Welcome to Political Science 101

My name is Alex Kocol, I have been working at Glendale College since the summer of 2010 and teaching in the Social Sciences Division since 2013. The courses I have taught include early and modern U.S. history (HIST117 & 118), American government (PoliSci101 & 106), and contemporary world problems (PoliSci110). My interests revolve around political history, regionalism, as well as the development of political consciousness and identity.

Through my teaching, I try to encourage students to empathize with unfamiliar concepts and perspectives. Education, by cultivating curiosity and inquisitiveness, has more than just the power to position students for a successful career: It can help them lead more fulfilling lives. Glendale College’s focus on student success makes it a truly special place and I hope to contribute to an environment where individuals feel both challenged and welcomed.

My goal is to provide students with the necessary tools and resources to maximize their academic performance. Please, carefully review the menus and familiarize yourself with the materials designated for your specific course.

Above all, PLEASE, do not hesitate to ask for help!
ONLINE RESOURCES

CANVAS:  https://portal.glendale.edu/

For Canvas questions ONLY: 24/7 assistance at 1-844-600-4951

Campus Guides:  http://campusguides.glendale.edu/kocol

Help Desk:  help@glendale.edu

Help with Online Learning:  https://www.glendale.edu/online

Student Technical Support:  https://www.glendale.edu/class-schedule/distanceeducation/tech-support-for-students

Online Access

Consistent internet access is required. This course will rely heavily on online learning management such as CANVAS and CampusGuides. Course updates and communications will be sent exclusively via the Glendale webmail server. FERPA guidelines prohibit me from replying to non-GCC email accounts. Please consult with the GCC Help Desk if you are experiencing problems with these resources: help@glendale.edu

E-Mail Etiquette

-Email is formal: Protocol demands appropriate formatting, language, specific details, and titles.

-Professional/academic email threads are short. If it requires a long thread, a face to face conversation is in order.

-Everything you write and disseminate has consequences: Use discretion.

-My goal is to reply to all email within 24 hours, if you do not get a reply within that window, feel free to send a follow up email and/or message me via CANVAS.
Assessing Class Presence

It is expected that students are actively engaged in, and take ownership of, the learning process (not only the grading process). Students will need to be able to follow detailed instructions in order to perform at a high level. Attendance, participation, preparedness, timeliness, organization, engagement, and persistence are a few ways that your class presence is demonstrated. It is crucial that students develop and maintain a strong class presence throughout the course. Developing a sense of academic rectitude and etiquette are essential to your short term and long term success.

Please review GCC’s Distance Education resources for student success:
https://www.glendale.edu/class-schedule/distance-education

Required Readings and Supplementary Materials

The required text for this class is Openstax American Government—it is available online at no cost. Required supplementary texts are also available online through CANVAS and CampusGuides. Additional texts and videos are also available through Campus Guides.

Drop and Attendance Policies

Students are required to log-in to CANVAS to read and approve both the course contract and syllabus as well as complete our first reflection post by 11:59PM of the first Sunday (9/2/2018) of our term—failure to complete these steps will result in being dropped from the course.

This is a hybrid course which will meet every Tuesday in Sierra Vista 228 from 12:20pm-1:45pm. A significant portion of this class will also be conducted online. Consistent participation and engagement in both modalities is expected. Students who fail to establish their presence for more than two weeks may be dropped, or earn a failing grade in the course.

Attendance is absolutely critical to your success. There is a direct correlation between higher grade distributions, student success, and attendance. Dropping or Withdrawing from the course is solely the responsibility of the student.

Please review GCC’s DE Attendance, Participation, and Drop Policies:
https://www.glendale.edu/class-schedule/distance-education/de-faculty-center/mandatory-de-course-requirements
**Students with Special Needs or Disabilities**

All students with disabilities requiring accommodations are responsible for making arrangements in a timely manner with the Center for Students with Disabilities:

[https://www.glendale.edu/students/student-services/disabled-student-programs-services](https://www.glendale.edu/students/student-services/disabled-student-programs-services)

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**Academic Honesty**

Your ability to project a reputation of integrity requires vigilance and an active attention to detail. It is your duty to familiarize yourself with all of the potential ways you character and academic reputation can be undermined. Please, carefully read and consider the significance of the following statement … “College study is the process of acquainting students with values and procedures central to scholarship. All students are expected to do their own work. All forms of cheating and plagiarism are absolutely forbidden. This is the official policy of Glendale Community College.” –Policy on Academic Honesty, Glendale Community College District: Board Policy 6133 (adopted 1/27/97)

Please review GCC’s Academic Honesty Policy:

[https://www.glendale.edu/students/student-policies/academic-honesty-policy](https://www.glendale.edu/students/student-policies/academic-honesty-policy)