**REEDLEY COLLEGE**

**POLISCI 2 - Introduction to American Government Course**

Instructor: **Nick K. Gera,***JD, MBA, MPP*

Semester: Spring 2024

Section Numbers: 59020

Classroom: Online

Office Hours:   Sundays 3:00pm – 8:00pm. This is subject to change, so please stay tuned to announcements. I am also happy to meet with students via Zoom appointments. Please email me to schedule.

Contact Number: (210) 987-8787

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

POLSC2  is an introductory study of American government at the national, state and local level. Included are the institutions, processes and policies of the United States and of California. This course satisfies, in part, the American history and institutions requirements for CSU. (AA, CSU, UC)

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**:

**American Government: Institutions and Policies, Loose-leaf Version, 16th + MindTap Political Science, 1 term (6 months) Printed Access Card 16th Edition; ISBN: 978-1337806824**

In the Modules section of Canvas there will be instructions for how to enroll in Mindtap. Please follow those instructions

**MINDTAP ACCESS FOR ONLINE WORK** -

**STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES**:

POLSCI-2 SLO1: Recognize the Constitutional processes and principles as they occur in modern U.S. and California politics.

POLSCI-2 SLO2: Relate the structures, roles and powers of the national, state and local governments.

POLSCI-2 SLO3: Recognize the impact of various "policy inputs" on the development of public policy in the United States and in California.

POLSCI-2 SLO4: Identify the categories of policies made by governments within the United States, and relate the questions underlying these policies.

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.

**ATTENDANCE:** This is an online course and your main portion for attendance will be your discussion posts; they are mandatory.  A student with more than three weeks behind in course work (including discussion posts) shall be dropped from the course.

**QUIZZES**:  There will be a total of 16 short quizzes and assignments; they will be due weekly on the Cengage Mindtap platform. Please refer to the files section on how to register. These quizzes are not difficult if you read and pay attention.

**WRITTEN REPORTS:**  There  will be three term papers about the three branches of government.  Please see details under Assignments. All written assignments must include the following information on a COVER SHEET:

Name of Instructor, Course Name and Code, Title of Paper, Student Name, Student Number, and Due Date.

Please cite your references using APA

For your papers to be graded, THEY MUST BE TYPED AND TURNED IN ON TIME.  Well-written papers include focus, logic, organization, and ideas that are well developed and supported.  They are grammatically correct with proper punctuation and spelling.  Poorly written assignments will be marked “unacceptable” and will be returned to you without credit.

**GRADING ILLUSTRATION**:  The total number of points you accumulate over the semester will determine your grade.  For example:

3 Papers                                                            = 300

16  Chapter Quizzes, (31.25 points per)       = 500

Class contribution on discussion boards       = 200 points\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

                                                                        1,000 TOTAL POSSIBLE

**Grading Scale**:

* 900-1000 – A
* 800-899 – B
* 700-799 – C
* 600-699 – D
* 500-599 – F

**DROP POLICY**:  If you decide to drop this course, **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR** **FILLING OUT ALL OF THE NECESSARY PAPERWORK**.  For more details on dropping a class, please refer to the admissions and records office, the Reedley College catalogue or the Reedley College Class Schedule.

**CONDUCT**:  PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.  IF YOU ARE SUSPECTED OF PLAGIARIZING OR CHEATING, YOU WILL RECEIVE A ZERO FOR THE RESPECTIVE ASSIGNMENT, EXAM, ETC.  IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE YOU WILL FAIL THE COURSE.

**ACCOMMODATIONS**:  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.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE; SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

**Class Schedule:**

(Including Due Dates)

**Week 1 -  1/9 - 1/14**

* Read Chapter 1 (if you have book access code; otherwise work needs to be completed week #2)
* MANDATORY Discussion post by January 22

**Week 2 - 1/15 - 1/21**

* Read Chapters 1& 2
* Do Mindtap assignments for Chapters 1 & 2 (including assignment, quiz, video, case study, etc.)
* Discussion posts due by Sunday before midnight.

**Week 3 -   1/22 - 1/28**

* Read Chapter 3
* Do Mindtap assignments for Chapter 3 (including assignment, quiz, video, case study, etc.)
* No discussion post.

**Week 4 - 1/29 - 2/4**

* Read Chapter 4
* Do Mindtap assignments for Chapter 4 (including assignment, quiz, video, case study, etc.)
* Discussion posts due by Sunday before midnight.

**Week 5 -   2/5 - 2/11**

* Read Chapter 5
* Do Mindtap assignments for Chapter 5 (including assignment, quiz, video, case study, etc.)
* Discussion posts due by Sunday before midnight.

**Week 6 -  2/12 - 2/18**

* Read Chapter 6
* Do Mindtap assignments for Chapter 6 (including assignment, quiz, video, case study, etc.)
* Discussion posts due by Sunday before midnight.

**Week 7 - 2/19 - 2/25**

* Read Chapter 7
* Do Mindtap assignments for Chapter 7 (including assignment, quiz, video, case study, etc.)
* No discussion post this week.
* Term Paper 1 due Friday before midnight.

**Week 8 - 2/26 - 3/3**

* Read Chapter 8
* Do Mindtap assignments for Chapter 8 (including assignment, quiz, video, case study, etc.)
* Discussion posts due by Sunday before midnight.

**Week 9 - 3/4 - 3/10**

* Read Chapter 9
* Do Mindtap assignments for Chapter 9 (including assignment, quiz, video, case study, etc.)
* Discussion posts due by Sunday before midnight.

**Week 10 - 3/11 - 3/17**

* Read Chapter 10
* Do Mindtap assignments for Chapter 10 (including assignment, quiz, video, case study, etc.)
* Discussion posts due by Sunday before midnight.

**Week 11 - 3/18 - 3/24**

* Read Chapter 11
* Do Mindtap assignments for Chapter 11 (including assignment, quiz, video, case study, etc.)
* Discussion posts due by Sunday before midnight.

**Week 12 - 3/25 - 3/31**

* SPRING BREAK

**Week 13 - 4/1- 4/7**

* Read Chapter 12
* Do Mindtap assignments for Chapter 12 (including assignment, quiz, video, case study, etc.)
* Discussion posts due by Sunday before midnight.

**Week 14 - 4/8 - 4/14**

* Read Chapter 13
* Do Mindtap assignments for Chapter 13 (including assignment, quiz, video, case study, etc.)
* No discussion post this week.
* Term Paper 2 due Friday before midnight.

**Week 15 - 4/15 -4/21**

* Read Chapter 14
* Do Mindtap assignments for Chapter 14 (including assignment, quiz, video, case study, etc.)
* Discussion posts due by Sunday before midnight.

**Week 16 -  4/22 - 4/28**

* Read Chapter 15
* Do Mindtap assignments for Chapter 15 (including assignment, quiz, video, case study, etc.)
* No discussion post this week.
* Term Paper 3 due Friday before midnight.

**Week 17 & 18  4/29 - 5/12**

* Read Chapter 16
* Do Mindtap assignments for Chapter 16 (including assignment, quiz, video, case study, etc.)
* No discussion post this week.

**THIS SYLLABUS AND THE ACTIVITIES FOR THE COURSE ARE SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION AS THE INSTRUCTOR DEEMS NECESSARY.**