

Political Science 2

American Government & Politics

Course Syllabus – SPRING, 2013

**Course Section (Reedley):** **Instructor: Mr. Tellalian**

52102: M, 6:00 – 9:05 P.M. Email: bryan.tellalian@scccd.edu

Room: CCI-201 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 the 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, civil rights, and domestic and foreign policy. Attention is paid both to the present state of the American political system and to its historical roots.

**Course Outcomes/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, Christine and Wright, Gerald C., *Keeping the Republic: Power and Citizenship in American Politics*. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2012. Print.

Van Vechten, Renee B., *California Politics: A Primer*. Thousand Oaks: CQ Press, 2012. Print.

**Add/Drop Dates:**

*January 18, 2013 (Friday)* – Last day to request an Enrollment Fee Refund

*January 25, 2013 (Friday)* – Last day to add a full-term class for Spring, 2013; last day to drop a full-term class to avoid a “W” (in person) for Spring, 2013.

*January 27, 2013 (Sunday)* – Last day to drop a full-term class to avoid a “W” (on WebAdvisor) for Spring, 2013.

Beginning with the fourth week of full-term classes, students wishing to add classes must complete a Student Petition for Exception to Enrollment Deadline Due to Extenuating Circumstances form (SPEEDEC), secure the instructor’s approval and explanation for adding beyond the add deadline, secure the Dean’s approval, and present the petition to the registration desk for processing.

*January 28, 2013 (Monday)* – Last day to change a class to/from a Pass/No Pass grading basis.

*March 8, 2013 (Friday)* – Last day to drop a full-term class (in person). Letter grades will be assigned after this date.

*March 10, 2013 (Sunday)* – Last day to drop a full-term class (on WebAdvisor – must not have any holds). Letter grades will be assigned after this date.

*March 11, 2013 (Monday)* – Summer/Fall 2013 registration begins for continuing students.

*March 15, 2013 (Friday)* – Deadline to apply for Spring, 2013 graduation.

*May 13, 2013 – May 17, 2013 (Monday-Friday)* – Spring, 2013 Finals Week

*May 17, 2013* – End of Spring Semester/Commencement

**Attendance Requirements & Tardiness Policy:**

Due to State Center Community College District (SCCCD) policy, attendance records must be kept. To assist with keeping attendance records, there will be assigned seating via a seating chart and a sign-in sheet. Failure to sit in your assigned seat at the beginning of class will result in being marked absent.

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class using the seating chart and the circulation of a sign-in sheet. A student is considered late if he is not in his assigned seat when class begins. For example, if class begins at 9:30 A.M. and the student is not in his assigned seat at that time, he will be marked tardy. If you are late, you will need to sign in late after class. Otherwise, you will be marked absent.

Two tardies equal one absence. Absences resulting from tardiness will count towards the absences needed to be dropped from the course. For example, if a student is tardy to class twice in a row, the student will be marked absent. As a result, the student will only be able to miss three more classes before he or she is dropped from the course. See below for additional details:

Two Tardies = 1 absence Six Tardies = 3 absences

Four Tardies = 2 absences Eight Tardies = 4 absences; the student will be dropped.

If a student anticipates that he will be arriving to class late, the student must give the instructor prior notice *(no later than 24 hours before class*), a valid reason (e.g. medical emergency, etc.), **and** a written letter from the appropriate individual on the individual’s letterhead (e.g. a letter from a doctor on the doctor’s letterhead). If a student fails to comply with this policy and has an unexcused tardy, the student will be marked tardy in accordance with the policy described above.

If a student needs to leave class early, the student must give the instructor prior notice *(no later than 24 hours before class*), a valid reason (e.g. medical emergency, etc.), **and** a written letter from the appropriate individual on the individual’s letterhead (e.g. a letter from a doctor on the doctor’s letterhead). If a student leaves class early without complying with this policy, the student will be marked absent.

