

**WEST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE**

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 001 – THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES:**

This course meets the U.S. Constitution requirements for transfer to UC or CSU. (3 units)

Instructor: Mark Susuki  
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PM Private Message me via the Etudes online platform  
Class Hours: Online  
Office Hours: TBA  
Location: Online  
Semester: Fall 2015 – October 26, 2015 – December 20, 2015  
Section: 8267  
Lecture: Online  
Disclaimer: Syllabus schedule subject to change without notice

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

American Government/California Government (Custom Bundle)  
By: Shelley, Bardes, and Schmidt – ISBN 97812853300  
California – The politics of diversity – ISBN-13: 978-1-285-73817-8  
Price: \$124.00 new – (prices subject to change)  
Photos: See announcement for an image of the text books

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course studies the United States political system: theory; structure, functions of national, state and local government. This course meets U.S. Constitution requirements for transfer to UC or CSU.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

**Institutional SLO's**

1. Communication
2. Civic Responsibility

**Program SLO's**

1. Take an informed position on a political issue, candidate or situation and support your position with objective, logical, effective debate and discussion.
2. Seek out and engage in civic opportunities that broaden perspectives and increase one's responsibility to family and community

**CLASSROOM POLICIES:**

1. Attending all online meetings is mandatory
2. Cheating on examinations will result in failure of the examination
3. Keep up with all discussions and assessments – be aware of the completion dates
4. Do not fall behind
5. Keep up your reading!

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY POLICY:**

This syllabus refers to the LACCD student code of conduct as it relates to student dishonesty (Board Rule 9803.28) as follows: "Violations of academic integrity of any type by a student provides grounds for disciplinary action by the instructor or college. Violations of Academic Integrity include, but are not

limited to, the following actions: cheating on an exam, plagiarism, working together on an assignment, paper or project when the instructor has specifically stated students should not do so, submitting the same term paper to more than one instructor, or allowing another individual to assume one's identity for the purpose of enhancing one's grade. For more information on the Standards of Student Conduct refer to the college catalog available in hardcopy and online at [www.lattc.edu](http://www.lattc.edu)."

#### **DIABLED STUDENTS PROGRAM & SERVICES:**

Students should also contact the Disabled Student Programs & Services (DSPS) center located in Student Services Building (SSB 320) or call (310) 287-4450. If you require specific services you must make an appointment and receive a DSPS form. You will then bring me the receipt form listing what requirements are needed

#### **WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:**

Written assignments will be submitted electronically. Submit your electronic documents via a file on the Etudes format. It is your responsibility to resubmit the document and be on time. Your discussion responses should be limited to 250 words or less. You can cut and paste the questions from the discussions and place them in MS word articulate your response and paste it back into the discussion thread. Do not start a new thread for it is too hard to keep track of your work

#### **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Since this section is 100 percent online, be aware of this. You will be expected to "attend" class. I know when you log on to Etudes and how long you stay. Complete all the assignments and assessment by the due date

1. Students should contact the instructor when they are absent for emergency reasons. If you are in an emergency situation and miss a due date contacts me and we can work out a compromise. Do not skip or miss an assignment or assessment
2. Online studies are the future of education. Make sure you understand how this new game works and become proficient with online programs.
3. Students are responsible for dropping a class that they stop attending. If the class is not dropped, the student may receive an "F" in the class and be responsible for enrollment fee.
4. There are no vacations for the online community. If you are also taking face to face classes there are specific days when the campus is closed.

#### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

<b>West Los Angeles College is closed on these dates</b>	
<b>DATE</b>	<b>HOLIDAY</b>
September 07, 2015	Labor Day
November 11, 2015	Veteran's Day
November 26 - 29, 2015	Thanksgiving

#### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS:**

*If you drop out, quit, and or dismissed from WLAC, be aware of your enrollment status.*

<b>DATE</b>	<b>FUNCTION</b>
November 20, 2015	Last day for section transfer
November 02, 2015	Last date to drop a class without a "W" on your record

December 04, 2015	Last date to drop a class with a "W" on your record
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**NEW REPEAT POLICY EFFECTIVE SUMMER 2012:**

Effective summer of 2013, the rules have changed for repeating courses. You may attempt a course only three (3) times (up to 3 W's or 3 D's or 3 F's or any combination of W's, D's and F's) "W's" will count towards attempts at any one course. After three (3) attempts the state will not pay the college for a student to take the course. If a student drops by the "drop without a W date it is not counted against the 3 attempts to pass a class. If you think it is likely you will not pass a class, drop the class before the "W" penalty date.

