

Political Science 2: Introduction to American Government and Politics

Course Syllabus – Spring 2020

Course Section: 56197

Instructor: Mrs. Chelsea Aivazian

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Required Text:

Bose, Meena, Dilulio, John J., Levendusky, Matthew, Wilson, James Q. *American Government: Institutions and Policies*, 16th Ed. Boston: Cengage Learning, 2017.

Christensen, Terry, Gerston, Larry N. *California Politics and Government: A Practical Approach*, 14th Ed. Boston: Cengage Learning, 2014.

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. (A, CSU-GE, UC, I) (C-ID POLS 110)” (2017-18 Reedley College Catalog).

Course Policies:

Attendance Policy

The State Center Community College District (SCCCD) mandates that attendance records be kept for this course. Attendance will be taken before our break and at the end of class each day through a short free-write assignment. For the purposes of SCCCDC attendance records, one of the daily free-write assignments will be used. However, both assignments will be used for the attendance portion of the course’s final grade. Additional details on the free-writing assignments are provided under the “Coursework” section below.

Communication Policy

All correspondence for this course MUST come through our course's messaging system within Canvas. In order to respond to students in a timely manner, I will not respond to emails sent to me regarding this course. I will respond to all messages within **48 hours** from the time I receive the message, Monday through Friday. I will check my messages throughout the week from 8:00 AM on Monday to 5:00 PM on Friday – this means that if you send a message to me on Saturday, your 48-hour clock for a response begins at 8:00 AM on Monday. The weekend is my time with my family and while I may occasionally check in on the course if I have a spare moment on Saturday, I will never respond on a Sunday. If you have not received a response from me regarding this course within 48 hours, please send me a kind reminder.

Add/Drop Dates

January 13, 2020 – *First Day of the Fall Semester*

January 20, 2020 – *Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday, No Classes*

February 17, 2020 – *Washington's Day Holiday, No Classes*

March 13, 2020 – *Last Day to Drop a Spring 2020 Full-Term Class (A Letter Grade Will Be Issued After This Date)*

April 6-10, 2020 – *Spring Recess, No School*

May 18-22, 2020 – *Fall 2019 Final Exams Week*

May 22, 2020 – *End of Fall 2019 Semester*

Late Work Policy

Late assignments will automatically lose 10% of the available points for each day that they are late and must be turned in within 7 days after the due date. After 7 days the assignment will NOT be accepted.

Make-up exams will only be permitted under specific circumstances. In order to be eligible for a make-up exam, the student must have a valid reason (e.g. illness, medical emergency) and **must provide a written letter from the appropriate individual on official letterhead documenting the reason for absence** (e.g. a doctor's note on the doctor's letterhead stating that you were unable to attend class – this note does NOT need to include specifics behind your illness/diagnosis). If a student meets the criteria for a make-up exam, they MUST contact the instructor within 48 hours of the original exam to request a make-up. **A make-up exam will be available to any students who are eligible exactly one week following the exam, immediately after the regular class session.** Students who do not make-up the exam on the specified make-up date will receive a zero on the exam, as will any students who take the make-up exam without receiving approval from the instructor.

Due to time restraints, the final exam will NOT be eligible for a make-up exam.

Document Submission Policy

All assignments must be submitted in Canvas NO EMAILED ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED!! ALL assignments must be submitted in the .doc, .docx, or .pdf format. If you submit your assignment in another format, the assignment will be considered late while you resubmit in the correct format.

Technology Policy

Cell Phones: Cell phones must be kept on silent and/or vibrate mode during class sessions. Text messaging is considered the same as taking a call during class and is neither acceptable nor respectful to instructor and other class members. Cell phones and smart devices of any kind (including, but not limited to: Apple Watches, Fit Bits, etc.) that are used (or seen) during an exam will result in an F in the course. To play it safe, put all smart devices in your backpack, purse or pocket during an exam.

Computers: Computers are allowed in class for note taking purposes only. "Surfing the Web" during class time is disrespectful, distracting to other class members, will not be tolerated and will result in termination of computer privileges. Computers may not be present during an exam.

