**REEDLEY COLLEGE**

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 2**

**Introduction to American Government**

**Semester: Spring 2017 Section: 59109**

**Instructor: Darlene Haines Class Meets: T/TH 2:00pm – 3:15pm**

**Email: darlene.haines@scccd.edu Room: Life Sciences, Room A**

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

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**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:**

**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

**Recommended Material**

Hacker, Diana and Sommers, Nancy (2012). *A Pocket Style Manual, APA Version* (6th edition). Massachusetts: Bedford/St. Martin’s.

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

**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.

**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.

**CLASSROOM GUIDELINES:**

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.

**CELL PHONES/TABLETS/LAPTOPS:**

**Cell phones and other communicative devices must be put on silent or turned 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 distracts other students from their full learning potential. 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 in class.**

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. 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 class related research and note taking purposes only. 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.

**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.

**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 half to one page and that it is legible. Each quick write will be worth 10 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, QUIZZES, AND ASSIGNMENTS:**

In this course you will have five exams, two essays, and one final project. Exams may consist of multiple choice, True False, matching, and essay questions. Make-up exams may be offered and may consist of essay only.

**Exams:**

All exams will be taken on Canvas. You must log on to Canvas on the scheduled exam day to take the exam. Specific instructions will be given in class. If available, examination review guidelines and writing assignment guidelines can be accessed on Canvas.

**Writing Assignments:**

Writing assignments will adhere to the American Psychological Association (APA) style. Writing assignments must be submitted by hard copy in class. The writing lab is available to assist you in complying with the APA guidelines.

**Essay 1** will be a research paper on Interest Groups in America. Specific guidelines will be provided at the appropriate time in the class. Paper length: 5 pages plus references.

**Essay 2** 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.

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.

**Quizzes:**

In this course you will be required to take 10 quizzes on Canvas. The quizzes will be available until the end of the semester. The quizzes consist of 5 questions worth 2 points each and will be timed. You will have two opportunities to take each quiz. Canvas will keep your highest score. It is your responsibility to log on to Canvas and complete the quizzes BEFORE the end of the semester. It is highly recommended that you take the quizzes throughout the semester as opposed to waiting until the very end.

**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 must be taken within two weeks of the original exam date. There will be no other extensions. The Make-up exam may be different than the version taken on the scheduled exam date and may consist of all essay questions.

**PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE:**

“Course start times are printed on your Banner Web Student Schedule and are also posted on the COS website. Students are expected to be in class on time and to remain for the entire class period. Classes are not automatically dismissed in the absence of the instructor. Classes are cancelled only by a representative of the administration. If a class is cancelled, a cancellation notice is posted on the door of the room where the class meets. A notice is also posted near the top of the COS webpage (www.cos.edu) under “Cancelled Classes.”

Students are expected to attend all class meetings of their courses. When a student is forced to be absent, the reason for the absence should be reported to the instructor as soon as possible. Contact information for each instructor is provided on the first page of this syllabus. Students are expected to obtain any course work missed, such as notes or assignments, due to their absence.”

**Participation** is expected and includes active listening, participating in activities, answering and asking questions, responding with nods or other gestures, and engaging in conversation.

**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:**

“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 may be earned by taking an optional separate exam. The Extra Credit Exam will be on Canvas and will consist of matching key terms with the correct definition. Wrong answers will not count against you. Specific instructions will be given in class. Extra Credit Exams cannot be made up.

**NO QUESTIONS ASKED COUPON:**

You will receive one coupon which will allow you to be one week late on an assignment with no questions asked. You must attach the coupon to the assignment. The coupon cannot be used for Exams, Extra Credit Exams, 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 extra credit points.\*\*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Exams (5) 100 points each | 50% (500 points) |
| Interest Group Paper | 10% (100 points) |
| Reflection Paper | 10% (100 points) |
| Quizzes (5) 10 points each | 10% (100 points) |
| Quick Writes (5) 10 points each | 5% (50 points) |
| Final Presentation | 15% (150 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 Access and Ability Center (AAC) at 559-730-3805.

"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."

**CLASS COMMUNICATION**

**CANVAS** will be utilized for scores and announcements. REMIND may be used for class communication as well. Students are encouraged to check Canvas often.

**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.

**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.

**TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Week 1-4 | American Political Culture  The Constitution  Federalism  **Exam 1 on Chapters 1-3** | Chapter 1  Chapter 2  Chapter 3  **(Thur) January 26, 2017** |
| Week 5-7 | Civil Liberties  Civil Rights  **Exam 2 on Chapters 4-5** | Chapter 4  Chapter 5  **(Tues) February 14, 2017** |
| Week 8-11 | Public Opinion  The Media  Political Participation & Voting  Political Parties  Campaigns & Elections  Groups and Interests  **Exam 3 on Chapters 6-10**  **Interest Group Paper Due** | Chapter 6  Chapter 7  Chapter 8  Chapter 9  Chapter 10  Chapter 11  **(Thur) March 16, 2017**  **(Tues) April 4, 2017** |
| Week 12-14 | The Congress  The Presidency  Bureaucracy in a Democracy  The Federal Courts  **Exam 4 on Chapters 12-15** | Chapter 12  Chapter 13  Chapter 14  Chapter 15  **(Thur) April 6, 2017** |
| Week 15-18 | Government & the Economy  Social Policy  Foreign Policy & Democracy  California Politics and Government  **Reflection Paper Due**  **Exam 5 on Chapters 16-18 & CA**  **Final Project Presentation** | Chapter 16  Chapter 17  Chapter 18  California Chapters TBD  **(Thur) May 4, 2017**  **(Thur) May 11, 2017**  **(Thur) May 18, 2017** |

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

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| **Grade & Assignment Tracker** | | | |
| **Assignment** | **My Score** | **Possible** | **My Grade Total** |
| Quiz 1 |  | 10 |  |
| Quiz 2 |  | 10 |  |
| Quiz 3 |  | 10 |  |
| Quiz 4 |  | 10 |  |
| Quiz 5 |  | 10 |  |
| Quiz 6 |  | 10 |  |
| Quiz 7 |  | 10 |  |
| Quiz 8 |  | 10 |  |
| Quiz 9 |  | 10 |  |
| Quiz 10 |  | 10 |  |
| Quick Write 1 |  | 10 |  |
| Quick Write 2 |  | 10 |  |
| Quick Write 3 |  | 10 |  |
| Quick Write 4 |  | 10 |  |
| Quick Write 5 |  | 10 |  |
| Quick Write 6 |  | 10 |  |
| Quick Write 7 |  | 10 |  |
| Exam 1 |  | 100 |  |
| Exam 2 |  | 100 |  |
| Exam 3 |  | 100 |  |
| Exam 4 |  | 100 |  |
| Exam 5 |  | 100 |  |
| Interest Group Paper |  | 100 |  |
| Reflection Paper |  | 100 |  |
| Final Presentation |  | 150 |  |
| Extra Credit |  |  |  |
| Total |  | 1000 |  |

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| --- | --- |
| **NO QUESTIONS ASKED** | NO QUESTIONS ASKED |
| This coupon entitles: |  |
| NAME | For:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_    Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| ONE WEEK EXTENSION ON AN ASSIGNMENT-NO PENALTY.  Only one coupon per student.  Not valid on Exams, Make-Up Exams, Quizzes, Quick Writes, or Extra Credit.  If unused, this coupon can be redeemed at the end of the semester for **20** extra credit points. |