**FINAL EXAMINATION POLICY:**

Final examinations are required of all classes and will be held online during the designated final examination period.

- A two hour period is scheduled for each examination.
- Final Examinations must be held on the DAY AND TIME SCHEDULED and in the regularly assigned online classroom.
- No course or student is exempt from final examinations. The final examinations will be held on the last on-campus meeting day of the class.

**GRADING AND TEST POLICIES:**

You will be expected to complete the written assignments and take all examinations online. There will be no midterm examination but you will have a final examination and seven quizzes. You will also be responsible for the eight discussions. Unfortunately this is an eight week course so everything except course content will be abbreviated.

**EXAMINATION SCHEDULE AND DATES:**

Discussions and Quizzes to be done online			
Discussion or Assessment	Point Value	Date Assigned – Week of	
Weekly Discussions X 8 weeks 10 points each	80 points	By week	
<b>Quiz 1</b> 25 question quiz from Chapters 1 - 2	15 points	October 26	
<b>Quiz 2</b> 25 question quiz from Chapters 3 - 4	15 points	November 02	
<b>Quiz 3</b> 25 question quiz from Chapters 5 - 6	15 points	November 09	
<b>Quiz 4</b> 25 question quiz from Chapters 7 - 8	15 points	November 16	
<b>Quiz 5</b> 25 question quiz from Chapters 9 - 10	15 points	November 23	
<b>Quiz 6</b> 25 question quiz from Chapters 11 - 12	15 points	November 30	
<b>Quiz 7</b> 25 question quiz from Chapters 13 - 14	15 points	December 07	
<b>Total Discussion Points</b>	160 points	<b>Total Quiz points</b>	105 points

Midterm and Final Examination to be done online		
Discussion or Assessment	Point Value	Date Assigned
Midterm Examination	No Midterm	
Final Examination	60 points	December 14, 2015
Total possible points for this class	325 points	

**GRADING MATRIX:**

Your final grade can be determined by following this simple grading matrix

<b>Political Science 001 Section 1737 Grading Matrix</b>					
<b>Grade</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>Points</b>	325 - 295	294 - 265	264 - 230	229 - 195	<194
<b>Percentage</b>	100% - 90%	89% - 80%	79% - 70%	69% - 60%	Ouch

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THE ACADEMIC COURSE WORK MATRIX BEGINS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

**ACADEMIC COURSE WORK - Subject to change without notice:**

<b>The Fall Semester 2015 by Week</b>		
<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject and Content</b>
Week 1	October 27 – 29	<p><b>Special: Introductions</b></p> <p><b>Lecture: Chapter 1 - The Democratic Republic</b> Democracy and other forms of government What kind of democracy do we have? Political Ideologies</p> <p><b>Homework:</b> Key Words vocabulary</p> <p><b>Lecture: Chapter 2 - The Constitution</b> The colonial background The colonial response Declaring Independence Drafting and final Document The Bill of Rights</p> <p><b>Homework:</b> Key Word vocabulary</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> Complete Chapter 1 and 2, review chapter summaries, and key terms and definition</p> <p><b>Discussion #1:</b> Discussion &amp; Private Messages, post your welcome “Hello to Everyone” statement</p>
Week 2	November 03 – 05	<p><b>Lecture: Chapter 3 – Federalism</b> The constitutional basis for American federalism</p> <p>States’ rights and the road to civil war</p> <p><b>Homework:</b> Key Word vocabulary</p> <p><b>Lecture: Chapter 4 - Civil Liberties</b> The Bill of Rights The rights of privacy</p> <p><b>Homework:</b> Key Word vocabulary</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> Complete Chapter 3 and 4, review chapter summaries, and key terms and definition</p> <p><b>Discussion #2:</b> Discussion &amp; Private Messages, post your comments to the instructor’s question</p>
Week 3	November 10 – 12	<p><b>Lecture: Chapter 5 - Civil Rights</b> Slavery in America The Civil Rights Movement Women’s rights Immigration</p> <p><b>Homework:</b> Key Word vocabulary</p> <p><b>Lecture: Chapter 6 - Public Opinion</b> How public opinion is formed Political preferences and voting Behavior Technology and opinion polls</p> <p><b>Homework:</b> Key Word vocabulary</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> Complete Chapter 5 and 6, review chapter summaries, and key terms and definition</p> <p><b>Discussion #3:</b> Discussion &amp; Private Messages, post your comments</p>

