

POLITICAL SCIENCE I: THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES
West Los Angeles College

Fall Session, 2013
August 26 – December 15

Instructor: Ms. Sholeh Khorrooshi

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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 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, 2012-2013 Brief Edition ISBN #978-1-111-83293-3 California Government, 5th Edition, ISBN # 978-0-547-04193-3 published by WadsWorth, Cengage Learning and are available at the College Bookstore. You may order the textbook online at the College website at the bookstore.

Course Requirements

6 essay assignments of one full page (no more, no less) double space for 30 points /5 points each (assignments that are late or are less than a full page will not receive any credit); 5 class discussion for 20 points/4 points each; 2 multiple choice tests for 15 points each and a multiple choice final exam for 20 points Assignments, discussions and exams will not be rescheduled for any reason). Assignments that are copied from Internet sources are not acceptable. The first assignment that is not your own writing will receive a fail grade. If you submit another assignment that is not your own writing, you will receive a fail grade for the course.

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

Lecture and Reading Schedule

Week 1: August 26 – September 1

Orientation

The Democratic Republic

Reading Requirement Bardes et al, Chapter 1, California Government Chapter 1

Week 2: September 2 - 8

The Constitution

Required Reading: Bardes et al, Chapter 2, California Government Chapter 2 Essay 1

Week 3: September 9 - 15

Federalism

Required Reading: Bardes et al, Chapter 3 Discussion 1

Week 4: September 16 - 22

Civil Liberties

Required Reading: Bardes et al, Chapter 4 Essay 2

Week 5: September 23 - 29

Civil Rights Required Reading: Bardes et al, Chapter 5

Test 1 on chapter 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Friday - Saturday September 27 – 28

Week 6: September 30 - October 6

Public Opinion and Political Socialization and the Media

Required Reading: Bardes et al, Chapter 6, California Government Chapter 3 Discussion 2

Week 7: October 7 – 13

Interest Group and Political Parties

Required Reading: Bardes et al, Chapter 7, California government Chapter 4 Essay 3

Week 8: October 14 - 20

Campaign and Election

Required Reading: Bardes et al, Chapter 8, California Government Chapter 5 Discussion 3

Week 9: October 21 -27

The Congress

Required Reading: Bardes et al, Chapter 9, California Government Chapter 6 Essay 4

Week 10: October 28 – November 3

The Presidency

Required Reading: Bardes et al, Chapter 11 Essay 5

Week 11: November 4 – 10

The Bureaucracy

Required Reading: Bardes et al, Chapter 10, California Government Chapter 7

Test 2 on Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 Friday – Saturday November 8 - 9

Week 12: November 11 - 17

Domestic and Economic Policies

Required reading: Bardes et al, Chapter 13, California Government Chapter 9 Discussion 4

Week 13: November 18 - 24

The Judiciary

Required Reading: Bardes et al, Chapter 1, California Government Chapter 1 Essay 6

Week 14: November 25 – December 1

Thanksgiving

No Assignment

Week 15: December 2 - 8

Foreign Policy

Required Reading: Bardes et al, Chapter 14, California Government Chapter 10 Discussion 5

Week 16: December 9 - 15

Final Exam On Chapters 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, Wednesday - Thursday, December 11 - 12