

POLITICAL SCIENCE I: THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES

West Los Angeles College

Section 8255

Summer Session, 2015

6 weeks June 15 – July 25

Instructor: Ms. Sholeh Khoroshi

Email: Use class site email under private discussion

The purpose of this course is to allow the students to master an understanding of the American Political system. By the end of the session, students should be able to think critically about politics; and, in so doing, to confront certain myths that they or other Americans may hold about government.

Student Learning Objectives

1. Critically analyze political institutions, systems, processes, events and constitutional principles in order to exercise one's rights and to defend civil liberties.
2. Take an informed position on a political issue, candidate or situation and support your position with objective, logical, effective debate and discussion.
3. Seek out and engage in civic opportunities that broaden perspectives and increase one's responsibility to family and community.
4. Utilize a variety of media sources to research, organize, evaluate, and assimilate information pertaining to a political issue, event, or person.
5. In one's family, community and work settings, conduct activities in an ethical manner that reflects knowledge of the law and that adhere to common sense.

Professional Conduct in Our Virtual Classroom Community:

One of the unifying objectives in this course is to familiarize you with best practices and give you exposure to becoming a member of a professional community. I also have the responsibility to insure that our virtual community is a conducive learning environment for all students. As such, all students will please follow these policies of our classroom community for all emails, discussion groups and chat rooms:

1. *No profanity or foul language, either in writing or pictures, of any kind at any time.*
2. *Please address everyone politely by their names.*
3. *Under no circumstances may you ask for a classmate's personal contact information or in any way ask for a personal meeting or date.*
4. *Unless I specifically ask you to do so as a proper part of an assignment, do not include in your email signatures or other material in your messages any kind of a personal nature, including a photo, sales solicitation, information about a business, or a political or religious message of any kind. Do not include a blind or other kind of hyperlink to such information.*
5. *Please use common sense and common courtesy as if you are already a professional in the community.*

Violators will be excluded from the course.

The textbooks are “American Government & Politics Today: The Essentials, 2014 - 2015 Brief Edition, California Government, 4th or 5th Edition, published by Wadsworth, Cengage Learning and are available at the College Bookstore. They are sold as a bundle. You may order the textbook online at the College website at the bookstore.

Course Requirements

3 Weekly essay assignments of 2 full pages, one full page per question, double space, for 30 points or 10 points each. 2 multiple-choice tests for 15 points each and a multiple-choice final exam for 20 points; 4 short assignments (200 – 250 words, no more, no less) for 20 points or 5 points each. Assignments may not be copied from any sources on the Internet or any other sources. You will receive a fail grade for the first assignment that is not your own writing and will receive a fail grade for the course if you repeat it. I may block you from the class site if you miss any assignment. It is, however, your responsibility to drop the class if you decide not to attend the class any more. **Assignments, tests and final exam due dates will not be extended/changed for any reason**

Grade Scale: 90 - 100 = A 80 – 89 = B 70 – 79 = C 60 – 69 = D 59 and lower = F

Lecture and Reading Schedule

Week 1: June 15 - 21

Civil Liberties, Civil Rights

Required Reading: Bardes et al, Chapters 4, 5

Essay 1 due on Sunday, June 21

Week 2: June 22 – 28

The Democratic Republic, Forgoing a New government, the Constitution, Federalism

Reading Requirement: Bardes et al, chapters 1, 2, 3 & California Government chapters 1, 2

Short assignment 1 due by Thursday, June 25

Test 1 on Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Friday – Saturday June 26 - 27

Week 3: June 29 - July 5

Public Opinion, Political Socialization, and the Media, Interest Groups & Political Parties

Required Reading: Bardes et al, Chapters 6 and 7 & California Government chapter 3

Short assignment 2 Due by Thursday, July 2

Essay 2 due by Sunday, July 5

Week 4: July 6 – 12

Campaigns and Elections, The Congress

Required Reading: Bardes et al, Chapters 8 and 9 & California Government chapters 4, 5

Short assignment 3 is due by Thursday, July 9

Test 2 on chapters 6, 7, 8, 9 Fri - Sat July 10 - 11

Week 5: July 13 - 19

The Presidency, The Bureaucracy, The Judiciary

Required Reading: Bardes et al, Chapter 10 and 11, 12 & California Government chapters 6, 7

Short assignment 4 due by Thursday, July 16

Essay 3 due by Sunday, July 19

Week 6: July 20 - 26

Domestic and Economic Policy, Foreign Policy

Required Reading: Bardes et al Chapters 13, 14 & California Government chapters 8, 9

Final Exam on Chapters 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 Friday – Saturday, July 24 - 25