

Political Science 2 - American Government Reedley College

Instructor: Darlene Haines, MPA
Semester: Spring 2016
Section: 51609
Meeting: T/TH 2:00pm—3:15pm

Room: Life Sciences, Room A
Email: darlene.haines@sccd.edu
Phone: 559-797-1321
Remind: 81010/@51609

CATALOG 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, political 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 American political system and to its historical roots.”

PREREQUISITES: It is advised that students are eligible for **English 1A or 1AH**.

CLASS MATERIALS

Textbook (Required)

American Government and Politics Today: Essentials 2015-2016 Edition, 18th Edition
Barbara A. Bardes, Mack C. Shelley, II., Steffen W. Schmidt
ISBN-10: 1285853156 | ISBN-13: 9781285853154

Other Materials (Required)

Scantrons (882E) x 4
Blue book (Large) x 1
#2 Pencil(s)

Recommended Material

Hacker, D. and Sommers, N. (2015).
A Pocket Style Manual, APA Version (7th ed.).
Massachusetts: Bedford/St. Martin's.

LEARNING METHODS:

Lectures, active learning, required readings from the textbook, newspapers and/or journal articles, internet articles, assignments and class discussions.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Recognize the Constitutional processes and principles as they occur in modern U.S. and California politics.
- 2) Relate the structures, roles and powers of the national, state and local governments.
- 3) Recognize the impacts of various “policy inputs” on the development of public policy in the United States and in California.
- 4) Identify the categories of policies made by governments within the United States, and relate the questions underlying these policies.

OUTCOME ASSESSMENT:

Students will have achieved course objective if they complete all coursework and/or assignments with a cumulative average grade of C or better.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Study both the theory and practice of “democracy.”
2. Research the forces and political philosophies that influenced the founding fathers of the United States and the framers of the Constitution.
3. Compare and contrast the Articles of Confederation with the Constitution of the United States of America, including a discussion of the Federalist and Anti-Federalist factions.
4. Review the role played by the U. S. Constitution in (a) creating our federal system of government, with its subsequent divided responsibilities, and (b) establishing the separation of powers and checks and balances principles at the national level, as well as the implications of such.
5. Examine the federal system as a practical device to accommodate—within one government—national and local needs unique to the United States.
6. Evaluate the relationship between the Bill of Rights, the government, and the concept of “civil liberty,” noting that liberty is both the absence of governmental intrusion and the result of a set of guarantees that protect the individual against the excesses of government.
7. Assess the idea of civil rights as the rights of all citizens to equal protection of the law, as provided in the 14th Amendment of the Constitution. Students will also explore the development of civil rights, using the evolving civil rights of African-Americans and other groups as examples.
8. Consider his/her role as a voter in the United States political system, and survey the varying forms and systems of elections used in the United States, including primary elections, general elections, California referendum and initiative elections, California recall elections, and the electoral college.
9. Gain an understanding of the characteristics of the American political party system and the functions parties serve in the process of governing.
10. Analyze the issues surrounding development of public opinion, and its influence on formation of public policy.
11. Examine the influence of different means of mass communication (media)—both news-based and entertainment based on the development of public policy, and the techniques employed by each.
12. Evaluate the positive and negative effects of the countervailing influences of interest groups in American politics, the tactics of interest groups, and the means employed for keeping them honest.
13. Appraise the powers and limitations of the office of the President of the United States, and examine the roles he/she plays as a ceremonial, political, administrative, military, and legislative leader.
14. Examine the various powers/roles of Congress, different theories of representation, and the strengths and weaknesses of the legislative, or lawmaking, process.
15. Study the role of the national courts in interpreting the Constitution, shaping individual rights, and determining the distribution of governmental power. Students will also consider the subtleties of constitutional interpretation, noting that the Constitution is a living document that adapts to changing needs.
16. Explore the vastness and complexity of the bureaucracy. Students will investigate the different national departments and agencies, the characteristics of their growth and evolution and the mechanics of reorganization and reform; and to comprehend the difficulties of effective reform.
17. Examine the programs in the area of domestic policy intended to promote “the general welfare.”
18. Investigate the forces that shape American foreign and defense policy.
19. Study the structure, major functions, and significant powers of both the State of California and local governmental entities. Additionally, students will examine the relationship of state and local institutional powers to the concept of Federalism and survey various examples of direct and indirect democracy at the state and local levels.

CLASSROOM GUIDELINES:

1. Talking should be kept to class-related discussions.
2. The use of cell phones should be done outside of class.
3. Reading newspapers or other material or work for other classes should be done outside of class.
4. Sleeping is done better at home than in the classroom.
5. If you must leave early you must receive prior permission unless in case of emergency (my definition, not yours).
6. Arrive to class on-time. Late is more than 5 minutes late (and this is pushing it). If you are habitually late to class, this will be considered behavior that is disruptive to the class.
7. Respectful treatment of fellow students and their opinions concerning class-related topics. This means NOT making or directing any comments of a personal nature to any one of your fellow class members. It also means paying attention and remaining silent when someone else is talking.
8. Laptops and tablets may be used for note taking purposes only. If you choose to use a laptop or tablet, you must sit in the back of the class. If you are found to be doing things other than note taking, you will no longer be able to use this privilege.

