



REEDLEY COLLEGE
POLITICAL SCIENCE 2
Introduction to American Government

Semester: Spring 2018

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Office Hours: By Appointment Only

Remind: Text @reedleymw to 81010 to join OR go to <https://www.remind.com/join/reedleymw>

Section: 52722

Class Meets: Mon/Wed 6:00pm – 7:15pm

Room: Forum 1

Phone/Text: 559-797-1321

CATALOG 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 American political system and to its historical roots.”

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Textbook:

We The People: An Introduction to American Politics (2018), The Essentials, Eleventh 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

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

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.

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.

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.

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. Late is more than 5 minutes (and this is pushing it). 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 note taking purposes only. Uses other than academic will not be tolerated.

**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.

CANVAS QUIZZES:

Throughout the course you will be required to log on to Canvas and complete a total of 10 quizzes. Each quiz will consist of 5 questions worth 2 points each for a total of 10 points. These quizzes will be available throughout the duration of this course. You will have two attempts to take the quiz. Once you enter a quiz the timer will begin and you will have 15 minutes to complete and submit the quiz. When the timer expires, your quiz will be automatically submitted. Canvas will keep your highest score. Quizzes will have a “due date” as a guideline to help you progress through the course, however there is no penalty for submitting a quiz past the due date. It is your responsibility to log on to Canvas and complete the quizzes **BEFORE** the last instruction day of the semester. It is highly recommended that you take the quizzes throughout the semester by the “due date” as opposed to waiting until the very end. **If you do not complete the quizzes by the last day of instruction, you will have lost the opportunity to take them. There are no exceptions to this.** If you experience technical difficulties you must let the instructor know as soon as possible.

QUICK WRITES:

Throughout the course we will have 7 quick writes in class. These will consist of receiving information in class and then writing your thoughts and opinions on the subject presented on paper. It is expected that you will write at least one to two paragraphs and that it is legible. Each quick write will be worth 20 points. **QUICK WRITES WILL NOT BE ANNOUNCED AND CANNOT BE MADE UP. If you ask to make up a quick write, 20 points will be deducted from your total class points. If you are late, leave early, or otherwise miss the few minutes of your class when a quick write occurs, you will receive a zero. Two of the lowest scores will be dropped.**

EXAMINATIONS:

In this course you will have five exams. Exams may consist of multiple choice, True False, and matching questions. All exams must be taken on Canvas (unless you have been approved for accommodations). You must log on to Canvas on the scheduled exam day to take the exam. The exam will be available from 12:00AM to 11:59PM on the scheduled exam day. **WE WILL NOT MEET IN CLASS ON SCHEDULED EXAM DAYS.** You must use a computer with a good internet connection. You must let the instructor know of any technical difficulties as soon as possible. If available, examination review guidelines may be accessed on Canvas.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:

The writing assignment will adhere to the Modern Language Association (MLA) style. Writing assignments must be submitted on Canvas.

Research Paper: this writing assignment will be a research paper on a current member of the House of Representatives that you choose. You must submit this paper on Canvas. Late papers and hard copies will **NOT** be accepted. Specific guidelines will be provided at the appropriate time in class. Paper length: 5 to 7 pages, plus references.

Reflection Paper: this writing assignment will be a reflection paper on your political thoughts and attitudes of American government and politics. You must submit this paper on Canvas. Late papers and hard copies will **NOT** be accepted. Specific guidelines will be provided at the appropriate time in the class. Paper length: 3 to 5 pages, plus references.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS AND MISSED EXAMS:

Students who miss an exam may have an opportunity to take a Make-up exam. Make-up exams will **ONLY** be given to students who make prior arrangements **BEFORE** the scheduled exam or can show valid proof (Doctors appointment, family emergency, etc.) that missing the scheduled exam could not be avoided. The Make-up exam may be different than the version taken on the scheduled exam date and **WILL CONSIST OF ALL ESSAY AND SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS.** You will **NOT** be allowed to take a Make-up exam because you forgot to take it on the scheduled exam day or you do not like the score on your first attempt.

Writing assignments are due on the scheduled due date. **Late papers will NOT be accepted.** Exceptions can be made for extenuating circumstances with communication with the instructor.

GRADING:

Assignment	Points
Research Paper	15% (150 points)
Reflection Paper	15% (150 points)
Exams (5) 100 points each	50% (500 points)
Canvas Quizzes (10) 10 points each	10% (100 points)
Quick Writes (5) 20 points each	10% (100 points)
TOTAL	100% (1000 points)

GRADING SCALE:

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

EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES:

You may choose to attend in person any of the listed locations below and write a paper on your experience. You must describe your experience in detail and relate it to any relevant area covered in your textbook and/or class discussions. Your paper must comply with MLA guidelines including 1” margins, double spaced, and Times New Roman 12pt font. Sources must be cited appropriately and include a Works Cited page. The paper length should be 3-5 pages (not including Works Cited). Each assignment is worth up to 25 points. You may submit a maximum of two extra credit assignments. Completed extra credit assignments are due on Finals day. Late assignments will **NOT** be accepted. There will be no exceptions.

