

Political Science 2 - American Government

Summer 2014 / Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 10:05 a.m. Sec. # 74896

Instructor: Jack Hathaway

Email: jack.hathaway@reedleycollege.edu

Phone: (559)225-5253 (leave a message)

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:	Percentage:
Journal	200	200 (20%)
Examination (1)	400	400 (40%)
Term Paper	300	300 (30%)
Participation/Homework	100	<u>100 (10%)</u>
Total Points Possible:		1000 (100%)

Examinations - There will be one examination in this class worth four-hundred (400) points. ***NO MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS WILL BE GIVEN.*** It is a take home final examination, that you will have three days to complete. It will consist of essay questions as well as multiple choice questions. More information about the examination will be made available as it is necessary.

Term Paper - There will be one term paper three-hundred points. The Term Paper will be a compare and contrast paper dealing with differences between a *Federal and State Law*. This will be done by asking a question centered around a single legal issue, and the similarities and differences in outcomes when dealing with Federal or State law. The paper will be 4-6 pages long. More information will be provided as it becomes necessary.

Journal - The Journal will consist of 20 (one a day!) current news articles that deal with political issues. The student will be responsible for finding the article, reading the article and then providing a summary of the article and how it relates to political issues discussed in class - the summary and relation should be about a page in length. The articles cannot all be from the same day - and they all have to be from different news sources (CNN, Fox, MSNBC, Daily Show, radio, etc.)

Participation/Homework - Participation in this class is vital. Each day of class, you will have a homework assignment consisting of an outline based on the reading you have completed for that day. This outline/homework assignment must be emailed to me by 8:00 a.m. each day of class. Each outline/homework assignment will be worth 2 points for a total of 32 points at the end of the semester.

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 throughout 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. 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 to pursue it. All extra credit must be turned in by the 24th of July.

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 in 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, SCCC Board Policy 5500, and SCCC

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.

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 all 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 instructor’s discretion and class needs.

Assignments and Dates:

Week	Reading	Topic	Assignment
1 6/23 - 6/26	Keeping the Republic CH 1-3. Selected Federalist Papers	Politics and government Citizens and culture. The Founding and The Constitution.	Outlines 1-3
2 6/30 - 7/3	Keeping the Republic CH 4 & 16. Van Vechten CH 1-3.	Federalism, state and local governments	Outlines 4 & 16
3 7/7 - 7/10	Keeping the Republic CH 7-10 Van Vechten CH 4-6	The three branches	Outlines 7-10
4 7/14 - 7/17	Keeping the Republic CH 5, 6 & 17 - 19	Fundamental liberties Equal Rights Policy	Outlines 5, 6 & 17-19
5 7/21 - 7/24	Keeping the Republic CH 11-15	Political Parties and Interest Groups; Public Opinion; Voting and the Election Process; The Media	Outlines 11-15 Term Paper Due on 7/24. Also last day to turn in extra credit.
6 7/28 - 7/31	None	Monday Review. Tuesday - Thursday is the Take Home Comprehensive Examination.	Journals Due on 7/28. The exam must be turned in to the front desk by the end of the business day on the 31st.