



REEDLEY COLLEGE
POLITICAL SCIENCE 2
Introduction to American Government

Semester: FALL 2019

Instructor: Darlene Haines

Email: darlene.haines@sccd.edu

Office Hours: TBA

Remind: Text @tiger79 to 81010 to join OR go to <https://www.remind.com/join/tiger79>

Section: 50067

Class Meets: Tues 6pm – 8:50pm

Room: Forum Hall, Room 1

Phone/Text: 559-797-1321

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:

- American Government 2e. Krutz, Glen and Sylvie Waskiewicz. Feb 21, 2019. OpenStax: Creative Commons. ISBN: 978-1-947172-65-4
The text is available in electronic version free by using the following link:
<https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-2e>
- Field, Mona (2018). California Government and Politics Today, 15th edition. Pearson Education: New York, NY. ISBN: 978-0-13-462710-6
- Computer or e-device
- Good internet connection

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.

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.

LEARNING METHODS:

Lectures, active learning, required readings from the textbook, newspaper and/or journal articles, internet articles, assignments and class discussions.

CLASS COMMUNICATION:

CANVAS will be utilized for test scores, grades, and announcements.

REMINd may be utilized for anonymous text communication. You may sign up by opening your messaging app and sending the class code [@tiger79 to 81010](https://www.remind.com/join/tiger79) or by going to <http://www.remind.com/join/tiger79>. If you choose to text the code you must use the @ symbol in your message.

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.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS AND 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. No side conversations.
2. 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.
3. Cell phones, laptops and other e-devices may be used for note taking and class purposes only. For uses other than academic see Cell Phones and Laptops below.
4. Reading other material or work for other classes should be done outside of class.
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. Arriving late to class is disruptive. If you will be more than 10 minutes late, don't come.
7. Violent or aggressive behavior in any manner will not be tolerated. You will be reported to campus police.

CELL PHONES AND LAPTOPS:

Cell phones must be silenced 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 causes a disruption to the learning process of others around you. However, if you insist on using your phone or other e-device for purposes other than class, and you are not being a distraction to others around you, I will be happy to award you a final grade which reflects these actions. Cell phones, laptops and other e-devices must be battery powered. Excessive noise, as defined by those around you, will result in you leaving class.

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.

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."

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.

EXAMINATIONS and ASSIGNMENTS:

In this course you will have four exams, one final exam, 20 quizzes, 6 quick writes, 3 in-class activities, and a final reflection paper. Exams may consist of multiple choice, true-false, matching, multiple answer, fill-in, and/or essay questions.

Exams:

We will not meet in class on scheduled exam days. All exams must be taken on Canvas. Please refer to your Canvas calendar for exam dates and times of availability. It is your responsibility to complete exams during the availability window. If available, exam study guides may be accessed on Canvas.

Writing Assignments:

The writing assignment will adhere to the Modern Language Association (MLA) style. Specific assignment guidelines are available on Canvas. Writing assignments must be uploaded and submitted on Canvas.

Reflection Paper: this writing assignment will be a reflection paper on your political thoughts and attitudes of American government and politics and what you have learned in this course. You must upload and submit this paper on Canvas. Specific guidelines will be provided at the appropriate time in the class and on Canvas.

Canvas Quizzes:

Throughout the course you will be required to log on to Canvas and complete a total of 20 quizzes. Each quiz will consist of 5 questions worth 2 points each. Quizzes have various availability and due dates. Refer to your Canvas calendar for specific availability and dates. You may take each quiz up to 3 times. Canvas will keep the highest score of all your attempts. 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. 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 availability closes. It is highly recommended that you take the quizzes by the suggested due date as opposed to waiting until the very end. Canvas quizzes **CANNOT** be made up.

Quick Writes:

Throughout the course we will have 6 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. 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. **Quick writes will not be announced and cannot be made up.** One of the lowest scores will be dropped.

Group Classroom Activity:

Throughout the course there will be 5 classroom groups discussions on specific topics. It is expected that you participate and contribute effectively in your group. The group activity will conclude with a written summary and include all group participants names. Credit will only be given to those who participate. If you are late, leave early, or otherwise miss the classroom group activity, you will receive a zero. **Group classroom activities will not be announced and cannot be made up.**

LATE ASSIGNMENTS AND MISSED EXAMS:

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. “I forgot” or “I didn’t know” is not a valid excuse. Barring extenuating circumstances, if the extension is missed you will receive a zero for the missed exam. The Make-up exam may be different than the version taken on the scheduled exam date and may consist of all essay and/or short answer questions.

Essays are due on the scheduled date. You may submit your paper past the due date with penalty, if the availability window is still open. Papers will not be accepted after the availability window closes. Exceptions can be made for extenuating circumstances with communication with the instructor.

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>

*Other governmental meetings may be approved by the instructor with prior notice.

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.

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.”

GRADING:

Assignment	Points
Reflection Paper	7% (100 points)
Exams (5) 100 points each	38% (500 points)
Canvas Quizzes (20) 10 points each	15% (200 points)
Quick Writes (5) 40 points each	20% (250 points)
Group Activities (5) 50 points each	20% (250 points)
TOTAL	100% (1300 points)

GRADING SCALE:

A	1300 points to 1170 points
B	1169 points to 1040 points
C	1039 points to 910 points
D	909 points to 780 points
F	779 points and below

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE:

Unit 1	The Democratic Republic The Constitution Federalism Exam 1	Chapter 1 Chapter 2 Chapter 3 Sept 3, 2019
Unit 2	Civil Liberties Civil Rights Exam 2	Chapter 4 Chapter 5 Sept 24, 2019
Unit 3	Public Opinion The Media Participation & Voting Political Parties Campaigns & Elections Interest Groups Exam 3	Chapter 6 Chapter 7 Chapter 8 Chapter 9 Chapter 10 Chapter 11 Oct 15, 2019
Unit 4	The Congress The President The Bureaucracy The Courts Exam 4	Chapter 12 Chapter 13 Chapter 14 Chapter 15 Nov 12, 2019
Unit 5	Economic Policy Social Policy Foreign Policy California Politics and Government Exam 5 Reflection Paper DUE	Chapter 16 Chapter 17 Chapter 18 California Chapters TBD Dec 3, 2019 Dec 8, 2019

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.

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