UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF THE FRASER VALLEY

COURSE INFORMATION

DISCIPLINE/DEPARTMENT: Philosophy & Politics **IMPLEMENTATION DATE**: January 1976

Revised: November 1997

Political Science 200	Introduction to Political Analysis	3
SUBJECT/NUMBER OF COURSE	**DESCRIPTIVE TITLE**	**UCFV CREDITS**

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: Introduction to various modes of political analysis, including classical perspectives, political economy and empirical political analysis.

RATIONALE:

COURSE PREREQUISITES: PoSc 120

COURSE COREQUISITES: N/A

HOURS PER TERM FOR EACH STUDENT	**Lecture**	**30**	**hrs**	**Student Directed Learning**		**hrs**
	Laboratory		**hrs**	**Other - specify:**		
	Seminar	**15**	**hrs**			**hrs**
	Field Experience		**hrs**	**TOTAL**	**45**	**HRS**

MAXIMUM ENROLMENT: 35

Is transfer credit requested? : Yes 9 No

AUTHORIZATION SIGNATURES:

Course Designer(s): J. Haaland **Chairperson**: E. Davis
Curriculum Committee

Department Head: J. Morgan **Dean**: J.D. Tunstall

PAC: Approval in Principle _____ **PAC: Final Approval**: 1997
(Date) **(Date)**

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Political Science 200
NAME & NUMBER OF COURSE

SYNONYMOUS COURSES:

(a) replaces N/A
(course #)

(b) cannot take N/A for further credit
(course #)

SUPPLIES/MATERIALS:

TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS (List reading resources elsewhere)

Babbie, E.R., The Practice of Social Research, 5th ed., Wadsworth, 1996.
Baxter-Moore, N. et al, Studying Politics: An Introduction to Argument and Analysis, Copp Clark - Longmans, 1994.
Corbett, M, Research Methods in Political Science, 2nd ed., Microcase Corp., 1996.

OBJECTIVES:

To produce an understanding and appreciation of the various modes of political analysis so that students may identify and distinguish among the various approaches used by political scientists to study politics, policy-making and institutions.

METHODS:

Lectures and seminars focussing on various writers who employ different modes of analysis as well as written assignments structured to focus student attention on the advantages and disadvantages of these approaches.

STUDENT EVALUATION PROCEDURE:

Exams and research projects, all in essay form, to encourage student research, integration of sources and analysis of academic literature.

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COURSE CONTENT

I. The Nature of Social Scientific Inquiry

- Foundations in Social Science research
- Common errors in Social Science research
- Introduction to the various modes of inquiry common in Political Science: classical theoretical analysis; political economic analysis; empirical/quantitative political analysis.

II. The Ethics of Political Scientific Analysis

III. Political Theory

- Traditional Western perspectives
- Modern additions to traditional theory

IV. Political Economy

- History of political economy
- Modern focus of political economy
- Political economic analysis in Canada and in other contexts

V. Empirical Political Analysis

- Research design
  - objectives; conceptualization and operationalization; hypothesis formation
- Sampling
  - basic sampling techniques; political polling; impact and importance of polling
- Designs and methods of data collection
  - field research; secondary sources; questionnaire construction and survey research; elementary statistics
- Strengths and weaknesses of empirical analysis

VI. Comparing the Various Approaches to Political Analysis