

Political Science I

Fall 2013, Section 8424

West Los Angeles College Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences Course Times and Location: Saturday 9am-1:05pm Room GC470	<u>Instructor Contact Information</u> Enrique Gonzalez, Instructor gonzale@lattc.edu (email) Office Hours: After class and by Appointment
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Course Description

Political Science I provides an introduction to politics, power, and political institutions primarily within the context of the United States. Federal, state, and local government will be analyzed to ascertain structure and function. Students will also learn about key documents that have influenced political life in the United States. Students will be required to weigh issues concerning civil rights and civil liberties. Current and historical events will assist to provide a stronger understanding of major political developments.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

- Identify the American system; State and Federal with its historical problems and practical accomplishments
- Analyze powers and limitations of the Federal and State jurisdictions as they are expressed in our age
- Demonstrate the importance of Civil liberties and Civil rights.
- Explain the need for practical participation in government wherever possible.

Required Textbook:

Schmidt, S., Shelley, M., Bardes, B., Ford, Lynne. American Government and Politics Today, (Charleston: Cengage Learning, 2013)

Basis of Grade

Tests and Papers Percent of Final Grade Due Date

Quiz (questions provided in advance) 10% 11/2

Take home Paper 1 20% 11/16

Take home Paper 2 20% 12/7

Final Exam 20% 12/14

Assignments 20% N/A

Participation 10% N/A

Extra Credit 1-3% N/A

Written and In-class Participation Assessment Guidelines

Assessment will be dependant upon your ability to convey relevant concepts with clarity and accuracy in your take home assignments. On written assignments, correct use of terms and self assessment are critical to success. Regular attendance enables instructional conversation and cooperative reflection. If problems arise, please consult me without delay.

Take Home Exam Format Guidelines:

Approximately 3-5 Pages Typed per paper
Double Space, 12 Point Font, Times New Roman

Academic Integrity

"Violations of academic integrity of any type by a student provides grounds for disciplinary action by the instructor or college. Violations of Academic Integrity include, but are not limited to, the following actions: cheating on an exam, plagiarism, working together on an assignment, paper or project when the instructor has specifically stated students should not do so, submitting the same term paper to more than one instructor, or allowing another individual to assume one's identity for the purpose of enhancing one's grade. For more information on the Standards of Student Conduct refer to the college catalog available in hardcopy and online at www.lattc.edu."

Special Needs

If there are special accommodations that you require to be successful in this course, please request assistance from the professor. To receive accommodations for a special need or disability, students must register with the Office of Disabled Student Program and Services. Please contact the DSPS Director at (310) 287 4450 for information and assistance. Student Services Building, 3rd floor, room 320.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend every class meeting, to arrive on time and stay throughout the class period. Students may be dropped from class for excessive tardiness, for failure to attend class the first day or during the entire first week of the class, or if the total number of absences exceed the twice the number of hours the class meets per week), missed/makeup exams, missed/makeup assignments, late assignments/extensions, reporting absences.

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

Week 1 (10/26)

Introduction: Course Outline

Chapter 1: The Democratic Republic Quiz questions provided

Chapter 2: The Constitution

Chapter 3: Federalism – Class exercise, case studies

Chapter 4: Civil Liberties

Week 2 (11/2)

Chapter 5: Civil Rights **Quiz: Chapters 1-3**

Chapter 6: Public Opinion and Political Socialization

Chapter 7: Interest Groups

Chapter 8: Political Parties

Week 3 (11/9)

Chapter 9: Voting and Elections

Chapter 10: Campaigning for Office

Chapter 11: The Congress

Week 4 (11/16)

Chapter 12: The President **Paper 1 Due**

Chapter 13: The Bureaucracy

Chapter 14: The Courts - Supreme Court Case Studies and Class Exercise on Federalism

Week 5 (11/23)

Chapter 15: Domestic Policy

Chapter 16: Economic Policy

Readings in the Global Economy: The Financial Times and The Economist.

Debating Fiscal, Social, and Market Priorities: Weighing Conservative vs. Liberal Opinion

Students will be presented with a national problem and contribute considerations from their specific political-economic perspective.

(11/30) No Class in Honor of the Thanksgiving Holiday Weekend

Week 6 (12/7) Paper 2 Due

Recitation: International Relations 1810-1992

Chapter 17: US Foreign Policy

Chapter 18 State and Local Government:

Chapter 18: State and Local Government

Week 7 (12/14) Final

Syllabus Subject to Change