Reedley City Council (Meeting). See website for schedule and agenda.

http://reedley.com/government_meetings/?p=city_council

State Center Community College District
Board of Trustees Meeting. See website for schedule.

<http://www.scccd.edu/events/index.html>

Fresno County Board of Supervisors (Board Meeting). See website for schedule.

<http://www.co.fresno.ca.us/departments/board-of-supervisors>

Fresno City Council (Meeting). See website for schedule.

<https://www.fresno.gov/citycouncil/>

Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission (Hearing). See website for more information.

<http://www.fresnolafco.org/>

Fresno County Historical Museum

<https://www.fresnofair.com/fresno-county-historical-museum>

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.”

PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE:

“Students are expected to attend all sessions of classes for which they are enrolled. Excessive absence will jeopardize a student’s satisfactory progress in a class. Students may be dropped from class if they fail to attend the first class session of the semester. There are no institutionally approved excused absences for any reason. Only the instructor may excuse an absence. Absences caused by personal engagements, transportation delays and business affairs will not be excused, nor will absences from class to complete registration or add/drop activities.”

PARTICIPATION includes active listening, taking notes, participating in activities, answering and asking questions, responding with nods or other gestures, and engaging in class discussion. Simply showing up for class does not qualify as participation.

LAPTOPS AND MOBILE DEVICES:

Cell phones must be silenced or 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 causes a disruption to the learning process. 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 or any other mobile device in class.

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. For more information, contact Disabled Students Programs and Services at (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 (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."

TUTORING/INTERNET/EMAIL/CANVAS/WEBADVISOR:

TUTORING: There may be a tutor available in the Tutorial Center for this class. If you are struggling with learning or understanding the material in this course it is recommended to utilize the tutor regularly.

CANVAS will be utilized for test scores and announcements. Make sure you check Canvas often.

WEBADVISOR: Students can use Webadvisor to make changes or verify information about college records. Use Webadvisor to register/add/drop classes, view academic planning and financial profile. You can also make payments on Webadvisor. There is a new section called Info Students Must Check. It is important that you review each of the links listed in this section at least once each semester to ensure that information on your student record remains current. The website is <http://webadvisor.sccd.edu/>. The help desk for Webadvisor is available Monday – Friday from 8am to 5pm. You can contact the help desk by email helpdesk@sccd.edu or phone 442-8240.

EMAIL: State Center Community College District will use your free email account as the primary means to communicate with you. Your email account is the lastname_studentID@my.sccd.edu (example: Gonzales_0123456@my.sccd.edu). 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.

RESOURCES

<u>Canvas—Help Desk 1-866-401-7784</u>	<u>Health Services—559-638-0328</u>
<u>Web Advisor—559-499-6070</u>	<u>Psychological Services—559-638-0300 x3210</u>
<u>Library/Computer Lab—559-638-0352</u>	<u>DSP&S—559-638-0332</u>
<u>Academic Counseling—559-638-0337</u>	<u>EOP&S—559-638-0340</u>
<u>Tutoring Services—559-638-0358</u>	<u>Career Services—559-6372543</u>
<u>Writing Center—559-638-0300 x3619</u>	

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE:

Week 1-4	The Democratic Republic The Constitution Federalism Exam 1 on Chapters 1-3	Chapter 1 Chapter 2 Chapter 3 Monday, Feb 5
Week 4-7	Civil Liberties Civil Rights Exam 2 on Chapters 4-5	Chapter 4 Chapter 5 Monday, Feb 26
Week 7-11	Public Opinion The Media Participation & Voting Political Parties Campaigns & Elections Interest Groups Exam 3 on Chapters 6-11	Chapter 6 Chapter 7 Chapter 8 Chapter 9 Chapter 10 Chapter 11 Wednesday, Mar 21
Week 11-14	The Congress The President The Bureaucracy The Courts Exam 4 on Chapters 12-15	Chapter 12 Chapter 13 Chapter 14 Chapter 15 Wednesday, Apr 18
Week 15-18	Research Paper DUE Economic Policy Social Policy Foreign Policy California Politics and Government Exam 5 on Chapters 16-18 & CA Reflection Paper DUE FINAL	Monday, Apr 23 Chapter 16 Chapter 17 Chapter 18 California Chapters TBD Wednesday, May 9 Monday, May 14 Monday, May 14

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