**REEDLEY COLLEGE**

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 2**

**Introduction to American Government**

**Semester: SPRING 2023; Section: 52804**

**Instructor: Darlene Haines; Meeting Dates: 1/10/23-5/16/23**

**Email: darlene.haines@scccd.edu; Meeting Days: Tuesday/Thursday**

**Phone/Text: 559-797-1321 Meeting Time: 1:00pm – 2:15pm**

**Office Hours: By Appointment Only; Bldg/Room: Physical Science, Room 76**

**WELCOME MESSAGE:** Welcome to Introduction to American Government! This course satisfies, in part, the American history and institutions requirements for CSU/UC. In this course we will be discussing many various aspects of American government. Some of the topics we will discuss include the history and foundations of American government and how they relate to current events. This includes the three branches of our Federal Government and the U.S. Constitution and its predecessor, the Articles of Confederation.  In studying the U.S. Constitution, this class will focus largely on the Bill of Rights and the Civil War Amendments, as well as the struggle for equal rights in the United States. We will spend the final portion of the course studying California state and local government.

It is important to note that some topic discussion (abortion, gay marriage, gender, gun control, religion, etc.) may be sensitive and some may have strongly held beliefs.  Therefore, it is necessary to maintain respect for others' opinions and keep an open mind as to why they feel that way.  In addition, when discussing your opinion on topics it is important to maintain respect and give examples from your educational background and life experiences so that others may understand why you hold these opinions.  We will not debate topics as to whether they are right or wrong, but rather explore the nature of those topics as they relate to policies, power, authority, legitimacy, and democracy in American government.

It is important that you communicate any technical difficulties you may be experiencing to the help desk as soon as possible to keep up with the course.  In addition, please be aware of the due date for each assignment in this course.  To perform well you will need to be vigilant in reading assigned texts, keeping up with your coursework and checking Canvas every day.  If you experience extenuating circumstances, please let me know right away. It is a pleasure to have you in class and I look forward to helping you on your academic journey!

**CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION: “An introduction to the principles and problems of national, state, and**

**local government with particular emphasis on the Constitution of the United States and the state and local government of California.”**

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

• **American Government 3e**. Krutz, Glen and Sylvie Waskiewicz. July 28, 2021. OpenStax: Creative Commons. ISBN-13: 978-1-951693-38-1

The text is available in electronic version free by visiting the [OpenStax website](https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-3e).

• **California Government and Politics Today, 15th edition.** Field, Mona (2018). Pearson Education: New York, NY. ISBN: 978-0-13-462710-6

• **Computer or e-device AND Good internet connection**

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

**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.

**LEARNING METHODS:**

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

**CANVAS/EMAIL/ZOOM:**

**CANVAS** will be utilized for test scores and announcements. Make sure you check Canvas every day for changes or updates. The new 24/7 Online Support is now LIVE. You can reach them by calling 1-844-629-6837.

**EMAIL:** Reedley College will use your student email account as the primary means to communicate with you. 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.

**ZOOM:** **This class meets in-person and does not require regular attendance via virtual meetings.** Virtual meetings may be scheduled however, if meeting in-person might pose a risk to health and safety. Links to any virtual meetings will be available on Canvas. If you choose to attend a virtual meeting you must present yourself as if you were in an on-campus class. Your appearance and background environment must be professional and academic.

**COVID-19 GUIDELINES:**

As conditions evolve, Reedley College continues to adjust protocols, guidelines, and resources as needed.  Recently (October 2022), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) announced that it is ending the COVID-19 policies that required weekly COVID-19 testing for unvaccinated and under-vaccinated workers in high-risk workplaces and K-12 schools. Testing will only be available through the vending machines. All employees and students who wish to make use of the free onsite testing option may visit one of the vending machines, which are located on each college campus and the district office. Reedley College vending machine location – Student Center/Main entrance.

