

POLITICAL SCIENCE 1 Government of the United States and California
Spring 2015 Section 1742
Instructor: Ruebensaal Office: 480A (310) 287-4222
Office Hours MW 10:30-11 or 12:30-1pm T/Th by appt.
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TEXT: There are two textbooks for this course
American Government and Politics Today: Brief Edition '14/'15 (AG) Schmidt
California Government (CA) Korey

WEEK OF	MAJOR CONCEPTS OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT	
February 9	Introduction and Political Concepts (AG) Chapter 1	
February 16*	Concepts of Government cont. Ideology and Government	(CA) Chapter 1
February 23	The Constitution	(AG) Chapter 2 (CA) Chapter 2
March 2	Constitution cont. (Federalism)	(AG) Chapter 3 (CA) Chapter 9
March 9	EXAM #1	
CONSTITUTIONAL CENTERS OF POLITICAL POWER		
March 16	The Congress (Legislative Branch) The California Legislature	(AG) Chapter 9 (CA) Chapter 6
March 23	The Presidency (Executive Branch) The California Governor	(AG) Chapter 10 (CA) Chapter 7
March 30	EXAM #2	
	The Supreme Court (Judicial Branch) (AG) Chapter 12	
April 6- 10th	SPRING BREAK	
April 13	Judiciary and Civil Liberties	(AG) Chapter 4
April 20	Civil Liberties cont.	
	EXAM #3	

THE NON-CONSTITUTIONAL CENTERS OF POLITICAL POWER

April 27	Campaigns, Elections and the Media (AG) Chapter 6, 8
May 4	subject continued
May 11	Political Parties and Interest Groups (AG) Chapters 7
May 18	subjects continued
May 25*	SEMESTER ESSAY DUE Wednesday, May 27th.
June 1	Final Exam Week Exam #4 11:30 - 1:30 pm

EVALUATION:

4 exams (the lowest exam grade will be dropped)

1 semester essay (equivalent to an exam - - not dropped)

Bi-weekly vocabulary quizzes (extra credit and borderline cases) - every two weeks

EXAMS:

The exams for this course will be two parts: Part 1 is Multiple Choice, and Part 2 is Written i.e. identification, fill-in, and essay. The exams are not cumulative. If you miss an exam you may take a make-up BEFORE the next scheduled exam. The make-up exam is green book ESSAY format. There is NO individual extra credit in this course. The instructor may decide to give the whole class the option to do an extra assignment in order to enhance their knowledge of a particular aspect of American Government. The exams will be graded on a 5 pt. scale including +and - grades. They are not graded on the curve.

ATTENDANCE:

(1% + or - borderline cases) students note: Your grade will be negatively affected by not attending class. To me attendance signifies attitude. AND I am big on having the right attitude. However, just showing up to class is not a guarantee in itself to passing the class. You have to read the materials, pass the exams, and do the required work. The maximum number of missed (excused or unexcused classes that will begin to affect your grade is _____ (this is equivalent to two weeks missed). All absences, if known in advance, should be noted to the instructor. Unscheduled absences should be called in/or a voice message left/or an e-mail sent before the next class.

DROPPING THIS CLASS:

It is not the instructor's responsibility to drop a student from the class. If you plan on dropping this course than do it on your own and within the scheduled time frame, note the date in the schedule of classes for a grade of W (May 8th). If you fail to drop the

class and decide to stop going to class thinking that the instructor has dropped you...your final grade will be a fail.

RECORDING OF LECTURES -PROVISIONS AND CLASSROOM CONDUCT

You may tape all of the instructor's lectures. You do not need my permission. Turn off all cell phones while in class especially during exams. When in class assume that you are here to learn and to follow the lectures. If this is NOT your intention do not bother to come to class. Arrive to class on time...consistent lateness could lower your grade. If you come to class late, after roll is taken, then see the instructor at the end of class to note your attendance. My policy on cheating and plagiarism follows the policy set out in the college catalogue.

DSPS - Learning Assistance and Accommodations

If you are a registered student through DSPS then testing accommodation could be arranged through their office. Please inform the instructor if this applies to you and supply the necessary documentation regarding your case.

Classroom Conduct and Behavior

Since this is a class regarding political discussion, proper language and respect for another's ideas and beliefs are to be tolerated. If you are not mature enough to handle free speech then I would suggest that you enroll in another class. The very essence of free speech in a democratic society is to allow for controversy. I might not agree to what you say, but I will defend your right to say it. i.e. if you can SUPPORT what you say and what you believe. Beliefs and or Opinions are founded on fact!!!, so do your homework. We do not FEEL in this class. Emotions do not get the better of us!

