

# Political Science 2: Introduction to American Government and Politics

## Course Syllabus – Fall 2021

Course Section: 58585

ONLINE COURSE - CANVAS

**Instructor: Mrs. Chelsea Aivazian**

Email: [chelsea.aivazian@reedleycollege.edu](mailto:chelsea.aivazian@reedleycollege.edu)

### Required Text:

Morone, James A., Kersh, Rogan. *By the People Debating American Government*, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. Oxford University Press, 2021.

Christensen, Terry, Gerston, Larry N. *California Politics and Government: A Practical Approach*, 14<sup>th</sup> 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).

### Student Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course students should be able to:

1. Identify the categories of policies made by governments within the United States, and relate the questions underlying these policies.
2. Recognize the Constitutional processes and principles as they occur in modern U.S. and California politics.
3. Recognize the impact of various "policy inputs" on the development of public policy in the United States and in California.
4. Relate the structures, roles and powers of the national, state and local governments.

\* *Student Learning Outcomes are statements about what the discipline faculty hope you will be able to do at the end of the course. This is NOT a guarantee: the ultimate responsibility for whether you will be able to do these things lies with you, the student. In addition, the*

*assessment of Student Learning Outcomes is done by the department in order to evaluate the program as a whole, and not to evaluate individual faculty performance.*

## Course Policies:

### Online Weekly Schedule

As a fully online, asynchronous course, students are not required to log onto the course page on Canvas at a specific time each week and are able to complete their work during a schedule that most benefits them, as long as the course requirements are met within their specified timeframes. In addition to reading assignments, exams, and papers, students are required to participate in weekly discussions on Canvas – additional information on this requirement can be found in the “Coursework” section below. The standard course schedule for the semester will be as follows:

**Monday** – Previous week’s quiz and/or discussion post must be completed by 11:59 PM

**Tuesday** – Instructor will post a weekly reminder with the week’s reading assignment, as well as any additional assignments which are due during the week.

**Wednesday** – Instructor will post any relevant PowerPoint/lecture notes for the week’s topic – *PLEASE note that these PowerPoints are intended to be supplemental to the reading assignments and are NOT a replacement for the required reading.*

**Thursday** – Instructor will open up the weekly quiz and/or discussion board for students.

*\*Please note that all instructor posts will be available at 12:00 PM (noon) on the days mentioned above.*

### Attendance Policy

The State Center Community College District (SCCCD) mandates that attendance records be kept for this course. As this course is a fully online course this semester, attendance will be tracked through weekly participation in the required quizzes and/or discussion boards on Canvas. Additional details on quizzes and discussion board posts and requirements will be included 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

August 9, 2021 – *First Day of the Fall Semester*

September 6, 2021 – *Labor Day, No Classes*

October 8, 2021 – *Last Day to Drop Course*

November 11, 2021 – *Veterans Day, No Classes*

November 25-26, 2021 – *Thanksgiving Break, No Classes*

December 6-10, 2021 – *Fall 2021 Final Exams Week*

December 10, 2021 – *End of Fall 2021 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.

**Weekly quizzes and discussion forums are NOT eligible to be submitted late for partial credit** unless the student provides the instructor with documentation of a valid reason (e.g. illness, medical emergency, etc.) within 48 hours of the deadline to complete the assignment.

**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 eligible students for 48 hours within 1 week from the original exam date – the exact dates of re-examination will be determined in conjunction with the instructor and communicated with the student individually.** 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 takes 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

**Computers:** As this is a fully online course, the use of computers will play an integral role in your success in this course. For the duration of this course, your computer, and specifically Canvas, will be a tool utilized to receive and learn course information and collaborate with both the instructor and students. Students are responsible for the care and maintenance of their personal technology devices, including computers. The instructor will not be responsible for ensuring that the student's computer is available for course work and any individual challenges with access to course materials will be the responsibility of the student. The instructor is notified when there are site-wide Canvas outages, etc. and will take those into consideration when considering deadlines and due dates; however, the students is responsible for being aware of, and accommodating, any scheduled site-maintenance where at least 1 week's notice was provided by the college. Outside resources, including PowerPoints, notes, and Google, may not be utilized during exams.

### Virtual Classroom Behavior Policy

Students are expected to behave in a professional and respectful manner during all components of this course, including online discussion forums. 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 are encouraged and 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/Discussion Forums	42 points
Syllabus Acknowledgement Quiz	8 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 by 12:00 PM on Tuesdays and are also available in the course schedule below. 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. Please note that any lectures/PowerPoints provided are intended to be supplemental and are NOT intended to replace the required readings.

### Syllabus Acknowledgement Quiz

Students will have 1 week from the date of enrollment in this course to complete the online Syllabus Acknowledgement Quiz on Canvas. This quiz will be worth 8 points toward the student's overall grade and will function to ensure that the student has read the course syllabus and is aware of course policies.

### 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

### Weekly Quizzes and Discussion Forums

Each week (with the exception of exam weeks), you will be required to participate in this course's weekly quiz and/or discussion forum in order to receive your attendance points for the course. Weekly quizzes and discussion forums will be available for students to complete from **THURSDAY at 12:00 PM** until **MONDAY at 11:59 PM**. Weekly quizzes will be available under the "Quizzes" tab in Canvas and the discussion forums will be available under the "Discussions" tab. Each week's quiz and/or discussion post

assignment will be worth 3 points, unless specifically stated prior to the assignment being announced. Do NOT assume that points will be awarded based solely on participation, I am looking for thoughtful insight on the topic and evidence that you have read and applied the information from the week's readings.

