

# COURSE DETAIL

## INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

**Country**

Netherlands

**Host Institution**

Maastricht University - University College Maastricht

**Program(s)**

University College Maastricht

**UCEAP Course Level**

Lower Division

**UCEAP Subject Area(s)**

Political Science

**UCEAP Course Number**

15

**UCEAP Course Suffix****UCEAP Official Title**

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

**UCEAP Transcript Title**

INTRO POL SCIENCE

**UCEAP Quarter Units**

6.00

**UCEAP Semester Units**

4.00

## **Course Description**

This course provides an introduction to a field of study that is often subdivided into five or more disciplines. The subdivision list includes International Relations, Comparative Government, Political Theory/Philosophy, Public Policy/Public Administration and finally a state-centric discipline which depends on your country of origin (i.e. American Politics or Dutch Politics to name two). The course starts with a simple examination of the meaning of the word "politics." How much of politics is really about solving distribution problems? In other words, a limited amount of resources in society must be distributed in some equitable manner. After this initial discussion, the course moves to consider the central themes of Macro politics, with particular emphasis on the classification of political systems, political ideology, and political authority. Themes in Micro politics are addressed in the second half of the course. Micro politics refers to the study of how individuals fit into their political system. Micro political topics include political socialization, political groups, elections, voting, political parties, party systems, and political leadership. The course ends with a look at system performance and how to bring about change in political systems when performance is wanting. To help students understand and relate to the political realm in which they exist, each student is required to embark on an individual research paper about their country of origin.

## **Language(s) of Instruction**

English

## **Host Institution Course Number**

SSC1025

## **Host Institution Course Title**

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

## **Host Institution Course Details**

<https://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/file/course-catalogue-2025-2026pdf>

## **Host Institution Campus**

Maastricht University

**Host Institution Faculty**

University College Maastricht

**Host Institution Degree****Host Institution Department**

Social Sciences

**Course Last Reviewed**

2025-2026

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