In order for an absence to be excused, the student must give the instructor **prior notice** (*no later* *than 24 hours before class*), **a valid reason** (e.g. illness, medical emergency, court appearance, car trouble), **AND a written letter from the appropriate individual on the individual’s letterhead** (e.g. a letter from a doctor on the doctor’s letterhead, a letter from the court clerk on the court’s letterhead, an invoice from an auto repair shop).

A student who has missed more than two weeks of instruction in a full term class will be dropped. However, a student cannot be dropped after the ninth week with respect to attendance. The last day to drop a full-term class is Friday, March 8, 2013. A letter grade will be assigned after this date.

**Children and Guests in Class:**

Children and guests are **not** allowed in class.

**Participation:**

Please be advised that students will be called on randomly during lecture in order to respond to questions related to the material being covered. Therefore, students should complete the required reading prior to coming to class. To maximize retention of the material, it is recommended that students review their notes prior to class. If a student demonstrates that he is unprepared for class when called upon, it may result a deduction of participation points. Moreover, students should take care to complete and turn in class activity assignments on time since these class activities will also comprise part of your participation grade.

Furthermore, as attendance is a measure of participation, it should be noted that missing class will not enhance your ability to succeed in this course. **As such, it is the policy of the SCCCD that an instructor may drop a student who has missed more than two weeks of instruction in a full term class.**

**Behavior:**

Conduct in the classroom that detracts from the instructor’s ability to deliver the course material and/or a student’s ability to receive the course material may trigger the removal procedure outlined in the Student Conduct Code (available at the campus library, Admissions office, Dean of Students office, Student Activities office, and Office of Instruction). Such conduct includes, but is not limited to, reading unrelated materials, talking, sleeping, writing letters, text messaging, etc., during class, or failure to treat one’s classmates or instructor with respect. Those who engage in such actions can be asked to leave the classroom at the instructor’s discretion and subject you to the disciplinary process outlined below. Persisting in such behavior will subject you to further disciplinary action (see below).

Disruptive behavior, willful disobedience, habitual profanity or vulgarity, or the open and persistent defiance of authority, or persistent abuse of college personnel is prohibited.

Failure to treat the instructor with respect, including, but not limited to, talking back in a disrespectful tone and emotional outbursts, are prohibited.

Engaging in the prohibited conduct detailed in the syllabus or this addendum is not permitted before, during, or after class. Additionally, such conduct is not permitted via email.

Student should enter the class room quietly out of courtesy to students who are studying prior to class. Likewise, students who arrive late for class should take their seat in a manner that does not disrupt the lecture for either the students or the instructor.

**Cell phones, pagers, MP3 players, and all other digital or electronic devices are to be turned OFF and PUT AWAY during class.** However, if there is an exceptional circumstance that requires you to leave your phone on during class, please notify me before class so that the situation may be judged accordingly. If your request to leave your phone on is granted, please switch your ring setting to the “vibrate” mode. **On examination days, no technological devices are allowed to be on. They must be turned off and put away.** Failure to adhere to these policies will trigger the disciplinary process outlined below.

***Engaging in prohibited conduct in, but not limited to, the syllabus will trigger the following:***

1. First incident – Warning from the instructor.

2. Second incident – Removal from class for one day; a student may be removed for one additional class meeting. Removal from class will activate the process to remove the student from the class for 10 or more days if appropriate.

3. Third incident – Removal from class for one or more days. Persisting in misconduct may subject the student to short-term suspension, long-term suspension, or expulsion.

**Cheating and Plagiarism:**

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 extends to any act in which you engage for the purpose of obtaining unmerited academic credit.

Plagiarism is “the fraudulent representation of someone else’s writing or other scholarly material as your own.” That is, the student tries to take credit for the work that someone else did. This includes, but is not limited to, any source you use for a paper, or submitting a fellow student’s homework while representing it as your own work. Please see the North Centers/Reedley Course Catalogue for more on cheating and plagiarism.

Cheating and plagiarism constitute serious offenses which will result in severe consequences to the student. The student will receive a “zero” on the exam, assignment, activity, etc., and may be subject to further disciplinary action.

