

# **Political Science 2 - American Government**

**Spring 2014 / Monday & Wednesday 2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. Sec. # 52631**

**Instructor:** Jack Hathaway

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**Office Hours:** By Appointment

## **Course Description:**

The field of American politics deals with the organization, distribution and orientation of political power in American society. This course surveys the processes and institutions of United States national, state and local politics. Among the topics discussed are individual political attitudes and values, political participation, voting, parties, interest groups, Congress, the presidency, Supreme Court, the federal bureaucracy, civil liberties and civil rights, and domestic and foreign policy making. Attention is paid both to the present state of the American political system and to its historical roots.

## **Intended Student Learning Outcomes:**

- 1.** Recognize the Constitutional processes and principles as they occur in modern U.S. and California politics.
- 2.** Identify the key elements in the formation of domestic and foreign policy, and relate how events can dictate our government's priorities.
- 3.** Identify the impact of the media and public opinion in regard to elections, voting, and the development of public policy in the United States and in California.

## **Required Texts:**

Barbour and Wright, *Keeping the Republic*, 6th ed.

Van Vechten, *California Politics: A Primer*, 2nd ed.

## Grading:

Final Grades will be based on the following:

Points:	Grade:
1000-900	A
899-800	B
799-700	C
699-600	D
599-0	F

Points will be earned through completion of the following assignments:

Assignment:	Points per assignment:	Total points:
U.S. Constitution Test	50	50 (5%)
California Test	50	50 (5%)
Examinations (4)	100	400 (40%)
Term Paper (1)	400	400 (40%)
Participation/Homework	100	<u>100 (10%)</u>
<b>Total Points Possible:</b>		<b>1000 (100%)</b>

## Assignments:

**U.S. Constitution Test** - You will be required to take a test covering the content of the Constitution of the United States of America. A study guide will be provided to help in preparing for this test. (On line / Take home)

**California Test** - You will be required to take a test covering our beautiful state California! A study guide will be provided to help in preparing for this test. On line /Take home

**Examinations** - There will be four (4) examinations in this class worth one hundred (100) points each. Your lowest grade will be dropped and replaced with the mean average of your other three test scores. *You will need a Scantron form 882 for each of these tests.* **MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS WILL ONLY BE GIVEN UNDER SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.** Some official

verification of the need to miss the exam will be required before a make-up exam is considered for approval by the Instructor.

*Verification* (example: doctor's notes) **does NOT guarantee a make-up**. If approved, a make-up examination must be completed within a reasonable time of the original date of administration. If prior accommodations are not made with the instructor, student will not be given the opportunity to make-up the missed exam and will receive a zero (o) for the testing assignment.

**Term Paper** - There will be one (1) term paper in this class. The paper will be a compare and contrast paper dealing with the differences between Federal *and California State Constitutional principals and processes. Centered around a policy issue, and the impact the media has had on where this issue sits on the priority list of the current administration.* The paper will be 6-8 pages long. More information will be provided.

**Participation/Homework** - Participation is vital in this class... There will be a homework assignment, consisting of an outline that will be emailed to me by the beginning of class. The outline will be based on the reading for the day, that should be completed. This homework assignment will be worth 2 points for each outline making it worth 32 points in total.

The other 68 points will be determined by your participation in class discussions and questions asked during these discussions. You must be present to receive participation points. The outline assignments will be discussed in detail on the first day of class.

**Reading Assignments** - All reading assignments must be **COMPLETED** by the assigned date. This will facilitate your learning of the course material as well as your ability to participate in class discussions. Keep in mind, *the readings and the lectures are intended to complement, not replace, one another.* Some material covered in the lectures will not be covered in the text: conversely, information in the text may not be addressed directly in class. In a testing situation, you will be responsible for all assigned materials. If you have questions on any of the material, ASK!!! I want to help you learn about American politics and government, but your questions may not be answered unless you ask them. **Always anticipate being called on in class to answer questions based on the assigned readings for that day.**

**Extra Credit** - Extra credit will be available in abundance through out the course of the year. You will be able to view films and write about how it relates to the class. You will be able to attend a local political event or meeting and write about how it relates back to the class. You will be able to collect current event articles and present to the class how they relate to our discussions. If you have additional ideas for extra credit, come see me. In short there will be all kinds of extra credit available for those that wish pursue it. All extra credit must be turned in by the 15th week of class.