		to the instructor's question
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<b>The Fall Semester 2015 by Week</b>		
<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject and Content</b>
Week 4	November 17 – 19	<p><b>Lecture: Chapter 7 - Interest Groups</b> Types of interest groups What makes an interest group powerful? Regulating Lobbyists</p> <p><b>Homework:</b> Key Words vocabulary</p> <p><b>Special: <u>Midterm Examination</u></b> <b>Chapter 8 – Political Parties</b> The two major U.S. parties today Role of minor parties in U.S. Politics Mechanisms of political change</p> <p><b>Homework:</b> Key Word vocabulary</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> Complete Chapter 7 and 8, review chapter summaries, and key terms and definition</p> <p><b>Discussion #4:</b> Discussion &amp; Private Messages, post your comments to the instructor's question</p>
Week 5	November 24 – 26	<p><b>Lecture: Chapter 9 – Campaign, Elections, and the Media</b> Who wants to be a candidate? Financing the Campaign The media and politics</p> <p><b>Homework:</b> Key Words vocabulary</p> <p><b>Lecture: Chapter 10 – The Congress</b> The nature and functions Of congress The powers of congress Congressional apportionment How a bill becomes a law</p> <p><b>Homework:</b> Key Word vocabulary</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> Complete Chapter 9 and 10, review chapter summaries, and key terms and definition</p> <p><b>Discussion #5:</b> Discussion &amp; Private Messages, post your comments to the instructor's question</p>
Week 6	December 01 – 03	<p><b>Lecture: Chapter 11 – The President</b> The many roles of the president Special uses of presidential power The vice presidency</p> <p><b>Homework:</b> Key Word vocabulary</p> <p><b>Special:</b> Review for Test Number Two</p> <p><b>Lecture: Chapter 12 – The Bureaucracy</b> The nature of Bureaucracy The organization of the Federal Bureaucracy Modern attempts at bureaucratic reform</p> <p><b>Homework:</b> Key Word vocabulary</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> Complete Chapter 11 and 12, review chapter summaries, and key terms and definition</p> <p><b>Discussion #6:</b> Discussion &amp; Private Messages, post your comments to the instructor's question</p>

<b>The Fall Semester 2015 by Week</b>		
<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject and Content</b>
Week 7	December 08 – 10	<p><b>Lecture: Chapter 13 – The Courts</b> Sources of American Law The federal court system The selection of federal judges What checks our courts?</p> <p><b>Homework:</b> Key Word vocabulary</p> <p><b>Lecture: Chapter 14 – Domestic and</b> The policy making process Health Care Immigration Environmental policy</p> <p><b>Special:</b> Review for Final Examination</p> <p><b>Homework:</b> Key Word vocabulary</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> Complete Chapter 13 and 14, review chapter summaries, and key terms and definition</p> <p><b>Discussion #7:</b> Discussion &amp; Private Messages, post your comments to the instructor's question</p>
Week 8	December 15 – 17	<p><b>Lecture: Chapter 15 – Foreign Policy</b> Facing the world: foreign and Defense policy Challenges in world politics Who makes foreign policy?</p> <p><b>Homework:</b> Key Word vocabulary</p> <p><b>Reading:</b> Complete Chapter 15, review chapter summaries, and key terms and definition</p> <p><b>Discussion #8:</b> Discussion &amp; Private Messages, post your comments to the instructor's question</p> <p><b>Special:</b> Final Examination December 17, 2015 9:15am – 11:15am MSA 003</p>

**Notes:**