

Hagerstown Community College

Political Science Club

Syllabus 2014-2015

Club Advisors: Eric Schwartz (eschwartz@hagerstowncc.edu) and Andrew Smith (aasmith@hagerstowncc.edu)

Club Description: The HCC Political Science Club was formed to enhance the instruction of political science. The goal is to engage in activities that allow students to participate in and benefit from activities that do not fall into the regular classroom format. Some examples of past activities illustrate the nature of the club. Since its founding, the club has hosted political discussions with state political figures, toured the governmental institutions in the nation's capital, met with ambassadors and US State Department officials, and provided educational services and materials for the campus community.

Club Objectives:

- Political engagement – The HCC Political Science Club tries to provide an environment where politics can be discussed in a civil and thoughtful manner. This may involve everything from hosting debates to setting up a regular table in the campus cafeteria where club members meet to discuss political issues.
- Political learning – The HCC Political Science Club allows students who are not currently taking political science to learn about the subject. It also broadens the resources that are available for instruction. Including a visit with a US congressman may be inappropriate to include in a syllabus for a political science course, but such an educational experience is easily within the scope of the activities for the political science club.
- Political instruction – The HCC Political Science Club not only provides an opportunity for engaged students to learn, it also provides them an opportunity to teach. Past projects, for example, have taught the campus community about the US Constitution. The club has set up tables to register voters and inform them about election issues. The preparation for these instructional activities in itself also creates learning opportunities for the club members.

Student Learning Outcomes: Students will engage in a collaborative learning environment to develop and deepen their knowledge of political structures and political structures. Furthermore, they will develop a normative appreciation of elements that characterize politics in the United States, elements such as democracy, freedom of speech, human rights, market distribution of goods and services, provision of public goods, collective action dilemmas, and free rider problems.

Officers and Elections: The elected club officers shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and SGA representative. Any student taking credit courses, full or part-time, at Hagerstown Community College, will be eligible to serve in office.

Nominations will be made by members of the Club. Elections will be held within the first three weeks of September, or whenever a vacancy requires that an office be filled.

Meeting Information:

- Meetings are held at least twice month, every other Thursday in STEM 405 at 4:30 p.m.
- Remaining club meetings for the 2014-105 year are February 26, 2015; March 19; April 2; April 16; and April 30.

Services for Students with Special Needs: Students who have special needs are encouraged to identify themselves to the coordinator of Disability Support Services at 240-500-2273 or 240-500-2628. Reasonable accommodations are provided to qualified students based on current documentation.

Code of Student Conduct: The college has established rules relating to academic integrity and behavior that students must follow. Students are expected to produce work that is the product of their own learning and academic effort. Policies and regulations for the Code of Student Conduct are published in the HCC Guide: A Handbook for Students.