

POLITICAL SCIENCE I: THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES

West Los Angeles College

Section 8574

2nd Session Spring 2015 Hybrid

8 weeks April 13 – June 8 Office Hours: Monday 10 – 11AM & Thursday: 9:00 – 9:30AM

Instructor: Ms. Sholeh Khorrooshi

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.

Accommodation: Office of Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S)

Heldman Learning Resources Center (HLRC), Room 119 | (310) 287-4450

West Los Angeles College recognizes and welcomes its responsibility to provide an equal educational opportunity to all disabled individuals. The Office of Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSP&S) has been established to provide support services for all verified disabled students pursuing a college education. DSP&S students may qualify for: priority registration, registration assistance, special parking permits, sign language interpreters and assistive technology (WLAC College Catalog).

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 on ground and in 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 his or her 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, or 2012-2013 Brief Edition California Government, 5th Edition, published by Wadsworth, Cengage Learning and are available in a bundle at the College Bookstore. You may order the textbook online at the College website at the bookstore.

Course Requirements

3 Weekly essay assignments of 2 full pages (no more/no less) double space for 18 points, 6 points each (Essay assignments that are less or more than 2 pages will not receive full credit). 4 short assignments for 200 – 250 words (no more, no less) for 16 points or 4 points each. Short assignments that are not 200 – 250 words will not receive full credit. 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 that. 3 multiple-choice tests for 20 point each Tests or weekly assignments will not be rescheduled for any reasons). There are also 6 points for your attendance. You’ll be blocked from the course website or excluded if you miss one or more class. It is, however, your responsibility to drop if you decide not to attend the class any more.

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

Lecture and Reading Schedule

April 16- 22

The Democratic Republic, Forging a New Government: The Constitution, Federalism
Reading Requirement: Bardes et al, chapters 1 and 2, 3 & California Government chapters 1, 2
Orientation **Short Assignment 1**

April 23 - 29

Civil Liberties, Civil Rights
Required Reading: Bardes et al, Chapters 4, 5 **Essay 1**

April 30 - May 6

Public Opinion and Political Socialization, and the Media, Interest Groups and Political Parties
Required Reading: Bardes et al, Chapters 6 and 7 & California Government chapter 3
Test 1 on Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Thursday, April 30 Short Assignment 2

May 7 - 13

Campaigns, Elections
Required Reading: Bardes et al, Chapter 8 & CA Government chapters 4, 5 **Essay 2**

May 14 - 20

The Congress, The Presidency
Required Reading: Bardes et al, Chapter 9 and 10 & CA Government chapters 6, 7
Test 2 on chapters 6, 7, 8, 9 Thursday, May 14 Short assignment 3

May 21 - 27

The Bureaucracy, The Judiciary
Required Reading: Bardes et al Chapters 11, 12 & CA Government chapters 8, 9
Essay 3

May 28 – June 4

Domestic and Economic Policy, Foreign Policy
Required Reading: Bardes et al Chapter 13, 14 & CA Government chapter 10
Test 3 on Chapters 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 Thursday, June 4 Short Assignment 4