**Grades and Make-Up Exams**

*Please note that you will be tested on all the material covered in lecture and in the reading assignments, regardless if all of the material in the reading assignments are not covered in lecture. Similarly, you will be responsible for the material covered in lecture, even if it is not in the reading assignments.*

All exams will consist of fifty (50) multiple choice questions worth fifty (50) points and short answer questions worth fifteen (15) points. Thus, each exam is worth sixty-five (65) points.

Exam 1: 65 points Final: 65 points A: 385.2 - 428 points F: 255.4 and Below

Exam 2: 65 points Paper: 50 points B: 342.4 – 385.1 points

Exam 3: 65 points Activities: 53 points C: 299.5 – 342.3 points

Exam 4: 65 points D: 256.5 – 299.4 points

**Make-up exams will only be given under special circumstances.** In order for a student to qualify for taking a make-up exam, the student must give the instructor **prior notice** (*no later* *than 24 hours before class*), **a valid reason** (e.g. illness, medical emergency, court appearance, car trouble), **AND a written letter from the appropriate individual on the individual’s letterhead** (e.g. a letter from a doctor on the doctor’s letterhead, a letter from the court clerk on the court’s letterhead, an invoice from an auto repair shop). Failure to follow the make-up exam requirements, i.e. an unexcused absence on the exam date, will result in a “zero” on the exam.

If a student meets the qualifications listed above, a make-up examination must be completed within one week of the original date of administration. Due to the limited availability of space and time constraints on instructors and administrative staff, a single time and date will be chosen by the instructor for all qualified students to make up the exam. The time and date chosen will be the **only** opportunity for qualified students to make up the exam. If a qualified student fails to appear on the time and date selected for the make-up, the student will receive a “zero” on the exam.

**There will be no make-up exam for the final** due to the time constraints placed on instructors and administrative staff at the end of the semester.

*For students who will require an accommodation due to disability, please see the section below regarding academic adjustments.*

**Scantrons:**

Unless notified otherwise, please use Scantron Form 886-E and a No. 2 pencil for all examinations.

**Final Exam Date:**

Section 52102 (6:00 – 9:05 P.M.): **Mon., May 13, 2013, 6:00 .M. – 7:50 P.M.**

**Holidays:**

Monday, January 21, 2013 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day, No Class, Campus Closed

Friday, February 15, 2013 – Lincoln’s Birthday observed, No Class, Campus Closed

Monday, February 18, 2013 – Washington’s Birthday observed, No Class, Campus Closed

Monday, March 25, 2013 – Friday, March 29, 2013, Holy Week (the week before Easter), No Class, Campus Closed

**Late Work:**

Late work is not eligible to receive full credit. For each day the assignment is late, the maximum amount of credit will be reduced by one grade level. At the same time, the student will still be graded on the original point scale. Additionally, if the student’s performance warrants a lower score, that score will be assigned. For example, assume a student would have received 20 out of 20 points for a paper but turned in the assignment one day late. The maximum amount of points the student is eligible to receive is 17 points (a “B”) out of 20. However, if the student’s performance shows that he or she deserves a lower score than the maximum available points, he or she will receive that score. For example, if the student turns in an assignment one day late, the maximum available points are 17. However, if the student deserves only 15 points, the student’s grade will be 15 out of 20 points.

In order for a student to submit a class activity or assignment without penalty, the student must give the instructor **prior notice** (*no later* *than 24 hours before class*), **a valid reason** (e.g. illness, medical emergency, court appearance, car trouble), **AND a written letter from the appropriate individual on the individual’s letterhead** (e.g. a letter from a doctor on the doctor’s letterhead, a letter from the court clerk on the court’s letterhead, an invoice from an auto repair shop). Failure to follow these requirements will result in a “zero” on the class activity or assignment.

If a student has an unexcused absence on a day in which a class activity or assignment is passed out, the student will not be able to make up the activity or assignment and will receive a “zero.”