**IN-PERSON CLASSROOM GUIDELINES:**

While these guidelines are not all encompassing, they do provide a basic idea of acceptable classroom behavior. Failure to follow these guidelines could result in disciplinary action including loss of points and/or removal from class.

1. 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.

2. Talking should be kept to class-related discussions.

3. Cell phones and other e-devices should be for class purposes only. Any use other than academic will not be

tolerated.

4. Reading other material or work for other classes should be done outside of class.

5. Sleeping is done better at home than in the classroom.

6. If you must leave early you must receive prior permission unless in case of emergency.

7. Arrive to class on-time. If you are habitually late to class, this will be considered disruptive.

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

**ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMS:**

**Classroom Writing Assignments:**

Throughout the semester there will be scheduled in class writing assignments and activities. Writing assignments must be professional and academic. It is expected to write at least two paragraphs. One paragraph to state your opinion on the topic presented and another to support your opinion with what you are learning in class. You must be present and participate in class to receive these points. **ONE of the lowest scores will be dropped.**

**Practice Quizzes:** You may quiz yourself on the information you are learning after every chapter. These are practice quizzes and are not required. Any points earned **will not count toward your final grade**. You will have two attempts and there is no time limit. Correct answers can be viewed once after each attempt. The due date is a “soft” date and is only listed as a guide to help you progress throughout the course. Practice quizzes related to the chapters in the unit will be available at the beginning of the Unit until the day prior to the Unit Exam. Practice quizzes will not be extended for any reason.

**Exams:** This course consists of three Units. After each Unit there will be a Unit Exam. All Exams must be taken on Canvas (unless you have been approved for accommodations). The exam will only be available on the scheduled exam day until 11:59pm. If available, examination review guidelines and writing assignment guidelines can be accessed on Canvas.

**Final Essay Exam:** The Final Exam will be an essay written in class on the scheduled day of the Final. You will receive a prompt in class on the day of the Final and may be cumulative of the entire course. A study guide will be available on Canvas closer to the final date.

**LATE ASSIGNMENTS AND MISSED EXAMS:**

**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. **“I forgot” or “I didn’t know”** is not a valid excuse. Barring extenuating circumstances, if the extension is missed you will receive a zero for the missed exam. The Make-up exam may be different than the version taken on the scheduled exam date and may consist of all essay and/or short answer questions.

**Missed Assignments:** Classroom assignments cannot be made up without written proof missing class could not be avoided such as a family emergency, doctors appointment, illness, or other unforeseen extenuating circumstances. **“I forgot” or “I didn’t know” is not a valid excuse.**

**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. You may also call (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 (e.g., 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."

**ACADEMIC FREEDOM:**

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:

* Inquire about, present, and explore difficult and controversial material that is relevant to the official course outline of record;
* Express differences of opinion with and among students, faculty, staff, and administration on academic matters;
* 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.

**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.”

**EXTRA CREDIT:** Extra credit is not offered in this class.

**GRADING:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Assignment** | **Points** |
| Exams (3) 150 points each | 50% (450 points) |
| Class Activities (5) 50 points each | 28% (250 points) |
| Final Essay Exam 200 points | 22% (200 points) |
| **TOTAL** | **100% (900 points)** |

**GRADING SCALE:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A | 900 points to 810 points |
| B | 809 points to 720 points |
| C | 719 points to 630 points |
| D | 629 points to 540 points |
| F | 539 points and below |

**TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE CALENDAR**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **JANUARY 2023** | | | | |
| **MONDAY** | **TUESDAY** | **WEDNESDAY** | **THURSDAY** | **FRIDAY** |
|  | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| WEEK 1 |  | Welcome & Syllabus Overview |  | Lecture - Chapter 1:  What is Government? 1 | Reading Due:  OpenStax  Chapter 1.1-1.3 |
| WEEK 2 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR DAY NO CLASSES | Lecture - Chapter 1:  Democracy – Types of Government |  | Lecture – Chapter 1: Ideology |  |
| WEEK 3 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| Reading Due:  OpenStax Chapter 2.1 & 2.2 | Lecture - Chapter 2:  Articles of Confederation | Reading Due:  OpenStax Chapter 2.3 - 2.5, Federalist #51 | Lecture - Chapter 2:  3 Branches of Govt 2 |  |
|  | **FEBRUARY 2023** | | | | |
| **MONDAY** | **TUESDAY** | **WEDNESDAY** | **THURSDAY** | **FRIDAY** |
| WEEK 4 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Reading Due:  OpenStax Chapter 3 | Lecture - Chapter 3:  Division of Powers | Reading Due: OpenStax Chapter 3 | Lecture – Chapter 3:  Div of Powers Cont. |  |
| WEEK 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Reading Due:  OpenStax Chapter 4.1 & 4.2 | Lecture – Chapter 4:  Civil Liberties  & Basic Freedoms | Reading Due:  OpenStax Chapter 4.3 & 4.4 | Lecture – Chapter 4: Religion & Rights of Accused |  |
| WEEK 6 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| Reading Due:  OpenStax Chapter 5.1 & 5.2 | Lecture – Chapter 5:  Civil Rights & African American Equality | Reading Due:  OpenStax Chapter 5.3 – 5.5 | Lecture – Chapter 5:  Women’s Rights and Affirmative Action 3 | LINCOLN DAY OBSERVED NO CLASSES |
| WEEK 7 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| WASHINGTON DAY OBSERVED NO CLASSES | **UNIT 1 EXAM** Ch 1-5 (150 pts) | Reading Due:  OpenStax Chapter 6 | Lecture – Chapter 6:  Public Opinion |  |
|  | **MARCH 2023** | | | | |
| **MONDAY** | **TUESDAY** | **WEDNESDAY** | **THURSDAY** | **FRIDAY** |
| WEEK 8 | 27 | 28 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Reading Due:  OpenStax Chapter 7.1 – 7.3 | Lecture – Chapter 7:  Voting & Elections | Reading Due:  OpenStax Chapter 8 | Lecture – Chapter 8:  The Media |  |
| WEEK 9 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Reading Due:  OpenStax Chapter 9 | Lecture – Chapter 9:  Political Parties | Reading Due:  OpenStax Chapter 10, Federalist #10 | Lecture – Chapter 10:  Interest Groups 4 |  |
| WEEK 10 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
|  | **UNIT 2 EXAM** Ch 6-10 (150 pts) | Reading Due:  OpenStax Chapter 12 | Lecture – Chapter 12:  The President |  |
| WEEK 11 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| Reading Due: OpenStax Chapter 15 | Lecture – Chapter 15:  Bureaucracy | Reading Due: OpenStax Chapter 11 | Lecture – Chapter 11: Congress |  |
| WEEK 12 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| Reading Due: OpenStax Chapter 11.1 - 11.3 | Lecture – Chapter 11: Congress Representation & Gerrymandering | Reading Due: OpenStax Chapter 11.4 & 11.5 | Lecture – Chapter 11: How a Bill Becomes Law 5 |  |
|  | **APRIL 2023** | | | | |
| **MONDAY** | **TUESDAY** | **WEDNESDAY** | **THURSDAY** | **FRIDAY** |
| WEEK 13 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| **SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES** | | | | |
| WEEK 14 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| Reading Due: OpenStax Chapter 13, Federalist #78 | Lecture – Chapter 13: The Courts | Reading Due: OpenStax Chapter 16.1 - 16.4 | Lecture – Chapter 16:  Domestic Policy |  |
| WEEK 15 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| Reading Due: OpenStax Chapter 16.5 | Lecture – Chapter 16:  Economic Policy | Reading Due: OpenStax Chapter 17 | Lecture – Chapter 17:  Foreign Policy |  |
| WEEK 16 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| Reading Due: OpenStax Chapter 14 & California  Chapter 1-2 | Lecture – CA Ch 1-2: Land, Population & “CalExit” | Reading Due: California Chapter 3 | Lecture – CA Ch 3: History |  |
|  | **MAY 2023** | | | | |
| **MONDAY** | **TUESDAY** | **WEDNESDAY** | **THURSDAY** | **FRIDAY** |
| WEEK 17 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Reading Due: California  Chapter 8-9 | Lecture – CA  Ch 8 & 9:  Legislature & Governor | Reading Due: California Chapter 11; 13-14 | Lecture – CA Ch 11:  CA Courts & Local Governments |  |
| WEEK 18 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|  | **UNIT 3 EXAM** Ch 6-10 (150 pts) |  | **NO CLASS –**  **PREPARE FOR FINAL EXAM** |  |
| FINAL | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
|  | FINAL ESSAY EXAM 1pm – 3:50pm |  |  |  |

**TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE BY WEEK:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **WEEK** | **DATES** | **ASSIGNMENTS** |
| 1 | Jan 9-13 | Read Syllabus |
| 2 | Jan 16-20 | Read Chapter 1, Watch Videos, Read Supplemental Docs, Take Practice Quiz 1 |
| 3 | Jan 23-27 | Read Chapter 2, Watch Videos, Read Supplemental Docs, Take Practice Quiz 2 |
| 4 | Jan 30-Feb 3 | Read Chapter 3, Watch Videos, Read Supplemental Docs, Take Practice Quiz 3 |
| 5 | Feb 6-10 | Read Chapter 4, Watch Videos, Read Supplemental Docs, Take Practice Quiz 4 |
| 6 | Feb 13-17 | Read Chapter 5, Watch Videos, Read Supplemental Docs, Take Practice Quiz 5 |
| 7 | Feb 20-24 | **Unit 1 Exam**;  Read Chapter 6, Watch Videos, Read Supplemental Docs, Take Practice Quiz 6 |
| 8 | Feb 27-Mar 3 | Read Chapter 7, Watch Videos, Read Supplemental Docs, Take Practice Quiz 7  Read Chapter 8, Watch Videos, Read Supplemental Docs, Take Practice Quiz 8 |
| 9 | Mar 6-10 | Read Chapter 9, Watch Videos, Read Supplemental Docs, Take Practice Quiz 9  Read Chapter 10, Watch Videos, Read Supplemental Docs, Take Practice Quiz 10 |
| 10 | Mar 13-17 | **Unit 2 Exam**;  Read Chapter 12, Watch Videos, Read Supplemental Docs, Take Practice Quiz 12 |
| 11 | Mar 20-24 | Read Chapter 15, Watch Videos, Read Supplemental Docs, Take Practice Quiz 15 |
| 12 | Mar 27-31 | Read Chapter 11, Watch Videos, Read Supplemental Docs, Take Practice Quiz 11 |
| 13 | Apr 3-7 | SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES |
| 14 | Apr 10-14 | Read Chapter 13, Watch Videos, Read Supplemental Docs, Take Practice Quiz 13  Read Chapter 16.1-16.4 |
| 15 | Apr 17-21 | Read Chapter 16.5, Watch Videos, Read Supplemental Docs, Take Practice Quiz 16  Read Chapter 17, Watch Videos, Read Supplemental Docs, Take Practice Quiz 17 |
| 16 | Apr 24-28 | Read Chapter 14, Watch Videos, Read Supplemental Docs, Take Practice Quiz 14  Read California Government Chapters 1-3, Watch Videos, Take Practice Quizzes CA 1 |
| 17 | May 1-5 | Read California Government Chapters 8,9,11; 13-14, Watch Videos, Take Practice Quizzes CA 2, and CA 3 |
| 18 | May 8-12 | **Unit 3 Exam;** Study for Final Essay Exam |
| **FINAL** | **May 16** | **FINAL ESSAY EXAM 11:am-12:50pm** |

**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.

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