



MASTER COURSE OUTLINE

A. PSCI 1025 Contemporary Political Issues

B. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines contemporary political issues arising in the United States. The course will examine the origins of the issues as well as the institutional and political responses to those issues. In doing this, the class will examine basic governmental institutions, as well as political actors in both the public and private spheres. Additionally, the class will examine how ordinary citizens can affect national, local and private actions with regards to the issues examined.

MnTC (Goals 5/SS and 9/EC); (1 - 3 Cr lect, 0 lab)

C. *MnTC Discipline: History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences **Core Theme: Ethical and Civic Responsibility

D. MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:

- Major state and federal institutions
- Constitutional, civil and criminal law
- Public and private actors affecting government action
- Current political issues which will involve a range of topics including foreign, economic, domestic, and environmental policies.
- Citizen activism
- Political parties and elections

E. GOAL TYPES, OBJECTIVES, AND OUTCOMES:

<u>GOAL</u>	<u>OBJECTIVES</u>	<u>OUTCOMES</u>
<u>MnTC 5b</u>	Students will be able to examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.	The student will successfully 1. demonstrate knowledge of how government changes its function and methods or uses its power over time.
<u>MnTC 5c</u>	use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.	1. suggest varied explanations for the major actors, issues, and motivation of governmental and nongovernmental actors.
<u>MnTC 5d</u>	develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.	1. compare explanations and solutions of contemporary social issues to similar events in modern times.
<u>MnTC 9b</u>	understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights, and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.	1. analyze current political issues using core concepts such as politics, rights, obligations, justice and liberty.
<u>MnTC 9d</u>	recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others.	1. demonstrate a knowledge of the major actors, issues, and motivation of

		governmental and nongovernmental actors.
<u>MnTC 9e</u>	identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.	1. demonstrate knowledge of the general and specific differences between rights and responsibilities of citizenship.
<u>CS</u>	demonstrate knowledge of the principal structures and institutions of government.	1. identify the purpose, function, and structure of the major branches of government.
<u>CS</u>	demonstrate mastery of basic concepts of the constitution.	1. identify key concepts imbedded in the constitution such as republicanism, representation, rule of law, separation of powers, social contract, natural rights, and federalism.
<u>CS</u>	demonstrate knowledge of how government functions.	1. identify how government functions especially in regards to the division of power among the three branches.

F. SPECIAL INFORMATION:

This course may require use of the Internet, the submission of electronically prepared documents and the use of a course management software program. Students who have a disability and need accommodations should contact the instructor or the Student Success Center at the beginning of the semester. This information will be made available in alternative format, such as Braille, large print, or current media, upon request.

G. COURSE CODING INFORMATION:

Course Code A/Class Maximum 48 Letter Grade.

Revision date:

AASC Approval date: 5/7/19

*Riverland Community College Disciplines	MnTC Goal Number
Communication (CM)	1
Natural Sciences (NS)	3
Mathematics/Logical Reasoning (MA)	4
History and the Social & Behavioral Sciences (SS)	5
Humanities and Fine Arts (HU)	6

**Riverland Community College Core Themes	MnTC Goal Number
Critical Thinking (CT)	2
Human Diversity (HD)	7
Global Perspective (GP)	8
Ethical and Civic Responsibility (EC)	9
People and the Environment (PE)	10

*These five MnTC Goals have been identified as Riverland Community College Disciplines.

** These five MnTC Goals have been identified as Riverland Community College Core Themes.

NOTE: The Minnesota Transfer Curriculum “10 Goal Areas of Emphasis” are reflected in the five required discipline areas and five core themes noted in the Riverland Community College program of study guide and/or college catalog.

Riverland