****Essentially, any behavior that disrupts the class will not be tolerated.**

While these guidelines are not all encompassing, they do provide a basic idea of acceptable classroom behavior for you to follow. Failure to follow these guidelines could result in the following: (1) Meeting with the instructor; (2) Loss of points earned in class; (3) Other disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES (CELL PHONES/TABLETS/LAPTOPS):

ALL electronic devices should be used for class purposes only. I will ask any student to leave the class if I notice or am told of any cell phone or electronic device being used during class, for purposes other than note-taking or class discussion. Tablets and Laptops, if used, must be battery powered. Excessive noise or other distractions, as defined by those around you, will result in not being allowed to use any electronic device in class.

PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE:

Students are expected to attend all sessions of classes for which they are enrolled. Excessive absence will jeopardize a student's satisfactory progress in a class. Students may be dropped from class if they fail to attend the first class session of the semester. There are no institutionally approved excused absences for any reason. Only the instructor may excuse an absence. Absences caused by personal engagements, transportation delays and business affairs will not be excused, nor will absences from class to complete registration or add/drop activities.

ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR FIRST 3 WEEKS OF CLASS:

One absence without official verification (military orders/doctor/jury duty) will result in being dropped from the class. After that time, frequent absences may also result in the instructor dropping you from class. However, if you want to drop this class, **it is the student's responsibility to do so.**

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM:

“Cheating is the act or attempted act of taking an examination or performing an assigned, evaluated task in a fraudulent or deceptive manner, such as having improper access to answers, in an attempt to gain an unearned academic advantage. Cheating may include, but is not limited to, copying from another’s work, supplying one’s work to another, giving or receiving copies of examinations without an instructor’s permission, using or displaying notes or devices inappropriate to the conditions of the examination, allowing someone other than the officially enrolled student to represent the student, or failing to disclose research results completely.”

“Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating: the use of another’s words or ideas without identifying them as such or giving credit to the source. Plagiarism may include, but is not limited to, failing to provide complete citations and references for all work that draws on the ideas, words, or work of others, failing to identify the contributors to work done in collaboration, submitting duplicate work to be evaluated in different courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors involved, or failing to observe computer security systems and software copyrights. Incidents of cheating and plagiarism may result in any of a variety of sanctions and penalties, which may range from a failing grade on the particular examination, paper, project, or assignment in question to a failing grade in the course, at the discretion of the instructor and depending on the severity and frequency of the incidents.”

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Upon identifying themselves to the instructor, students with disabilities will receive reasonable accommodation for learning and evaluation. For more information, contact Disabled Students Programs and Services at (559) 638-0332. The TTY phone number is (559) 638-0356.

"If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (ie: Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the American With Disabilities Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation act please contact your instructor as soon as possible."

HELP IS AVAILABLE:

There are many services available to students to help them succeed and I would be happy to recommend these services to you.

EXAMINATIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

In this course you will have four exams, two papers, and one final team project. Exams may consist of multiple choice, True False, matching, and essay questions. More information will be given at the time of the assignment or exam.

Exams:

Once an exam begins, you may not leave the classroom until you submit your examination. Examination study guides (if available) and writing assignment guidelines can be accessed on Blackboard. **The use of any cell phone or other electronic device during a graded quiz, exam, or other assignment will result in a zero for that assignment. There are no exceptions to this policy.**

Writing Assignments:

All writing assignments will adhere to the American Psychological Association (APA) style. Writing assignments must be submitted by hard copy in class. The writing center is available to assist you in complying with APA guidelines.

Essay 1 will be a research paper on Interest Groups in America. Specific guidelines will be provided at the appropriate time in the class. Paper length: 3 to 5 pages plus references.

Essay 2 will be a reflection paper on your attitudes and thoughts of American government and politics. Specific guidelines will be provided at the appropriate time in the class. Paper length: 3 to 5 pages plus references.

BLACKBOARD QUIZZES:

Throughout the course you will be required to log on to Blackboard and complete a total of 10 quizzes. Each quiz will consist of 5 questions worth 2 points each. These quizzes will only be available during the time scheduled. Once you begin a quiz you will have 8 minutes to complete and submit the quiz. No repeats. If you do not log on during the open time to take the quiz you will receive a zero for that quiz. Blackboard quizzes cannot be made up. If you experience technical difficulties you must let the instructor know as soon as possible.

FINAL PROJECT PRESENTATION:

Your final project will be a group PowerPoint presentation on a current member of the House of Representatives of your choice. The project may be individual or in teams depending on class size. Specific guidelines will be provided at the appropriate time in class.

