Course Objectives:
This course provides an overview of some of the main issues in contemporary politics, and an introduction to the main questions, concepts, and debates in the discipline of Political Science. Throughout the world, many of the fundamental elements of political life are now the subject of rapid change and deep conflict, making it a particularly important and exciting time to study politics.

Course Requirements: The class will be conducted in both a lecture and discussion format. Students will be expected to participate fully in class discussions. Throughout the course students are required to attend each class and to keep abreast of their reading assignments. During the course of the term three exams and three quizzes will be given. These exams and quizzes will cover material from the assigned readings as well as from class lectures/activities.


Grading: 3 Exams at 100 points each........300
3 Quizzes at 20 points each.............60
Attendance/Participation..................20
TOTAL..............................................380

Letter grades will be based on this scale:
93-100%: A
90-92%: A-
87-89%: B+
83-86%: B
80-82%: B-
77-79%: C+
70-72%: C
67-69%: D+
63-66%: D
60-62%: D-
00-59%: F
**Student Learning Objectives:**

By the end of this course, students should be able to demonstrate the following:

1. The ability to explain and compare the different forms of states in the contemporary world.
2. An understanding of the different roles states can and do play in the process of governance in the contemporary world.
3. The ability to explain and evaluate some of the central concepts in Political Science.

**Make-up Policy:** “Absence from an announced examination results in a failing grade for the examination, unless suitable arrangements are made for a special examination. A student who seeks such a privilege should petition the instructor in writing PRIOR to the scheduled examination date. If the instructor considers that the petition should be granted, then a note to the effect is added and the petition is presented to the Dean of the College. The examination may be given only if the Dean also approves the petition.

(Westminster College Undergraduate Catalog, 2017-18, p.65)

**Tentative Schedule of Classes:**

August 28: Introduction
August 30: Introducing the Ancient Debate; Chapter 1
September 1: Introducing the Ancient Debate; Chapter 1

September 4: Lord of the Flies; Why Government?; Chapter 2
September 6: Lord of the Flies; Why Government?; Chapter 2
September 8: Career Center Presentation

September 11: Governing Society; Chapter 3
September 13: Governing Society; Chapter 3
September 15: Governing Society; Chapter 3

September 18: Government’s Role in the Economy; Chapter 4
September 20: Government’s Role in the Economy; Chapter 4
September 22: Government’s Role in the Economy; Chapter 4

September 25: **FIRST EXAM**
September 27: Structures and Institutions; Chapter 5
September 29: Structures and Institutions; Chapter 5
October 2: The Executive; Chapter 6
October 4: The Executive; Chapter 6
October 6: The Executive; Chapter 6

October 9: Lincoln
October 11: Lincoln
October 13: Lincoln

October 16: The Legislative Function; Chapter 7
October 18: The Legislative Function; Chapter 7
October 20: The Legislative Function/ The Bureaucracy; Chapters 7&8

October 25: The Bureaucracy; Chapter 8
October 27: SECOND EXAM

October 30: Courts and Law; Chapter 9
November 1: Courts and Law; Chapter 9
November 3: Courts and Law; Chapter 9

November 6: The Democratic Ideal; Chapter 10
November 8: The Democratic Ideal; Chapter 10
November 10: The Democratic Ideal; Chapter 10

November 13: Media, Politics & Government; Chapter 11
November 15: All the President's Men; Media, Politics & Government; 11
November 17: All the President's Men; Media, Politics & Government; 11

November 20: All the President's Men; Media, Politics & Government; 11

November 27: International Politics; Chapter 12
November 29: International Politics; Chapter 12
December 1: International Politics; Chapter 12

December 4: Political Culture; Chapter 14
December 6: Political Culture; Chapter 14
December 8: Political Culture; Chapter 14

December 13: THIRD EXAM 11:30am