*For students who will require an accommodation due to disability, please see the section below regarding academic adjustments.*

**Blackboard:**

**You will find some important resources for this class on Blackboard**. To use Blackboard, you can go to the Reedley College, Willow International, or Oakhurst Center websites. Click on the Bb box. You will then use your student ID number as both your user name and password. Once you’ve gained access to your Blackboard account, you can then click on any of your classes. You should also seriously consider changing your password to better secure your account. For this political science class, you will see three rectangular categories entitled Announcements, Assignments, and Course documents.

**You should check your Blackboard account several times a week for important announcements, assignments, and course documents.** The course syllabus will be available under the Course Documents tab. If you do not have a computer or access to one, you can use the media center/library at the Madera Center. **It is critical that you get access to a computer since you will want to avoid missing important assignments and announcements that are found online.** Should you have any questions regarding Blackboard, please do not hesitate to ask me.

**Academic Adjustment due to Disability:**

If you have a verified need for an accommodation or accommodations due to disability as described in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12213; 42 U.S.C. §§ 225, 611) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 701, et seq.), please notify your instructor as soon as possible (before or after class, email). All reasonable requests will be considered and efforts will be made to accommodate your needs

**Paper – General Guidelines:**

A handout detailing all of the requirements for the paper will be passed out at a later date. This handout is incorporated by reference into the course syllabus and upon distribution, will be effective immediately. What follows are general guidelines for you to keep in mind in anticipation of the paper.

All papers MUST include a “works cited” page noting the materials used to derive the content and arguments. All citations must be formatted according to the American Psychological Association (APA) specifications. When submitted, these materials should be typed in 12 point font, double spaced, and have 1” margins. Students must use complete sentences and paragraphs in response to all questions. These materials will be graded primarily on content and completeness. However, a portion of your grade will be based on grammar, spelling, and presentation. **Please note that papers must be turned in on the dates they are due during class or the work will be considered late.** With respect to late assignments, unexpected medical situations, or other valid reasons for submitting late work, please see the above mentioned section entitled “Late Work.” Regarding submitting work after a deadline due to a preexisting medical or psychological condition, please see the section entitled “Academic Adjustment due to Disability” above.

**Caveat:**

This syllabus is subject to change at the instructor’s discretion.

**Course Readings, Assignments, & Exam Dates**

*Please note that you will be tested on all the material covered in lecture and in the reading assignments, regardless if all of the material in the reading assignments are not covered in lecture. Similarly, you will be responsible for the material covered in lecture, even if it is not in the reading assignments.*

For assistance with completing the reading assignments, please review the Roman numeral conversion table and symbol key below.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| I – 1 | V - 5 | VIV - 9 | XIII - 13 | XVII - 17 | XXI - 21 | XXIV - 25 | Art. = Article |
| II - 2 | VI - 6 | X - 10 | XIV - 14 | XVIII - 18 | XXII - 22 | XXV - 26 | § = Section |
| III – 3 | VII - 7 | XI - 11 | XV - 15 | XIV - 19 | XXIII - 23 | XXVII - 27 | §§ = Sections |
| IV - 4 | VIII - 8 | XII - 12 | XVI - 16 | XX - 20 | XXIV - 24 | Amend. = Amendment | ¶ = Paragraph  ¶¶ = Paragraphs |

*The Declaration of Independence is in the Appendix of your textbook on pp. A5-A6. The United States Constitution is on pp. A7-A13.* Please note that even though multiple sections of the Constitution have been assigned, the reading itself is light as there may be only one sentence, a few sentences, or a few paragraphs associated with each section. In order to have mastery of the material, it will help you to have familiarity with the primary documents.

**Week 1: 1/7 – American Democracy & Political Culture**

Assignment: Ch. 1, pp. 3-9, 18-21, Ch. 2., pp. 46-49; Declaration of Independence (pp. A5-A6); Preamble to the U.S. Constitution (p. A7, 1st ¶, “*We the people*…”).