EXTRA CREDIT (Chapter Key Terms):

You will have the opportunity to earn up to 45 points of extra credit for Key Terms. To receive extra credit for Key Terms, you must write the key terms and definitions of the chapter you choose in the textbook in your own handwriting (not typed) and can be on 8 ½ x 11 paper or 3 x 5 cards if you choose. You may not repeat chapters. Key terms are due at the beginning of class and you may only turn in one chapter for the week. **There are no make-ups.** Complete key terms meeting these guidelines will be worth 3 extra credit points each. **Key terms will only be accepted Thursday, January 21 through Thursday, May 5, 2016. After this date Key Terms will not be accepted. The maximum points for ALL Extra Credit shall not exceed 65 points.**

NO QUESTIONS ASKED COUPON:

The NQA coupon will allow you to be one-week late on an assignment with no questions asked. You must attach the coupon to the late assignment. The coupon cannot be used for Exams, Blackboard Quizzes, Key Terms, Extra Credit, Quick Writes, or the Final Presentation. You will only get one and it will not be replaced if lost or stolen. Photocopies will not be accepted. ****If you do not redeem your coupon for an assignment, you may turn it in at the end of the semester for 20 points extra credit.****

LATE ASSIGNMENTS AND MISSED EXAMS:

Make-up exams will only be given to students who make prior arrangement **BEFORE** the scheduled exam or can show valid proof (Doctors appointment, family emergency, etc.) that missing the exam could not be avoided. The Make-up exam must be taken within one week of the original exam. After that time the student may take the missed exam on May 12, 2016 after Exam 4. The Make-up exam may be different than the version taken on the scheduled exam date. Papers are due on the scheduled date. Late papers will be accepted with a 20% deduction of the total points possible every week it is late. Exceptions can be made for extenuating circumstances with communication with the instructor.

***Any make up work may consist entirely of essay questions.**

GRADING	
Writing Assignments (2)	20% (200 points)
Exams (4) 100 points each	40% (400 points)
Blackboard Quizzes (10) 10 points each	10% (100 points)
Quick Writes (5) 20 points each	10% (100 points)
Final Project Presentation	20% (200 points)
TOTAL	100% (1000 points)

GRADING SCALE	
A	1000 points to 900 points
B	899 points to 800 points
C	799 points to 700 points
D	699 points to 600 points
F	599 points and below

IMPORTANT DATES	
[M] JAN 18	Martin Luther King, Jr. CAMPUS CLOSED
[F] JAN 29	Last Day to Add a Full Term Class • Last Day to Drop without a “W”
[F] FEB 12	Lincoln’s Birthday Observed CAMPUS CLOSED
[M] FEB 15	Washington’s Birthday Observed CAMPUS CLOSED
[F] MAR 11	Last Day to Drop with a “W”
MAR 21-25	SPRING BREAK—CAMPUS CLOSED
[T] MAY 17	Final Project Presentations (2:00pm—3:30pm)

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE		
<u>Weeks 1-3</u>	The Democratic Republic The Constitution Federalism Exam 1 on Chapters 1-3	Chapter 1 Chapter 2 Chapter 3 February 2, 2016
<u>Week 4-7</u>	Political Parties Campaigns & Elections The Media Public Opinion & Political Socialization Domestic & Economic Policy Exam 2 on Chapters 6,8,9,10,& 15	Chapter 8 Chapter 9 Chapter 10 Chapter 6 Chapter 15 March 1, 2016
<u>Week 8-10</u>	Civil Liberties Civil Rights Exam 3 on Chapters 4-5	Chapter 4 Chapter 5 March 17, 2016
<u>Week 12-18</u>	Interest Groups The President The Bureaucracy The Courts The Congress Foreign Policy California Politics of Diversity Exam 4 on Chapters 7, 11-14, 16, CA	Chapter 7 Chapter 12 Chapter 13 Chapter 14 Chapter 11 Chapter 16 Chapters TBD May 12, 2016

TENTATIVE ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE	
Jan 16-21	Blackboard Quiz 1—Democracy
Jan 21—May 5	Key Terms **See Extra Credit for details**
Jan 27—Feb 2	Blackboard Quiz 2—Federalism
Feb5—9	Blackboard Quiz 3—Political Parties
Feb 19—5	Blackboard Quiz 4—Domestic & Economic Policy
Mar 4—10	Blackboard Quiz 5—Civil Liberties
Mar 17	Interest Group Paper Due
Mar 30—Apr 5	Blackboard Quiz 6—The President
Apr 8—14	Blackboard Quiz 7—The Bureaucracy
Apr 20—26	Blackboard Quiz 8—The Congress
Apr 29—May 5	Blackboard Quiz 9—Foreign Policy
May 3	Reflection Paper Due
May 6—12	Blackboard Quiz 10—California
May 17	Final Presentations

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Blackboard—Help Desk 1-866-401-7784
 Library/Computer Lab—559-638-0352
 Tutoring Services—559-638-0358
 Health Services—559-638-0328
 Psychological Services—559-638-0300 x3210
 Career Services—559-6372543

Web Advisor—559-499-6070
 Academic Counseling—559-638-0337
 Writing Center—559-638-0300 x3619
 DSP&S—559-638-0332
 EOP&S—559-638-0340