***Political Science 2- Course # 53011 American Government and Institutions***

Spring 2024

Instructor: Andrew Chavez MPA

Class Days/Times: Monday, Wednesday, 6pm- 7:15pm

Room: FRM 1

Office/Office Hours: By appointment

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**Course Description**

Prerequisite: Meets the United States Constitution Requirement and the federal, California state, and local government requirement. Not open to all students with credit in PLSI 101. The development and operation of government in the United States; study of how ideas, institutions, laws, and people have constructed and maintained a political order in America. Special emphasis on shared governance and responsibility between levels of government

**Course Objectives**

This course is designed to introduce the student to the primary structures and functions of American and California government systems and to acquaint the student with the fundamentals of political science. The emphasis of the course will be placed upon the three primary branches of government of the national and state governments, the functioning of American bureaucracy, and the formulation of public policy. It is intended that the student will gain and understanding of the constitutional process and of how people and ideas have created and sustained the political structures, institutions, and policies of the American political system

GE Learning Outcomes: (GE Area D2: American Government)

GE Area D2 Student Learning Outcome #1: Explain the structure of the governments of the United States of America and the State of California

GE Area D2 Student Learning Outcome #2: Recognize the major political philosophies regarding the role of government articulated in current political discourse

GE Area D2 Student Learning Outcome #3: Assess the meaning of representation in a democratic system of government and the pathways through which citizens may seek representation

**Course Evaluations**

**Exam 1-** Points Possible 100-

**Federalism Writing Assignment-** Points Possible 100 -

**Exam 2**- Points Possible 100-

**Exam 3-** Points Possible 100-

**Video Writing Assignment-** Points Possible 100-

**Exam 4**- Points Possible 100-

**Final Exam-** Points Possible 100-

**Participation/Attendance-** Points Possible 200- Throughout the semester

**Quickwrites X2-** 100 Points Possible

**Extra Credit Completed**- TBD- Throughout the semester

***Total Points Possible- 1000 points***

**Required Text:**

Zero-Cost Course Material/Online Educational Resources ZCCM-OER

**Course Policies:**

It is expected that you will keep up with the powerpoints and assignments. This means reading the assigned material BEFORE class, so that you can provide meaningful insights during our discussions. To promote a constructive learning environment for all, there are classroom guidelines that need to be adhered to:

1) No talking in class (this, of course, does not refer to class-related discussion)

2) No use of cell phones, etc, during class

3) No reading newspapers or other materials during class.

4) No sleeping in class. Sleeping is done better at home than in the classroom

5) No leaving the classroom during videos or lecture unless you either received prior permission from me or in case of an emergency (my definition, not yours)

6) No coming into class late. 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 classmates. It also means paying attention and remaining silent when others are talking.

**University Policies:**

Students will conform to university policies concerning cheating, plagiarism, copyright violations, and computer use. Any evidence of cheating and plagiarism will result in a grade of an F for the course. Please consult the Catalog or Class Schedule for further clarification

Any student who requires some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements due to a disabling condition must contact the instructor as soon as possible so that the necessary accommodations can be made. Students must present official documentation from the CSUF Services for Students with Disabilities office in order to receive special arrangements

Per University Policy, the last day to add a class without permission is January 31. Students may withdraw from the class online by February 8 without permission with the last day to add the class with permission being February 14. After that time, students may drop a course for “serious and compelling reasons”. The difficulty of the class or over-scheduling of classes are not serious and compelling reasons to drop. It is your responsibility, in consultation with your academic advisor, to register for an appropriate number of units. Similarly, a change in work schedule involving a continuing job obligation must be accompanied by a statement from the employer on company letterhead

**Expectations:**

Attendance/Participation: Students are expected to attend class lectures, be attentive, and take notes on paper or laptop. Daily readings should be done prior to class. Quizzes may be given on a random basis, in part to assess and encourage attendance, and to help students prepare for exams. If students are not prepared to contribute to the course discussion, other assignments may be given, which will be factored in to the participation grade. There are no makeups for missed quizzes or other assignment deadlines

In addition, each student is expected to read the Fresno Bee\* (website: Fresno bee.com) each week and be prepared to discuss current events in class. Be sure to read the front page, the national politics pages, the “California” section, “Local News” section, opinion/editorial pages amd the “Business” section. You should also try to read at least one national paper (LA Times, San Francisco Chronicle, NY Times, Washington Post. You should also try to catch National Public Radio NPR 89.3, KPFA (88.1). While no student is expected to read/listen/view all of these news sources everyday, you are expected to have a good handle on current events beginning immediately

**Extra Credit:**

An extra credit assignment in the form of a 1000-word paper (roughly 3 pages) analyzing the happenings at a University event (limit one) may be turned in for 10 points. For an event to qualify for extra credit, it must be announced in class (and/or Canvas), be free, be on campus, and be open to the student body/public. All extra credit is due a week after the event takes place. Specific information will be forthcoming in class or posted to Canvas. Other opportunities may present themselves during the course of the semester.