**Week 2: 1/14 – Politics of the American Founding & The U.S. Constitution**

Assignment: Ch. 3; Art. I, § 1; Art. I, § 2, ¶ 1; Art I, § 7, ¶¶ 1 – 2; Art. I, § 8, ¶¶ 1, 10-16; Art. I, §§ 9 – 10; Art. II, §1; Art. II, § 2, ¶ 2; Art. III, § 1; Art. IV, § 3; Art. V; Art. VII; Amend. I – X, XIII – XV, XVI.

**NO Class on Monday, January 21st due to the observance of the MLK Jr. Holiday**

**Week 3 & 4: 1/28 – The Federal System & The U.S. Constitution**

Assignment: Ch. 4; Art. I, § 8, ¶¶ 3, 18; Art I, §§ 9-10; Art. II, §§ 2-3; Art. III, §§ 1-3; Art. IV; Art. VI, ¶ 2; Amend. XI; Amend. XIII-XV.

**Exam 1 – 2/4: American Democracy & Political Culture, Politics of the American Founding, U.S. Constitution, The Federal System.**

**Week 5: 2/4 – Congress**

Assignment: Ch. 7; Art. I, Art. III, § 3; Am. XIV, § 3; Am. XX, § 2; Am. XXVII

**Week 6: 2/11– The Presidency**

Assignment: Ch. 8; Art. I, § 2, ¶ 5; Art. 1, § 3, ¶ 6-7; Art. II, Amend. XIV, § 3; Amend. XX; Amend. XXII, § 1; Amend. XXV

**Week 7 & 8: 2/25– The Bureaucracy**

Assignment: Ch. 9; Art. I, § 1, ¶ 1; Art. II, § 2, ¶ 1; Art. II, § 3, ¶ 3.

**NO Class on Monday, February 18th due to the observance of Washington’s Birthday.**

**Exam 2 – 3/4: Congress, The Executive Branch, The Bureaucracy**

**Week 9: 3/4 -- The American Legal System and the Courts**

Assignment: Ch. 10, pp. 290-306; Art. II, § 2, ¶ 2; Art. III, Amend. XI.

**Week 10: 3/11 -- Civil Liberties**

Assignment: Ch. 5; Amend. I-X, Amend. XIV, § 1

**Week 11: 3/18-- Civil Rights**

Assignment: Ch. 6; Art. I, § 2, ¶ 3; Amend. XIII-XV; Amend. XIX; Amend. XXIV.

**Paper Due – 3/18**

**NO Class (3/25-3/29) due to the observance of Holy Week (the week before Easter Sunday).**

**Exam 3 – 4/1: The Judiciary, Civil Liberties, Civil Rights.**

**Week 12: 4/3 -- Public Opinion**

Assignment: Ch. 11.

**Week 13: 4/8 -- Campaigns & Elections**

Assignment: Ch. 14; Art. I, § 2, ¶¶ 1-5; Art. II, § 3, ¶¶ 1-3,

Art. I, § 4, ¶ 1; Art. I, § 5, ¶ 1; Art. II, § 1, ¶¶ 2-5; Art. VI, ¶ 3; Amend. XIII-XV; Amend. XVII; Amend. XIX - XX; Amend. XXII; Amend. XXVI.

**Week 14 – 4/15: Political Parties & Special Interest Groups**

Assignment: Ch. 12 & Ch. 13.

**Exam 4 – 4/22: Public Opinion, Campaigns & Elections, Political Parties, Special Interest Groups**

**Week 15: 4/22: Mass Media**

Assignment: Ch. 15.

**Week 16: 4/29: Domestic Policy**

Assignment: Ch. 17, pp. 631-659 & Ch. 18.

**Week 17: 5/6: California State & Local Politics**

Assignment: Van Vechten, pp. 8-78, 97-130.

**FINALS WEEK:**

Section 52102 (6:00 – 9:05 P.M.): **Mon., May 13, 2013, 6:00 P.M. – 7:50 P.M.**