**Conduct - In this class we will question everything EXCEPT each others' intelligence.** A guaranteed way to lower your grade is to conduct yourself in an inappropriate manner in the classroom. Inappropriate behavior such as playing on the internet, talking, sleeping, writing letters, text messaging, etc., during class, or failure to treat everyone in the classroom with respect, will affect your grade negatively. Those who practice such inappropriate behavior will likely be asked to leave the classroom, pursuant to California state law and the State Center Community College District's Student Code of Conduct standards (California Education Code § 76030-76033, SCCCD Board Policy 5500, and SCCCD Administrative Regulations 5500 and 5520, respectively). Cell phones, pagers, MP3 players, and all other miscellaneous electronic devices are to be turned OFF during class. Not only is a ringing cell phone distracting, disruptive, and annoying, it is rude and disrespectful. Failure to follow these instructions may lead to suspension from my class.

**Cheating** or instances of **plagiarism** are the most severe of conduct violations.

**Cheating** is defined as “the willful and intentional practice of fraudulent and deceptive acts for the purposes of improving a grade or obtaining course credit.” Cheating is NOT limited to examinations only. It includes any act in which you engage for the purposes of obtaining unearned academic credit. For further discussion of this concept, please refer to the Reedley College Catalog.

**Plagiarism** is defined as “fraudulently representing someone else's writing or other scholarly material as your own.” In other words, plagiarism is when you try to receive credit for someone else's work, including, but not limited to, any

source you use for a paper or submitting a fellow student's homework while representing it as your own work. For further discussion of this concept, please refer to the Reedley College Catalog.

As these are the most severe of conduct violations, they will be met with the most extreme of consequences. Any student caught in one of these activities will (a) receive a 0 on the assignment/examination in question, **(b)** sacrifice all participation/conduct points available in this class, and (c) will not be eligible to earn any extra credit in the class. In short, such actions will be met with a penalty potentially in excess of 300 points—over three full letter grades—in the course.

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities** - If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), or other similar legislation/regulation, please notify me immediately. All reasonable requests for assistance will be considered, and efforts will be made to accommodate your needs

**Note** - Things in life can at times catch us by surprise... with that in mind all of this is subject to change at the professors discretion.

## Tentative Course Calendar

Week	Date	Reading	Topic	Assignment Due
1	01/13/14	Syllabus / Introductions		None
	01/15/14	Barbour & Wright (B&W) Ch. 1	Politics / Government	Outline 1
2	01/20/14	MLK	No Class	
	01/22/14	B&W Ch. 2	Citizens / Culture	Outline 2
3	01/27/14	B & W Ch. 3	Politics of the Founding	Outline 3
	01/29/14	Test 1		
4	02/03/14	Review Test		
	02/05/14	B & W Ch. 4	Federalism	Outline 4
5	02/10/14	B & W Ch. 5	Fundamental Liberties	Outline 5
	02/12/14	Barbour & Wright Ch. 6	Equal Rights	Outline 6
6	02/17/14	Washington Day	No Class	
	02/19/14	Constitutional Exercise	Supplamental #1	Constitution Test
7	02/24/14	B & W Ch. 10	Legal System/ Courts	Outline 10
	02/26/14	B & W Ch. 8 & 9	Pres. & Bureau.	Outline 8 & 9
8	03/03/14	B & W Ch. 7	Congress	Outline 7

Week	Date	Reading	Topic	Assignment Due
	03/05/14	Catch up / Fill in		
9	03/10/14	Test 2		
	03/12/14	Review Test - Questions		
10	03/17/14	B & W Ch. 11	Public Opinion	Outline 11
	03/19/14	B & W Ch. 14	Voting / Campaigns / Elections	Outline 14
11	03/24/14	B & W Ch. 12 & 13	Political Parties / Interest Groups	Outline 12 & 13
	03/26/14	Lobbyist Exercise	Supplemental #2	
13	03/31/14	B & W Ch. 15	The Media	Outline 15
	04/03/14	Test 3		
14	04/07/14	B & W Ch. 16 & Van Vechten Ch. 1-3	State / Local Governments in a Federal System	Outline 16
	04/09/14	Van Vechten Ch. 4-6	The 3 Branches	
15	04/14/14	Spring Break		

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignment Due</b>
	04/16/14	Spring Break		
16	04/21/14	Van Vechten Ch. 7-10	The Rest	
	04/23/14	Policy Exercise	Supplemental #3	
17	04/28/14	B & W Ch. 17 - 19	Policy	
	04/30/14	B & W Ch. 17 - 19	Policy	
18	05/05/14	Review Course answer questions		
	05/07/14	Test 4		Paper Due
19	05/12/14	Review Test		
	05/14/14	Extra Credit Day	Student Choice	
05/19	05/23/14	Finals Week	Good Luck	