

POLITICAL SCIENCE I: THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES

West Los Angeles College

Section 8130

Winter Session, 2016

5 weeks January 4 - February 6

Instructor: Ms. Sholeh Khorrooshi

Email: Use the class site email under private discussion during the session

Use khorrooshis@yahoo.com after class ends.

The purpose of this course is to allow the students to master an understanding of the American Political system. By the end of the session, students should be able to think critically about politics; and, in so doing, to confront certain myths that they or other Americans may hold about government.

Accommodation: Office of Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S)

Heldman Learning Resources Center (HLRC), Room 119 | (310) 287-4450

West Los Angeles College recognizes and welcomes its responsibility to provide an equal educational opportunity to all disabled individuals. The Office of Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSP&S) has been established to provide support services for all verified disabled students pursuing a college education. DSP&S students may qualify for: priority registration, registration assistance, special parking permits, sign language interpreters and assistive technology (WLAC College Catalog).

Student Learning Objectives

1. Critically analyze political institutions, systems, processes, events and constitutional principles in order to exercise one's rights and to defend civil liberties.
2. Take an informed position on a political issue, candidate or situation and support your position with objective, logical, effective debate and discussion.
3. Seek out and engage in civic opportunities that broaden perspectives and increase one's responsibility to family and community.
4. Utilize a variety of media sources to research, organize, evaluate, and assimilate information pertaining to a political issue, event, or person.
5. In one's family, community and work settings, conduct activities in an ethical manner that reflects knowledge of the law and that adhere to common sense.

Professional Conduct in Our Virtual Classroom Community:

One of the unifying objectives in this course is to familiarize you with best practices and give you exposure to becoming a member of a professional community. I also have the responsibility to insure that our virtual community is a conducive learning environment for all students. As such, all students will please follow these policies of our classroom community for all emails, discussion groups and chat rooms:

1. *No profanity or foul language, either in writing or pictures, of any kind at any time.*
2. *Please address everyone politely by their names.*
3. *Under no circumstances may you ask for a classmate's personal contact information or in any way ask for a personal meeting or date.*
4. *Unless I specifically ask you to do so as a proper part of an assignment, do not include in your email signatures or other material in your messages any kind of a personal nature, including a photo, sales solicitation, information about a business, or a political or religious message of any kind. Do not include a blind or other kind of hyperlink to such information.*
5. *Please use common sense and common courtesy as if you are already a professional in the community. Violators will be excluded from the course.*

The textbooks are “American Government & Politics Today: The Essentials, 2014-2015 Brief Edition California The Politics of Diversity, by David Lawrence & Jeffrey Cummins, published by Cengage Learning and are available at the College Bookstore. Two textbooks are sold as bundle at the college bookstore. You may order them from the college bookstore online at the College website.

Course Requirements

This is a 5-week extensive course that is usually offered in 16 weeks in a regular semester. You need to keep up with assignments/tests deadlines, as these deadlines will not be extended for any reason.
4 short assignment 5 points each due day, Thursday, 200 – 250 words, no more, no less.
3 Weekly essay assignments of 2 full pages no more, no less, double-space, for 30 points or 10 points each due by Sunday (essay assignments that are late or are less or more than two full pages will not receive full credit). Assignments may not be copied from any source on the Internet or any other sources. You will receive a fail grade for the first assignment that is not your own writing and will receive a fail grade for the course if you repeat that. 2 multiple-choice tests for 15 points each and a multiple-choice final exam for 20 points Tests/ final exam are scheduled for a Friday - Saturday. Assignments, tests and final exam due dates will not be not be extended or rescheduled for any reason You'll be blocked from the class site if you miss any first assignment. It is however, your responsibility to drop the class if you decided not to attend any more.

Grade Scale: 90 - 100 = A 80 – 89 = B 70 – 79 = C 60 – 69 = D 59 and lower = F

Lecture and Reading Schedule

Week 1: January 4 - 10

The Democratic Republic, The Constitution, Federalism

Reading Requirement: Bardes et al, chapters 1, 2, 3 & California Government chapters 1, 2

Short assignment 1 due by Thursday, January 7

Essay 1 due on Sunday, January 10

Week 2: January 11 - 17

Civil Liberties, Civil Rights

Required Reading: Bardes et al, Chapters 4, 5

Short assignment 2 due on Thursday, January 14

Test 1 on Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Friday – Saturday January 15 - 16

Week 3: January 18 - 24

Public Opinion and Political Socialization and the Media, Interest Groups and Political Parties, Campaign & Election

Required Reading: Bardes et al, Chapters 6, 7, 8 & CA Government chapter 3

Short assignment 3 Due by Thursday, January 21

Essay 2 due by Sunday, January 24

Week 4: January 25 - 31

The Congress, The Presidency, The Judiciary,

Required Reading: Bardes et al, 9, 10, 12 & CA Government chapters 4, 5

Test 2 on chapters 6, 7, 8, 9 Fri day – Saturday, January 29 – 30

Essay 3 due by Sunday, January 31

Week 5: February 1 - 7

The Bureaucracy, Domestic and Economic Policy, Foreign Policy

Required Reading: Bardes et al, Chapters 11, 13, 14 & CA Government chapters 6, 7, 8,9

Short assignment 4 due by Thursday, February 4

Final Exam on Chapters 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, Friday – Saturday, February 5 - 6