Classroom Behavior Policy

Students are expected to be punctual and behave in a professional and respectful manner during class sessions. It is essential to the learning environment that you respect the rights of other students, respect the professionalism of the instructor, and maintain the general goals of academic freedom. Differing viewpoints or concerns should be expressed in a way that is supportive of the learning process, creating an environment in which students and faculty may learn to reason with clarity and compassion, to share of themselves without fear of being attacked or disrespected, and to develop an understanding of the community in which they live. Student conduct that disrupts the learning process will not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

Academic Honesty Policy

Cheating: *"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 "*

Cheating and/or plagiarism will NOT be tolerated. A student will receive no credit for the assignment if in the opinion of the instructor the individual has cheated. If a second violation occurs the student will be reported to the Dean of Student Services and an F will be issued for the course.

Diversity and Disability Policy

If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e., Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact me as soon as possible. Additionally, please feel free to connect with our DSP&S office on campus and/or online to obtain additional information.

Grading and Assignments:

All exams, papers, and projects will cover the material covered in the required reading assignments. You are responsible for completing the reading assignments and for the information covered within the text.

Assignment	Points
Exam 1	50 points
Exam 2	50 points
Exam 3	50 points
Final Exam	50 points
Legislative Paper	50 points
Attendance/Participation	50 points

Final Grade	Total Points
A	300 – 270
B	269.9 – 240
C	239.9 – 210
D	209.9 – 180
F	≤179.9

Coursework:

Reading

Reading assignments for each week will be posted on the Canvas website. Students are responsible for the material and information covered in the assigned readings. Any required additional readings outside of the textbook will be provided for you through Canvas.

Legislative Paper Assignment

Information detailing all of the requirements for the Legislative Paper will be provided at a later date. General guidelines for this paper include:

- 3 pages, excluding the required works cited page
- Size 12 Times New Roman or Arial font
- Double-spaced
- 1 inch margins
- While this paper will be graded on content, clarity, and understanding, proper grammar and punctuation will also be factored into your grade

Free-Write Assignments

Students are required to attend all classes throughout the semester. As the SCCCD requires that attendance is taken, free-write assignments will be given before our break and at the end of each class. The purpose of the free-write assignments is to reflect on the information presented during the day and to begin to apply that information to the modern world. Free-write responses need to be handed in to the instructor before the student leaves class that day in order for them to receive credit for attendance. Free-write responses should be 1-2 paragraphs long and should show an understanding of the materials covered that day and through the assigned readings. **Free-write assignments are NOT eligible to be turned in late for partial credit.**

Exams

There will be 4 exams throughout this course, including the final, to evaluate your understanding and mastery of the materials presented. Each of the exams will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions. With the exception of the first exam, students will NOT receive an exam study guide for exams. It is the responsibility of the student to study and review the topics being evaluated in each exam. Information regarding the topics exams will cover can be found below under "Course Assignment and Exam Dates". Information regarding our make-up exam policy can be found above under "Late Work Policy."

Course Assignment and Exam Dates:

Week 1 (1/13) – American Government and Democracy

Chapter 1 of Bose, Meena, Dilulio, John J., Levendusky, Matthew, Wilson, James Q. *American Government: Institutions and Policies*, 16th Ed. Boston: Cengage Learning, 2017.

Week 2 (1/20) – Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday – No Class

Week 3 (1/27) – The Founding of the United States, the Constitution and Federalism

Chapter 2 of Bose, Meena, Dilulio, John J., Levendusky, Matthew, Wilson, James Q. *American Government: Institutions and Policies*, 16th Ed. Boston: Cengage Learning, 2017.

Chapter 3 of Bose, Meena, Dilulio, John J., Levendusky, Matthew, Wilson, James Q. *American Government: Institutions and Policies*, 16th Ed. Boston: Cengage Learning, 2017.

Week 4 (2/3) – The Legislative Branch of Government (US and California)

Exam 1 – American Government, Democracy, the Constitution, and Federalism

Chapter 13 of Bose, Meena, Dilulio, John J., Levendusky, Matthew, Wilson, James Q. *American Government: Institutions and Policies*, 16th Ed. Boston: Cengage Learning, 2017.

Chapter 5 of Christensen, Terry, Gerston, Larry N. *California Politics and Government: A Practical Approach*, 14th Ed. Boston: Cengage Learning, 2014.