To receive full points on for a weekly discussion forum, students are required to create one original post to the weekly discussion question/topic **AND** provide one response to another students' post from the week. Students may receive 2 points for the original post and 1 point for the response post. If you are using information from the text, you must properly site the information. Students are also expected to utilize proper grammar in their discussion posts – improper grammar will result in a reduction in points.

## 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. **Exams will be available at 12:00 PM on the Tuesday of the listed exam week and are due at 11:59 PM on the following Monday.** 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" and exams can include information from any of the required readings and lectures/PowerPoints. Information regarding our make-up exam policy can be found above under "Late Work Policy."

## Course Assignment and Exam Dates:

**Week 1 (8/9) – The Spirit of American Politics**  
**\*Syllabus Acknowledgement Quiz Due Within 1 Week of Adding Class**

Chapter 1 of Morone, James A., Kersh, Rogan. *By the People Debating American Government*, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. Oxford University Press, 2021.

*Weekly Assignment: Discussion Forum*

**Week 2 (8/16) – The Ideas that Shape America**

Chapter 2 of Morone, James A., Kersh, Rogan. *By the People Debating American Government*, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. Oxford University Press, 2021.

*Weekly Assignment: Quiz*

**Week 3 (8/23) – The U.S. Constitution**

Chapter 3 of Morone, James A., Kersh, Rogan. *By the People Debating American Government*, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. Oxford University Press, 2021.

*Weekly Assignment: Discussion Forum*

**Week 4 (8/30) – Federalism and Nationalism**

Chapter 4 of Morone, James A., Kersh, Rogan. *By the People Debating American Government*, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. Oxford University Press, 2021.

*Weekly Assignment: Quiz*

**Week 5 (9/6) – *Exam 1 – Spirit of American Politics, Ideas that Shape America, Constitution, Federalism and Nationalism***

**\*Labor Day – 9/6 – No Classes**

**Week 6 (9/13) – The Executive Branch of Government (U.S. and California)**

Chapter 14 of Morone, James A., Kersh, Rogan. *By the People Debating American Government*, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. Oxford University Press, 2021.

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

*Weekly Assignment: Discussion Forum*

**Week 7 (9/20) – The Legislative Branch of Government (U.S. and California)**

Chapter 13 of Morone, James A., Kersh, Rogan. *By the People Debating American Government*, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. Oxford University Press, 2021.

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

*Weekly Assignment: Discussion Forum*

**Week 8 (9/27) – The Judicial Branch of Government (U.S. and California)**

**\*Legislative Paper Due at 11:59 PM on 10/1**

Chapter 16 of Morone, James A., Kersh, Rogan. *By the People Debating American Government*, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. Oxford University Press, 2021.

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



*Weekly Assignment: Quiz*

**Week 9 (10/4) – The Federal Bureaucracy**

Chapter 15 of Morone, James A., Kersh, Rogan. *By the People Debating American Government*, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. Oxford University Press, 2021.

*Weekly Assignment: Quiz*

**Week 10 (10/11) – *Exam 2 – Executive Branch, Legislative Branch, Judicial Branch, Bureaucracy***

**Week 11 (10/18) – Domestic and Foreign Policymaking**

Chapter 17 of Morone, James A., Kersh, Rogan. *By the People Debating American Government*, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. Oxford University Press, 2021.

Chapter 18 of Morone, James A., Kersh, Rogan. *By the People Debating American Government*, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. Oxford University Press, 2021.

*Weekly Assignment: Quiz*

**Week 12 (10/25) – Political Parties and Interest Groups**

Chapter 11 of Morone, James A., Kersh, Rogan. *By the People Debating American Government*, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. Oxford University Press, 2021.

Chapter 12 of Morone, James A., Kersh, Rogan. *By the People Debating American Government*, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. Oxford University Press, 2021.

*Weekly Assignment: Discussion Forum*

**Week 13 (11/1) – *Exam 3 – Domestic Policy, Foreign Policy, Political Parties, Interest Groups***

**Week 14 (11/8) – Campaigns, Elections, and Public Participation**

**\*Labor Day – 11/11 – No Classes**

Chapter 8 of Morone, James A., Kersh, Rogan. *By the People Debating American Government*, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. Oxford University Press, 2021.

Chapter 10 of Morone, James A., Kersh, Rogan. *By the People Debating American Government*, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. Oxford University Press, 2021.

*Weekly Assignment: Quiz*

**Week 15 (11/22) – The Role of the Media and Public Opinion**

**\*Thanksgiving Break – 11/25-26 – No Classes**

Chapter 7 of Morone, James A., Kersh, Rogan. *By the People Debating American Government*, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. Oxford University Press, 2021.

Chapter 9 of Morone, James A., Kersh, Rogan. *By the People Debating American Government*, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. Oxford University Press, 2021.

*Weekly Assignment: Quiz – This week's quiz will be available from 11/24-11/29*

**Week 16 (11/29) – Civil Liberties and Civil Rights**

Chapter 5 of Morone, James A., Kersh, Rogan. *By the People Debating American Government*, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. Oxford University Press, 2021.

Chapter 6 of Morone, James A., Kersh, Rogan. *By the People Debating American Government*, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. Oxford University Press, 2021.

*Weekly Assignment: Discussion Forum*

**Week 17 (12/6) – *Final Exam – Elections and Campaigns, Media, Public Opinion, Public Participation, Civil Liberties, Civil Rights***

**\*Final Exam Available from 12/6 at 9:00 AM – 12/9 at 11:59 PM**

*Weekly Assignment: Completing Your Final Exam*