Political Science 2 Instructor: Prof. Hiatt

American Government & Politics MWF: 8:15-9:05am

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**Course Syllabus 2015**

**Course Description (description from Reedley College):**

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.

**Important Information: The basics for the course.**

**Required Text:**

Ginsburg, Benjamin, Theodore J. Lowi, Margaret Weir, and Caroline J. Tolbert. We the People, 10th ed. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2015. (WTP in course schedule)

Anagnoson, J. Theodore, Gerald Bonetto, J. Vincent Buck, Richard E. DeLeon, et al. Governing California, 5th ed. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2015. (GC in course schedule)

Brooks, Max. World War Z. Crown Pub, 2006. (WWZ in Grade structure, course schedule)

 Alternative Book: Machiavelli, Niccolò. The Prince, complete edition. Multiple publishers, 1532.

**Important Dates (ID):**

1/11 Start of Semester

1/18 MLK Holiday

1/22 Enrollment Refund

1/29 Last Day to Add

1/31 Last Day to Drop with W

2/8 President Holiday

2/15 President Holiday

3/11 Last Day to Drop

3/21-25 Spring Break

5/16 Final

5/20 Semester Ends

**Grade Structure & Student Requirements (SR):**

Exam 1: 100 Points/ \_\_\_\_

Exam 2: 100 Points/ \_\_\_\_

Exam 3: 100 Points/ \_\_\_\_

Exam 4: 100 Points/ \_\_\_\_

Final: 100 Points/ \_\_\_\_

WWZ: 50 Points/ \_\_\_\_

Outline: 50 Points/ \_\_\_\_

Support: 50 Points/ \_\_\_\_

Rough: 50 Points/ \_\_\_\_

Paper: 100 Points/ \_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_

A: 800-720 Points

B: 719-640 Points

C: 639-560 Points

D: 559-480 Points

F: 479… Points

**Exams**: There is a total of five exams. Four during the semester and the final. The exams are 50 questions each. There will be a few bonus questions to help get closer to 100%. There is no makeup exams. Students with a valid excuse (with proof or pre-approval) can drop one exam on their overall grade. Students are required to take the final exam. On the final exam day, students will answer a question about World War Z or the Prince. Questions for the exams come from classroom instruction, materials assigned, and discussions.

**Writing Project (WP)**: Students are required to write a four-page, policy paper. It will be turned in parts throughout the semester. They are required to follow the instructions on this project. Each student must write about a policy approach. They are limited to options that will be discussed at the beginning of the semester. Due dates are absolute with no ability to turn in late work. Those dates always fall on a Friday. Students have the whole week to turn it in with bonus points for early week turn-ins.

**Grade Insurance**: In lieu of extra credit, students can participate in an off campus event for a grade bump. If the student is on the edge of a better grade by 1%, it gets rounded up. (89%, 79%, 69%, 59%) The event will be announced in class.

**Participation**: Students should complete the required reading before coming to class. They are required to lookup materials identified by the instructor for classroom participation.

**Classroom Behavior**: The official information on this subject is in the Required Information section of this syllabus. Students will be informed of the basics rules of this instruction on Day One. These quotes summarize those ideas.

 “Your grade, your choice.” Students are responsible for themselves.

 “Don’t disrupt.” Students must respect the instructor and other students.

 “You will lose.” If a student steps over the line, the proper procedures will occur.

Changes to this syllabus can occur at the instructor’s discretion. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the instructor.

**Overall Information: Goals for the Course.**

**Governing Goals**: These are the established goals by the governing bodies involved in this class. They are requirements made by Reedley College, college district (SCCCD), and other governing bodies. This includes the examples of topics that must be discussed, writing requirements, and allotted time required. These goals are on top of all others.

**Student Goals**: These are the goals the student brings into the course. It can be the drive for an A to just passing the class for the requirement. The instructor is there to help students with their goals.

**Instructor Goals**: These are the goals of the instructor to help students with several ideas in this course. They include an understanding of political science, better argumentation, functioning after college, and other areas to help the student outside this course.

**Required Information: Cut and paste from official documents (with a little added).**

**Attendance Requirements**: Due to State Center Community College District (SCCCD) policy, attendance records must be kept. A method to take attendance with be resolved in class. The two options are assigned seating and sign-in sheet. Students are discouraged to arrive late because it can interrupt a lecture. The instructor can disallow students from arriving late and mark repeat late-arrivals as absences. Students that arrive late for exams will not be given extra time. Students cannot leave early (unless an emergency), they must plan ahead for an absence that day. The instructor does not take excuses for every absence and requires the students to monitor their absences in relation to college policy. If absences conflict with policy, then a valid excuse will be considered.

