

POLITICAL SCIENCE 2: POLSCI-2-59249-2023SP AMERICAN GOV

Spring Session 2023

Introduction to American Government

Instructor: Cliff Nitschke

Email: cliff.nitschke@sccd.edu

Class Meets: January 09 – May 19, 2023; Room WEB; Sanger High School

Course Description:

The American system of government has been around for over two hundred years. It is alive, well and constantly evolving. In this course we will explore some of the elements that have led to its current state of development. We will discuss the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, the federal system, civil liberties, civil rights, women's rights, political parties, the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government, public policy, elections, the media, public opinion, domestic policy, foreign policy and state and local governments. We will also compare the framer's intent for the U.S. Constitution with its current application and implementation.

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 (e.g.: smith_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.

Prerequisites:

None, Eligibility for English 1A is recommended.

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 impact 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 government within the United States, and relate the questions underlying these policies.

Caveat: 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 Objectives:

In the process of completing this course, students will:

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.

Learning Methods:

Lectures, required readings from the textbook, newspaper articles, internet articles, assignments and class discussions.

Outcome Assessment:

Students will have achieved course objective if they complete all course work and/or assignments with a cumulative average grade of C or better.

Required Text:

American Government: Institutions & Policies, Loose-leaf Version, 17th Edition, book Author(s): Wilson, Publisher :Cengage Learning, ISBN-13: 9780357459669, ISBN-10: 0357459660

Evaluation and Grading Dates and Weight

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| ➤ Written Assignments: 01/09 – 05/19/23 | 33% (345 pts) +/- |
| ➤ Papers: Due 03/17/23, 04/21/23, 05/19/23: | 14% (150 pts) +/- |
| ➤ Weekly Quizzes and Exams: 02/13/23, 03/13/23, 04/17/23 | 39% (405 pts) +/- |
| ➤ Final Exam: 05/13/23: | 14% (150 pts) +/- |
| ➤ Total Points: 1050 points +/- | |

Course grades will be based on the total number of points obtained by an individual student as a percent of the total points possible. There will not be extra credit assignments. Percentages/Points: 90 - 100% or 945 – 1050 +/- points = A; 80 - 89% or 840– 944 +/- points = B; 70 - 79% or 735 – 839 +/- points = C; 60 - 69% or 630 – 734 +/- points = D; Less than 60% or less than 630 points = F.

Assignments/Tests: Subject to Change

- Weekly Quizzes and Assignments will consist of multiple choice and short writes, response to readings and response to current events
- Tests will consist of multiple choice.
- Papers: Detailed instructions will be given for each assignment

Assignments for the Week will be made available at 12:00 AM on the Monday of the week assigned at be available until 11:59 PM Friday of that week. Assignments after that time will not be accepted for credit. Tests and Quizzes will only be available from 8:30 AM until 3:30 PM on the Day they are assigned.

Policies and Procedures:

Online Support Policies

Communication Policy:

I will be available to answer your inquiries through Canvas Messaging and SCCCED Email. During that time your inquiries will be answered within 24 hours (except Fridays and weekends).

As a student you can expect Canvas Announcements, as well as a Canvas Message Monday through Thursday for the duration of class. Also, you will receive feedback on your assignments through Canvas and Turn It In.Com at a minimum of once a week.

Drop / Participation Policy:

Participation/Attendance is a requirement of this class and will be recorded on a daily basis.

Late Work Policy:

Assignments are due on the assigned due date and time. Late work will not be accepted for credit.

There will be no opportunity for students to make-up a missed exam, quiz or class assignment.

Extra Credit is not available.

Feedback Policy:

As a student you will receive feedback on your written assignments through Canvas as well as Turn It In.Com. You will be able to access the feedback after I have graded the assignments. I will also participate daily in the posted discussion questions

Technology Support Policy:

If you need help or have questions, please contact me first through Canvas Messaging or your SCCCED Email. If I am unable to answer your questions or provide help, I will refer you to the Help Desk or Canvas Support.

Need Assistance?

