

# POLITICAL SCIENCE I: THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES

West Los Angeles College

Section 8023

1<sup>st</sup> session of Fall 2015

8 weeks August 31 - October 24

Instructor: Ms. Sholeh Khorrooshi

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Office: GC Building 380M 9 - 11AM Mon & Wed

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 Outcomes**

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 his or her 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**

4 short assignments (200 – 250 words) for 20 points or 5 points each;

3 essay assignments of 2 full pages (no more/no less) double space for 30 points, 10 points each (assignments that are late will not receive credit). 2 multiple-choice tests for 15 points each and a multiple-choice final exam for 20 points (Tests and final exam will not be rescheduled for any reasons)

I may block from the class website if you miss one or more assignments. It is however, your responsibility to drop the class if you decided not to attend any more.

Assignments may not be copied from any sources on the Internet from the textbook, 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.

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

### ***Lecture and Reading Schedule***

#### **Week 1: August 31 – September 6**

The Democratic Republic, Forging a New Government: The Constitution, Federalism

Reading Requirement: Bardes et al, chapters 1 and 2, 3 & California, the Politics of Diversity chapters 1, 2  
Short Assignment 1

#### **Week 2: September 7 - 13**

Civil Liberties, Civil Rights

Required Reading: Bardes et al, Chapters 4, 5 & California, the Politics of Diversity chapter 4 5, 13  
Essay 1

#### **Week 3: September 14 - 20**

Public Opinion and Political Socialization, and the Media, Interest Groups and Political Parties

Required Reading: Bardes et al, Chapters 6 and 7 & California, the Politics of Diversity chapter 6

Short Assignment 2 **Test 1 on Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Friday – Saturday, September 18 - 19**

#### **Week 4: September 21 - 27**

Campaigns, Elections

Required Reading: Bardes et al, Chapters 8 & California Government chapters 4, 5 Essay 2

#### **Week 5: September 28 - October 4**

The Congress, The Presidency

Required Reading: Bardes et al, Chapter 9 and 10 & California, the Politics of Diversity  
Chapters 7, 8 Short Assignment 3

#### **Week 6: October 5 - 11**

The Bureaucracy, The Judiciary

Required Reading: Bardes et al Chapters 11, 12 & California, the Politics of Diversity chapters 9, 10  
Short Assignment 4 **Test 2 on chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 10** **Friday – Saturday, October 9 - 10**

**Week 7: October 12 - 18**

Domestic and Economic Policy, Foreign Policy

Required Reading: Bardes et al Chapter 13, 14 & California, the Politics of Diversity chapters 11, 12  
Essay 3

**Week 8: October 19 - 24**

**Final Exam on Chapters 11, 12, 13, 14** **Friday – Saturday, October 23 - 24**