A student who has missed two weeks of instruction in a full term class will be dropped (any combination of tardy and absences equal to two weeks of instruction). For classes that meet three times per week, six absences equal two weeks of instruction. For classes that meet twice per week, four absences equal two weeks off instruction. However, a student cannot be dropped after the ninth week with respect to attendance. A letter grade will be assigned after this date.

**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 material, 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.

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, during office hours, or any other time a student interacts with the instructor.

**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. Students are expected to do their own work unless otherwise specified by the instructor (e.g. the instructions for an assignment indicate it is a group activity). If a student copies their work from another student or otherwise engages in the behavior mentioned in this paragraph, this constitutes cheating. 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 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 Cheating and Plagiarism Policy is separate and distinct from the Behavior Policy listed above. The student will receive a “zero” on the exam, assignment, activity, etc., and will be reported to the Vice President of Student Services for consultation. A subsequent instance of cheating will result in receiving a “zero,” being reported to the Vice President of Student Services, and removal (one or two days) or being dropped from the course. Students may also be subject to further disciplinary action.

**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.

**Course schedule:**

Jan. 11-13: Introduction to the course, syllabus, writing project.

Part I in WTP: American Political Culture

 SR: Read WTP 2-16, find video of Porky Pig & Pledge of Allegiance

Jan. 18-22: ID – 1/18, no class

 Part I in WTP: American Political Culture, Founding and the Constitution

 SR: Read WTP 17-90, find summary for Magna Carte, French Revolution

Jan. 25-29: ID – Turn in week for WP outline, 29th final day.

 Part I in WTP: Founding and Constitution, Federalism

 SR: Read WTP 90-151, find support/opposition for gun control

Feb. 1-5: ID – 2/5, Exam 1

 Part I in WTP: Civil Liberties, Civil Rights

 SR: Read WTP 156-201, find book study guides

Feb. 8-12: ID – 2/8, no class

 Part II in WTP: Public Opinion

 SR: Read WTP 206-278

Feb. 15-19: ID – 2/15, no class

 Part II in WTP: Media, Political Participation & Voting

SR: Read WTP 279-335, summary of Neil Postman’s book, “Amusing Ourselves to Death”

Feb. 22-26: ID – Turn in week for WP support, 26th final day.

 Part II in WTP: Political Parties, Campaigns & Elections

 SR: Read WTP 340-414, watch first 13 minutes from “War Room,” 1993

Feb. 29-4: ID – 3/4. Exam 2

 Part II in WTP: Campaigns & Elections, Groups & Interests

 SR: Read WTP 415-465

Mar. 7-11: Part III in WTP: Congress, The Presidency

 SR: Read WTP 470-534, find articles about filibusters, incumbency

Mar. 14-18: Part III in WTP: The Presidency, Bureaucracy in a Democracy

 SR: Read WTP 535-593, find articles about Bush 43 and Africa

Mar. 21-25: Spring Break

Mar. 28-1: ID – Turn in week for WP rough, 4/1 final day. 4/1, Exam 3.

 Part III in WTP: Federal Courts

 SR: Read WTP 598-634

April 4-8: Part IV in WTP: Government & the Economy, Social Policy

 SR: Read WTP 640-697, find information about Samsung, Mitsubishi

April 11-15: Part IV in WTP: Social Policy, Foreign Policy and Democracy

 SR: Read WTP 698-757, find out about democracy in Iran

April 18-22: ID - 4/22, Exam 4

 Part IV in WTP: Policy in Relation to Previous Chapters, Current Policy

 SR: Articles assigned the week before.

April 25-29: GC/Review: State Laboratory, Democracy, California Policy

 SR: Read GC 1-40, 69-102, 243-256

May 2-6: ID – Turn in week for WP paper (complete), 5/6 final day.

 GC/Review: Government Levels, Local Government

 SR: Read GC 107-176, 203-238

May 9-13: GC/Review: Budgets, Interests Groups and the Media in California, Intro to Political Science

 SR: Read GC 45-65, 179-198

May 16: Final, Exam 5 and WWZ Question.