Week 5 (2/10) – The Executive Branch of Government (U.S. and California)

Chapter 14 of Bose, Meena, Dilulio, John J., Levendusky, Matthew, Wilson, James Q. *American Government: Institutions and Policies*, 16th Ed. Boston: Cengage Learning, 2017.

Chapter 7 of Christensen, Terry, Gerston, Larry N. *California Politics and Government: A Practical Approach*, 14th Ed. Boston: Cengage Learning, 2014.

Week 6 (2/17) – Washington's Day Holiday – No Class

**Week 7 (2/24) – The Judicial Branch of Government (U.S. and California)
*Legislative Paper Due on 2/28 – Submit in Canvas by 11:59 PM***

Chapter 16 of Bose, Meena, Dilulio, John J., Levendusky, Matthew, Wilson, James Q. *American Government: Institutions and Policies*, 16th Ed. Boston: Cengage Learning, 2017.

Chapter 6 of Christensen, Terry, Gerston, Larry N. *California Politics and Government: A Practical Approach*, 14th Ed. Boston: Cengage Learning, 2014.

Week 8 (3/2) – The Federal Bureaucracy

Chapter 15 of Bose, Meena, Dilulio, John J., Levendusky, Matthew, Wilson, James Q. *American Government: Institutions and Policies*, 16th Ed. Boston: Cengage Learning, 2017.

**Week 9 (3/9) – Domestic Policy: Social Policy
*Exam 2 – The Legislative Branch, Executive Branch, Judicial Branch, and Federal Bureaucracy***

Chapter 17 of Bose, Meena, Dilulio, John J., Levendusky, Matthew, Wilson, James Q. *American Government: Institutions and Policies*, 16th Ed. Boston: Cengage Learning, 2017.

Week 10 (3/16) – Domestic Policy: Economic Policy

Chapter 18 of Bose, Meena, Dilulio, John J., Levendusky, Matthew, Wilson, James Q. *American Government: Institutions and Policies*, 16th Ed. Boston: Cengage Learning, 2017.

Week 11 (3/23) – Foreign Policy

Chapter 19 of Bose, Meena, Dilulio, John J., Levendusky, Matthew, Wilson, James Q. *American Government: Institutions and Policies*, 16th Ed. Boston: Cengage Learning, 2017.

Week 12 (3/30) – Political Parties

Chapter 9 of Bose, Meena, Dilulio, John J., Levendusky, Matthew, Wilson, James Q. *American Government: Institutions and Policies*, 16th Ed. Boston: Cengage Learning, 2017.

Week 13 (4/6) – Spring Recess – No Class

Week 14 (4/13) – Elections and Campaigns

Exam 3 – *Domestic Policy, Social Policy, Economic Policy, Political Parties*

Chapter 10 of Bose, Meena, Dilulio, John J., Levendusky, Matthew, Wilson, James Q. *American Government: Institutions and Policies*, 16th Ed. Boston: Cengage Learning, 2017.

Week 15 (4/20) – The Role of the Media in the Government and Interest Groups

Chapter 12 of Bose, Meena, Dilulio, John J., Levendusky, Matthew, Wilson, James Q. *American Government: Institutions and Policies*, 16th Ed. Boston: Cengage Learning, 2017.

Week 16 (4/27) – Interest Groups

Chapter 11 of Bose, Meena, Dilulio, John J., Levendusky, Matthew, Wilson, James Q. *American Government: Institutions and Policies*, 16th Ed. Boston: Cengage Learning, 2017.

Week 17 (5/4) – Civil Liberties

Chapter 5 of Bose, Meena, Dilulio, John J., Levendusky, Matthew, Wilson, James Q. *American Government: Institutions and Policies*, 16th Ed. Boston: Cengage Learning, 2017.

Week 18 (5/11) – Civil Rights

Chapter 6 of Bose, Meena, Dilulio, John J., Levendusky, Matthew, Wilson, James Q. *American Government: Institutions and Policies*, 16th Ed. Boston: Cengage Learning, 2017.

Week 19 (5/18) – *Final exam – Elections and Campaigns, Media, Interest Groups, Civil Liberties, Civil Rights*