**Examinations:**

Examinations seek to determine the depth of knowledge in regards to lectures, required text, and power points. The exams will cover all readings and lectures prior to the exam date (or since the previous exam). The format will include multiple choice, true/false/matching questions, and they will be administered in class. Please bring Scantron Form 882e. I will not lecture on test days. If you take the first four exams, maintained an A on both essays, and are active in class, you do not have to take the final exam. In the event that you will be absent for an exam (extreme circumstances with documentation), contact the instructor immediately so that a make-up time can be arranged. Make-ups are given by appointment at the convenience of the professor, not the student.

**Grading:**

There is no grading curve in this class. Any written assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the date assigned. Late work will NOT be accepted. If you plan to miss class the day an assignment is due, be sure you turn it in early. Failure to attend class has a direct impact on your grade. Please consult the Catalog or Class Schedule for details on the University’s add/drop policy (and drop dates) and how it pertains to course grading. Final grades for the semester will be calculated using the raw scores of the 5 exams, 2 required essays, participation/attendance, and the extra credit completed. This will be based on the following point scale:

A= 900-1000 points (90-100%), B= 800-899 (80-89%), C= 700-799 (70-79%), D= 600-699 (60-69%)

F=0-599 points (0-59%)

The professor reserves the right to reschedule or restructure this syllabus as needed. In the event there is a conflict between University Policies and this syllabus, the course will be modified to conform to University requirements

***Course Schedule***

**Course Schedule**

*Week 1*- January 8-10: Introduction /Foundations and Functions of Government;

*Week 2*- January 15-17**: MLK Day**, Chapter 1- Democratic Republic cont., Chapter 2- The Constitution.

*Week 3-* January 22- 24: Chapter 2 cont. Chapter 3- Federalism, **Federalism Writing Assignment due February 18th,** Study Guide for Exam 1

Week 4- January 29-31 **Exam 1- January 29,** Civil Liberties Chapter 4, Civil Liberties Chapter- "Truth and Power" Data Vampires on Netflix about 4th amendment. "Worst Job in America" on Vice News about Immigration.

*Week 5-* February 5-7: Chapter 4 cont. Civil Rights Chapter 5, Civil Rights Chapter- "13th" on Netflix about current day slavery/mass incarceration and "Misrepresentation" on Netflix about current day feminism,

*Week 6-* February 12-14: Court Judiciary Chapter 12, Judiciary Chapter- C-SPAN video Supreme Court: Home to America's Highest, Study Guide Exam 2

*Week 7-* February 19- 21: **President’s Day**, **Exam 2- February 21**,

*Week 8*- February 26-28: Congress Chapter 9, Congress Chapter- Congress.gov/legislative-process, Stephen Colbert Testimony before Immigration Sub-committee, Hasan Minhaj Testimony before Education Sub-committee on Student Loan Debt, "The Empire Files" War at the Border on Immigration Part 1 and 2 on YouTube.

*Week 9*- March 4-6: Presidency Chapter 10, The Presidency Chapter- "SOFEX" The Business of War on Vice News. EPIC History TV on the Presidents Part 1 and 2 and  "Superpower for Hire" The Rise of the Private Military. Bureaucracy/Reform

*Week 10*- March 11-13: Chapter 11, The Bureaucracy Chapter- "Chasing Snowden" on YouTube or NPR, Study Guide for Exam 3 **Exam 3-March 13**,

*Week 11*- March 18-20: Public Opinion, Political Socialization, and the Media Chapter 6, Public Opinion, Political Socialization, and the Media Chapter- "Media repeating the same message" Sinclair Broadcasting script, Vanessa Otero- “Media’s Political Bias, in a single chart”

*Week 12-* March 26-28: **Spring Break**

Week 13- April 1-3: **Cesar Chavez Day- No Class,** Interest Groups/ Political Parties Chapter 7, Interest Groups and Political Parties Chapter- Last Half of "13th" on Netflix regarding he interest group ALEC. “What the Health?”- Director Joaquin Phoenix and Kip Anderson.

*Week 14-* April 8-12: Campaigns and Elections Chapter 8, Campaigns and Elections Chapter- Citizens United vs. FEC Homework Help from the Bill of Rights Institute **Video Writing Assignment Due Sunday, April 14 by midnight on Canvas**

*Week 15-* April 15-19: California Government Chapter, History of Central Valley in California Charlie Dean Films (1949)

*Week 16*- April 22-26: Local Government and the Central Valley, Study Guide Exam 4

*Week 17-* April 29-May 3: **Exam 4-April 29**, Final Essay Prompt ***Late assignments/EC Due by May 3rd @11:59pm***

*Week 18- May 6-10:* Consultation Days for Final

***Final Essay Due: Wednesday*, May 15, 2024 by midnight**