

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
E mail: susukid@wlaac.edu
Class Hours: Tuesday and Thursday - 9:35 am – 12:55 pm
Office Hours: TBA
Location: MSA 003
Semester: Fall 2015 – October 26, 2015 – December 20, 2015
Section: 1737
Lecture: 6 hours per week
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 scheduled class meetings is mandatory
2. Cheating on examinations will result in failure of the examination
3. Be on time to class and be ready to learn
4. All cellular phone will be shut off. If you have young children or a care giver, you may have your phone live
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."

DISABLED 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 in the above three methods and on time.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Students are expected to attend every class meeting, to arrive on time and stay throughout the class period. Students may be excluded from class for excessive tardiness, for failure to attend class the first day or during the entire first week of the class, or if the total number or absences exceed the twice the number or hours the class meets per week, missed/makeup examinations and assignments and late assignments/extensions.

1. Students should contact the instructor when they are absent for emergency reasons
2. Come to class on time since it disrupts the class tempo and is not fair to your fellow students
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.

IMPORTANT DATES:

West Los Angeles College is closed on these dates	
DATE	HOLIDAY
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.

DATE	FUNCTION
November 02, 2015	Last day to add a class
November 02, 2015	Last date to drop a class and not owe enrollment fees
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

NEW REPEAT POLICY EFFECTIVE SUMMER 2012:

Effective summer or 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 are required to be given within 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 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. The examinations will include two tests, a midterm examination and the final examination and 8 quizzes. You will also be responsible for the eight discussions.

EXAMINATION SCHEDULE AND DATES:

Discussions and Quizzes to be done online		
Discussion or Assessment	Point Value	Date Assigned
Weekly Discussions X 8 weeks 10 points each	80 points	By week
Quiz 1 5 questions from the course syllabus	20 points	October 27 – 29
Quiz 2 25 question quiz from Chapters 1 - 2	25 points	November 3 - 5
Quiz 3 25 question quiz from Chapters 3 - 4	25 points	November 10 - 12
Quiz 4 25 question quiz from Chapters 5 - 6	25 points	November 17 - 19
Quiz 5 25 question quiz from Chapters 7 - 8	25 points	November 24 - 26
Quiz 6 25 question quiz from Chapters 9 - 10	25 points	December 1 - 3
Quiz 7 25 question quiz from Chapters 11 - 12	25 points	December 8 - 10
Quiz 8 25 question quiz from Chapters 13 - 14	25 points	December 15 - 17

Midterm and Final Examination to be done in class		
Discussion or Assessment	Point Value	Date Assigned
Midterm Examination	120 points	November 19, 2015
Final Examination	125 points	December 17, 2015

GRADING MATRIX:

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

Political Science 001 Section 1737 Grading Matrix					
Grade	A	B	C	D	F
Points	500-450	449-400	399-349	348-300	299 and below

Percentage	100% - 90%	89% - 80%	79% - 70%	69% - 60%	Ouch
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ACADEMIC COURSE WORK - Subject to change without notice:

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

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

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

Notes: