**REEDLEY COLLEGE**

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 2**

**Introduction to American Government**

**Semester: Summer 2016 Section: 73543**

**Instructor: Darlene Haines Class Meets: MTWTH 8:00AM – 10:05AM**

**Email: darlene.haines@scccd.edu Room: Forum 1**

**Office Hours: By Appointment Only Phone/Text: 559-797-1321**

**Remind: Text @Reedley8 to 81010 to join**

**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, 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.”

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

**Textbook:**

We The People: An Introduction to American Politics, (2015) Tenth Edition

Benjamin Ginsberg, Theodore J. Lowi, et al.

New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Company

Governing California, (2015) 5th Edition

J. Theodore Anagnoson, Gerald Bonetto, et al.

New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Company

**Other Materials (Required):**

Scantrons (882E) x 5

Blue book (Large) x 1

#2 Pencil(s)

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

**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.

**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 the development of public opinion, and its influence on the 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.

**LEARNING METHODS:**

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

**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.

**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 (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 front 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.

**ACADEMIC FREEDOM:**

“All faculty members shall be free to pursue instruction, grading, scholarship, policy discussions, and public discourse in an environment free of intimidation and censorship. All faculty members shall exercise their academic freedom in a manner that promotes the District’s mission and that abides by the Institutional Code of Ethics (AP 3050). The merit of academic ideas, theories, arguments, and views shall be measured against the established standards of relevant academic and professional organizations. Academic freedom includes freedom of inquiry and instruction for every faculty member, including freedom in presenting and discussing subjects related to his academic discipline. Academic freedom also includes, but is not limited to, freedom to:

1. Inquire about, present, and explore difficult and controversial material that is relevant to the official course outline

of record;

2. Express differences of opinion with and among students, faculty, staff, and administration on academic matters;

3. Demonstrate, teach, and defend critical thinking skills and intellectual honesty.

Every faculty member is a member of a learned profession and shall have the freedom to use his professional scholarship, and present this scholarship in any academic discourse.

**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 for a total of 10 points. These quizzes will be available throughout the duration of this course. You will only be able to take the quiz ONE TIME. Once you enter a quiz the timer will begin and you will have 10 minutes to complete and submit the quiz. When the timer expires your quiz will be automatically submitted. You will know your score, but answers will not be provided until the end of the course. Answers can be made available upon request. Blackboard quizzes cannot be made up. If you experience technical difficulties you must let the instructor know as soon as possible.

**QUICK WRITES:**

Throughout the course we will have 7 quick writes. These will consist of receiving information in class and then writing your thoughts and opinions on the subject presented. It is expected that you will write about one to two pages and that it is legible. Each quick write will be worth 20 points. Quick writes will not be announced and cannot be made up. You will need to use lined notebook paper and a pen or pencil. If you are late, leave early, or otherwise miss the few minutes of your class when a quick write occurs, you will get a zero. **Two of the lowest scores will be dropped.**

**EXAMINATIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS:**

In this course you will have five exams, one essay, and one final presentation. Exams may consist of multiple choice, True False, matching, and essay questions.

**The use of any cell phone or other electronic device during a graded quiz, exam, or other assignment will result in a 0 for that assignment (pop quiz, scheduled quiz, examination). There are no exceptions to this policy.**

**Exams:**

Once an exam begins, you may not leave the classroom until you submit your examination. Examination Review Guides and writing assignment guidelines may be accessed on Blackboard.

**Writing Assignments:**

The writing assignments will adhere to the Modern Language Association (MLA) style. Writing assignments must be submitted by hard copy.

**Essay 1** 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.

**LATE ASSIGNMENTS AND MISSED EXAMS:**

Students who miss an exam will have an opportunity to take a Make-up exam. 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 may be different than the version taken on the scheduled exam date. Essays are due on the scheduled date. Late papers will be accepted with a 20% deduction ***every class day*** it is late. Exceptions can be made for extenuating circumstances with communication with the instructor.

**NO QUESTIONS ASKED COUPON:**

You will receive one coupon which will allow you to be three days late on an assignment with no questions asked. You must attach the coupon to the assignment. The coupon cannot be used for Exams, Blackboard Quizzes, Key Terms, Quick Writes, or the Final Presentation. It is your responsibility to keep the coupon in a safe place until you need it. You will only get **one** and it will not be replaced if lost or stolen. 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.

**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.”

**Participation** includes active listening, participating in activities, answering and asking questions, responding with nods or other gestures, and engaging in conversation. Simply showing up for class will not earn participation points.

**EXTRA CREDIT (Key Terms):**

You will have the opportunity to earn up to 80 points of extra credit. To receive the credit you must hand write the key terms and definitions in a format you choose (paper, 3x5 cards, etc.). You may not repeat chapters. Key terms are due by the listed due date. There are no make-ups. In other words, if you choose not to turn in key terms on the date it is due you have lost the opportunity to earn extra credit for that chapter. Complete key terms and definitions meeting these guidelines will be worth 5 extra credit points each.

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| --- | --- |
| 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 |

**GRADING: GRADING SCALE:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Class Participation | 5% (50 points) |
| Essays Papers | 10% (100 points) |
| Exams (5) 100 points each | 50% (500 points) |
| Blackboard Quizzes (10) 10 points each | 10% (100 points) |
| Quick Writes (5) 10 points each | 5% (50 points) |
| Final Exam | 20% (200 points) |
| **TOTAL** | **100% (1000 points)** |

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

Upon identifying themselves to the instructor, students with disabilities will receive reasonable accommodation for learning and evaluation. For more information, contact Programs and Services located in the Disabled Students Programs and Services Building. 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."

**TUTORING/INTERNET/EMAIL/BLACKBOARD/WEBADVISOR:**

**TUTORING: There is a tutor available in the Tutorial Center for this class. If you are struggling with learning or understanding the material in this course it is recommended to utilize the tutor regularly.**

**BLACKBOARD** will be utilized for test scores and announcements. Make sure you check blackboard often.

The new 24/7 Online Support is now LIVE. You can reach them online at http://d2.parature.com/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=8032 or by calling 1-866-401-7784.

**WEBADVISOR:** Students can use Webadvisor to make changes or verify information about college records. Use Webadvisor to register/add/drop classes, view academic planning and financial profile. You can also make payments on Webadvisor. There is a new section called Info Students Must Check. It is important that you review each of the links listed in this section at least once each semester to ensure that information on your student record remains current. The website is http://webadvisor.scccd.edu/.

The help desk for Webadvisor is available Monday – Friday from 8am to 5pm. You can contact the help desk by email helpdesk@scccd.edu or phone 442-8240.

**EMAIL:** State Center Community College District will use your free email account as the primary means to communicate with you. Your email account is the lastname\_studentID@my.scccd.edu (example: Gonzales\_0123456@my.scccd.edu). Communication with all students will be via district provided email unless you choose to receive notices about your student account by U.S. Mail. Email accounts can be accessed from any of the lab computers on campus or from an off-campus computer with Internet access.

**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.

**RESOURCES**

Blackboard—Help Desk 1-866-401-7784 Health Services—559-638-0328

Web Advisor—559-499-6070 Psychological Services—559-638-0300 x3210

Library/Computer Lab—559-638-0352 DSP&S—559-638-0332

Academic Counseling—559-638-0337 EOP&S—559-638-0340

Tutoring Services—559-638-0358 Career Services—559-6372543

Writing Center—559-638-0300 x3619

**LAPTOPS AND MOBILE DEVICES:**

**Cell phones must be silenced or off during class. 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 that causes a distruption. Notebook computers, if used, must be battery powered. Excessive noise, as defined by those around you, will result in not being allowed to use the computer or any other mobile device in class.**

**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.”

**TENETATIVE COURSE OUTLINE:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Week 1-2 | The Democratic Republic  The Constitution  Federalism  **Exam 1 on Chapters 1-3** | Chapter 1  Chapter 2  Chapter 3  **June 28, 2016** |
| Week 2-3 | Civil Liberties  Civil Rights  **Exam 2 on Chapters 4-5** | Chapter 4  Chapter 5  **July 5, 2016** |
| Week 3-4 | Public Opinion & Political Socialization  Interest Groups  Political Parties  Campaigns & Elections  The Media  **Exam 3 on Chapters 6-10** | Chapter 6  Chapter 7  Chapter 8  Chapter 9  Chapter 10  **July 12, 2016** |
| Week 4-5 | The Congress  The President  The Bureaucracy  The Courts  **Exam 4 on Chapters 11-14** | Chapter 11  Chapter 12  Chapter 13  Chapter 14  **July 19, 2016** |
| Week 6 | Domestic and Economic Policy  California Politics and Government  **Final Exam on Chapters 14 & CA**  **Final Project Presentation** | Chapter 14  California Chapters TBD  **July 27, 2016**  **July 28, 2016** |

**TENETATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Tuesday | June 21 | Key Terms 1 |
| Wednesday | June 22 | Key Terms 2 |
| Thursday | June 23 | Key Terms 3 |
| **Tuesday** | **June 28** | **EXAM 1** |
| Wednesday | June 29 | Key Terms 4 |
| Thursday | June 30 | Key Terms 5 |
| Monday | July 4 | **NO CLASS** |
| Tuesday | July 5 | **EXAM 2** |
| Wednesday | July 6 | Key Terms 6 & 7 |
| Thursday | July 7 | Key Terms 8 & 9 |
| Monday | July 11 | Key Terms 10 & 11 |
| **Tuesday** | **July 12** | **EXAM 3** |
| Wednesday | July 13 | Key Terms 12 |
| Thursday | July 14 | Key Terms 13 & 14 |
| Monday | July 18 | Key Terms 15 |
| **Tuesday** | **July 19** | **EXAM 4** |
| Wednesday | July 20 | Key Terms 16 |
| Thursday | July 21 | Key Terms 17 |
| **Monday** | **July 25** | **Reflection Paper Due** Key Terms 18 |
| **Wednesday** | **July 27** | **EXAM 5** |
| **Thursday** | **July 28** | **FINAL PRESENTATIONS** |

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| --- | --- |
| **NO QUESTIONS ASKED** | NO QUESTIONS ASKED |
| This coupon entitles: |  |
|  | For:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_    Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| A 3 DAY EXTENSION ON ANY ASSIGNMENT WITH NO LATE PENALTY.  Only one coupon per student.  Not valid on Blackboard Quizzes, Quick Writes, or Extra Credit.  If unused, this coupon can be redeemed at the end of the semester for **20** extra credit points. |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Extra Credit Tracker** | | |  |
| **Assignment** | **My Score** | **Possible** | **Total Points** |
| American Political Culture |  | 5 |  |
| The Constitution |  | 5 |  |
| Federalism |  | 5 |  |
| Civil Liberties |  | 5 |  |
| Civil Rights |  | 5 |  |
| Public Opinion |  | 5 |  |
| The Media |  | 5 |  |
| Political Participation |  | 5 |  |
| Political Parties |  | 5 |  |
| Campaigns & Elections |  | 5 |  |
| Groups & Interests |  | 5 |  |
| Congress |  | 5 |  |
| Presidency |  | 5 |  |
| Bureaucracy |  | 5 |  |
| Federal Courts |  | 5 |  |
| Economy |  | 5 |  |
| Social Policy |  | 5 |  |
| Foreign Policy |  | 5 |  |
| NQA Coupon |  | 20 |  |
| TOTAL |  | 100 |  |

The instructor retains the right to change or modify this syllabus as necessary.