If at any time you find you are having trouble succeeding in this course, please see me. There are a number of services available to help our students succeed in their coursework and I would be happy to recommend these services to you.

Plagiarism or cheating of any kind may result in a grade of "F" on the assignment/test which could result in a failing grade for the course and may result in further disciplinary procedures. 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. Cheating is the act or attempted act of taking an examination or performing assigned, evaluated tasks 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.

In writing your papers, you will be required to adhere to the Modern Language Association (MLA) style. The writing lab is available to assist you in complying with the MLA guidelines.

Required reading should be completed before the corresponding lecture/discussion to allow informed discussion during each class session. All grades are final unless an error in math has been made by the instructor. The instructor reserves the right to adjust the course outline, scoring, grading, and content as needed.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

"If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (ie: Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact your instructor as soon as possible." If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), please notify me immediately. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your special needs. For more information, contact the Clovis community Center Disabled Students' Programs and Services office (DSPS, AC2-119, 325-5235)

<u>Weeks 1-5</u>	The American System	
01/09:	The Study of the American System	Chapter 1
01/16:	The Constitution	Chapter 2
01/23:	Federalism	Chapter 3
01/30:	Civil Liberties	Chapter 5
02/06:	Civil Rights	Chapter 6
02/13:	<u>Multiple Choice Exam 1</u>	Chapters 1- 3, 5,6
<u>Weeks 6-9</u>	Opinions, Interests and Organizations	
02/13:	Political Participation	Chapter 8
02/20:	Political Parties	Chapter 9
02/27:	Interest Groups	Chapter 11
03/06:	The Media	Chapter 12
03/13:	<u>Multiple Choice Exam 2</u>	Chapters 8, 9, 11, 12
03/17	<u>****Paper #1 Due</u>	
<u>Weeks 9-13</u>	Institutions of Government	
03/13	Congress	Chapter 13
03/20:	The Presidency	Chapter 14
03/27:	The Bureaucracy	Chapter 15
04/11:	The Judiciary	Chapter 16
04/17:	<u>Multiple Choice Exam 3</u>	Chapters 13, 14, 15, 16
04/21:	<u>****Paper #2 Due</u>	
<u>Weeks 14-18</u>	Public Policy and Democracy	
04/17:	Domestic Policy	Chapter 17
04/24:	Economic Policy	Chapter 18
05/01:	Foreign and Military Policy	Chapter 19
05/08:	California Government	California Govt
05/13	<u>Multiple Choice Exam Final</u>	Chapters 17, 18, 19, CA Government
05/19:	<u>****Paper #3 Due</u>	

Important Dates:

Important Dates for Spring 2023

Date Day Event / Deadline

January 3 (T) Campus re-opens after Winter Break

January 9 (M) Start of Spring 2023 semester

January 9 - March 10(M-F) Short-term classes, first nine weeks

January 16 (M) Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observed (no classes held, campus closed)

January 20 (F) Last day to drop a Spring 2023 full-term class for full refund

January 27 (F) Last day to register for a Spring 2023 full-term class in person w/ authorization

January 27 (F) Last day to drop a Spring 2023 full-term class to avoid a "W" in person

January 29 (Su) Last day to drop a Spring 2023 full-term class to avoid a "W" on Self-Service

January 29 (Su) Last day to add a Spring 2023 full-term class with authorization on Self-Service

February 10 (F) Last day to change a Spring 2023 class to/from Pass/No-Pass grading basis

February 17 (F) Lincoln Day observance (no classes held, campus closed)

February 20 (M) Washington Day observance (no classes held, campus closed)

March 1 (W) Deadline to apply for graduation for Spring 2023 completion

March 10 (F) Last Day to drop a full-term class (letter grades assigned after this date)

March 13 - May 19 (M-F) Short-term classes, second nine weeks

April 3-7 (M-F) Spring recess (campus open April 3-6)

April 7 (F) Good Friday observance (campus closed)

May 15-19 (M-F) Spring 2023 final exams week

May 19 (F) End of Spring 2023 semester/commencement

May 29 (M) Memorial Day holiday (campus closed)