Wishing you a productive semester ahead!! Professor JR

Political Science 1 INTRODUCTORY NOTES AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

What are the STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES for this course (SLOs) aka - -
In completing this course what would you of learned by the end of the semester?

- 1- The first objective of this course is to learn about YOUR Government.
The information that you learn is based on FACTS (the text book and lectures) Step 1
From FACTS we then learn to draw ANALYSIS Step 2...leading us to CRITICAL THINKING
- 2- CRITICAL THINKING is one of the FIRST SLOs for this course. By this I mean the ability to analyze issues by differentiating FACTS from opinion through the use of evidence, and information to specify multiple solutions (hypothesis) [A + B = C] and their consequences. CT develops in you a sense of critical reading, writing and ultimately, your participation. What better service can you give your government than your mind followed by your involvement.
- 3- The SECOND SLO for this course then is to to promote a future interest in government, or to develop in you a sense of CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY- - by understanding how political issues relate to your Work, Family, Community and the Global planet.
After this course you should realize...:
the importance of how government affects your life, your community, and the planet.
AND..... how you might become better involved by taking some responsibility in the political process.
- 4- Lastly, it is a requirement for Transfer or/for an AA Degree-it fulfills your Constitutional requirement.....

What are we going to study in this Course: as related to the two SLOs above: Critical Thinking and Civic Responsibility:

In this course, we are going to focus upon two major human activities: POLITICAL BEHAVIOR and POLITICAL THINKING. Both of these activities are rooted in the notion of choice. We choose how we act and we choose what we think. Oftentimes, what we thinking motivates our actions.

- 1-The Study of Political Behavior as related to POLITICAL EFFICACY (Acting)
The WHY and the HOW people act politically (or not). What influences our political behavior. WHY we act? or not. AND what are the various outlets for political activity... i.e. register to vote, vote, attend a court of law (as an observer), serve on a jury, work on a particular election, support a political candidate, become active around a particular political issue. (see Purpose #3)
- 2-The Study of Political Opinion is related to POLITICAL SOCIALIZATION (Thinking)
Why do we choose one way of thinking over another? What factors influence our thinking? Our bias?? What can change our ideas, our attitudes, and even our values?

Question: Does the study of Politics differ from the study of Government???

THE FORMULA:

In understanding Politics we must understand a basic FORMULA.

This formula is based on the notion that CONTROVERSY, is the very nature or essence of politics. However, out of controversy should emerge DISCUSSION, and it is through discussion that we arrive at CONSENSUS. In politics, and in life, there is no such thing as a ZERO SUM GAME-I always will win and the other person will always lose--. In most cases we can not get all that there is to get !! There are few all win/all lose solutions to a problem. AND since we are dealing with human beings rarely are there final, absolute solutions to problems. In every case you got to win/ lose to win. OR you got to give up something in order to get something. This is the art of negotiation/ or arriving at a CONSENSUS.

Government is a noun where as Politics is a verb

Government is an institution/when this institution operates it is politics. One popular definition of government is the [Allocation of Scarce Resources among competing interests.] These various interests often break down into organized "groups." These "interest groups" then compete against each other for what resources are available and what there is to get. As the resources get smaller (finite) the competition becomes more intense. The notion of competing interests for scarce resources resulting in bargaining and compromise is what is known as PLURALISM- - Pluralistic Democracy.

Another definition for the role of a particular AGENT of government- - - What are the agents of any government? _____ This is how ALL governments are set up – structurally. Structural Government as opposed to Operational Government.....

One of the agents of government is to Balance INDIVIDUAL interests against the COLLECTIVE interests of society.

individual interests

vs

society's interests

What are they?

What are they?

This role is often assigned to the referees of society (Courts). The courts are an agent of government. Courts will often apply the rules in decision making as to Who gets What?, How Much? and When?. This certainly applies to civil liberties and civil rights issues.

With the above two definitions of government in mind we can, therefore, make the hypothesis that All governments perform the same three functions. Which are? _____ YET, not all governments perform these three functions in the same way.

FOUR basic forms of Government:

Presidential Form, Parliamentary Form, Totalitarian Form, Authoritarian Form,