepts and methods of the discipline of political science through a study of political dimensions of a selected topic or topics. Lecture 3 hours per week.

#### GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVES

The general purpose of PLS 120 is to introduce students to the discipline of political science. The focus of PLS 120 is a selected topic(s) of dynamic and contemporary quality; such an example of a topic could be the Iran Contra affair. The topic(s) may be varied from year to year to take advantage of timely issues in the discipline. This course is intended for liberal arts and transfer students and those who may be considering majoring in political science. Attention may be given to description of other political science course options and consideration of career possibilities.

#### ENTRY LEVEL COMPETENCIES

Ability to use English language correctly and effectively as reflected in satisfactory scores on appropriate English proficiency examination for freshman students.

#### COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To define what is political and what is not political and therefore within the scope of the discipline.
2. To understand principal method and concepts of the discipline of political science.
3. To understand vocabulary and terms used in the discipline.
4. To describe the major issues of the selected topic(s) in the course.
5. To demonstrate written and oral communication skills used in the discipline.
6. To improve one's ability to think analytically in the discipline.

#### MAJOR TOPICS

1. Introduction to political science: scope of political science
2. Politics and government
3. Forms of government
4. Ideology
5. The state and the citizen
6. International politics
7. Explanation and prediction in political science
8. Theories and models: Explanation and discovery
9. Approaches to the study of political science, e.g. game theory, systems theory, models
10. Case study of a selected topic, e.g. Iran Contra affair