

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@wla.edu
Class Hours: Monday and Wednesday - 9:15am – 10:40am
Office Hours: TBA
Location: POPP @ ARTC classroom 1
Semester: Fall 2015 – August 31, 2015 – December 20, 2015
Section: 7595
Lecture: 3 hours per week
Disclaimer: Syllabus/schedule subject to change

REQUIRED TEXTS:

American Government/California Government (Custom Bundle)
By: Shelley, Bardes, and Schmidt – ISBN 97812853300
Price: \$159.44 new – 119.50 used – (prices subject to change)

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."

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 hard copy and electronically. If you submit your electronic documents via a file, please submit in MS Word 2007 or 2010. You can also submit in PDF format. Other file extensions attachments will not be accepted. If I cannot open your attachments, I will inform you. It is your responsibility to resubmit the document in the above three methods.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Students are expected to attend every class meeting, to arrive on time and stay throughout the class period. Students may be dropped 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 CADETS:

If you drop out, quit, and or dismissed from the POPP program, be aware of your enrollment status.

DATE	FUNCTION
September 11, 2015	Last day to add a class
September 11, 2015	Last date to drop a class and not owe enrollment fees
September 11, 2015	Last date to drop a class without a "W" on your record
November 20, 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.

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 6 quizzes. You will also be responsible for the seven written assignments and the congressional letter research project.

Grading will be done on a straight percentage value; >90% = A, >80% = B, >70% =C, >60% = D, >59% and below = F. Make up exams will be at my discretion.

ACADEMIC TESTING AND GRADE POINT VALUES BROKEN DOWN BY TASK	
Assignment or Task	Point Value
Examination 1	100 total points
Midterm Examination	100 total points
Examination 2	100 total points
Final examination	150 total points
Congressional letter research project	50 total points
Total number of points for PS001 – Section 7595	500 total points

Student classroom participation is required in this class. Make up exams will be at my discretion.

EXAMINATION SCHEDULE AND DATES:

Examinations	Examination Date	Written Assignment	Assignment Due Date
Test Number 1	Wednesday September 23	Congressional Letter	Wednesday December 02
Midterm Exam	Wednesday October 21	Research Project	
Test Number 2	Wednesday November 25		
Final Examination	Monday December 14	Extra Credit Assignment	None

GRADING MATRIX:

Your final grade can be determined by following this simple 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

ACADEMIC COURSE WORK - Subject to change without notice:

The Fall Semester 2015
by Week

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT		CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT
Week 1 August 31 – September 02		
Introductions		Chapter 1 – America, Only More So
Lecture: Chapter 1 - The Democratic Republic Democracy and other forms of government What kind of democracy do we have? Political Ideologies		
Homework: Key Words vocabulary		
Week 2 September 07 – September 09		
Lecture: Monday September 7 Labor Day Chapter 2 - The Constitution The colonial background The colonial response Declaring Independence Drafting and final Document The Bill of Rights		Chapter 2 – The State Constitution and Direct Democracy
Homework: Key Word vocabulary		

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT
Week 3 September 14 – September 16	
Lecture: Chapter 3 – Federalism The constitutional basis for American federalism States’ rights and the road to civil war Special: Review for Test Number One Homework: Key Word vocabulary	
Week 4 September 21 – September 23	
Special: Test Number One Lecture: Chapter 4 - Civil Liberties Assignment: The Bill of Rights The rights of privacy Homework: Key Word vocabulary	
Week 5 September 28 – September 30	
Lecture: Chapter 5 - Civil Rights Slavery in America The Civil Rights Movement Women’s rights Other minority rights Immigration Homework: Key Word vocabulary	
Week 6 October 05 – October 07	
Lecture: Chapter 6 - Public Opinion How public opinion is formed Political preferences and voting Behavior Technology and opinion polls Homework: Key Words vocabulary	Chapter 3 - Public Opinion and the Media
Week 7 October 12 – October 14	
Lecture: Chapter 7 - Interest Groups Assignment: Types of interest groups What makes an interest group powerful? Regulating Lobbyists Homework: Key Words vocabulary Special: Review for Midterm Examination	Chapter 4 - Political Parties and Interest Groups
Week 8 October 19 – October 21	
Special: Midterm Examination Chapter 8 – Political Parties The two major U.S. parties today Role of minor parties in U.S. Politics Mechanisms of political change Homework: Key Word vocabulary	
Week 9 October 26 – October 28	
Lecture: Chapter 9 – Campaign, Elections, and the Media Who wants to be a candidate? Financing the Campaign The media and politics Homework: Key Words vocabulary	Chapter 5 - Campaigns and Elections

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT		CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT
Week 10 November 02 – November 04		
Lecture:	Chapter 10 – The Congress The nature and functions Of congress The powers of congress Congressional apportionment How a bill becomes a law	Chapter 6 – The State Legislature
Homework:	Key Word vocabulary	
Week 11 November 09 – November 11		
Special:	November 11 – Veterans Day	Chapter 7 - The State’s Plural Executive
Lecture:	Chapter 11 – The President The many roles of the president Special uses of presidential power The vice presidency	
Homework:	Key Word vocabulary	
Special:	Review for Test Number Two	
Week 12 November 16 – November 18		
Lecture:	Chapter 12 – The Bureaucracy The nature of Bureaucracy The organization of the Federal Bureaucracy Attempts at bureaucratic reform	
Special:	Review for Quiz Number Two	
Homework:	Key Word vocabulary	
Week 13 November 23 – November 25		
Special:	Test Number 2	Chapter 8 – The Judicial System
Lecture:	Chapter 13 – The Courts Sources of American Law The federal court system The selection of federal judges What checks our courts?	
Homework:	Key Word vocabulary	
Week 14 November 26 – November 29		
Special:	Thanksgiving	
Week 15 November 30 – December 02		
Lecture:	Chapter 14 – Domestic and Economic Policy The policy making process Health Care and Immigration Environmental policy	Chapter 9 – Financing California Government
Special:	Review for Final Examination	
Homework:	Key Word vocabulary	
Week 16 December 07 – December 09		
Lecture:	Chapter 15 – Foreign Policy Facing the world: foreign and Defense policy Challenges in world politics Who makes foreign policy?	
Special:	Review for Final Examination	
Homework:	Key Word vocabulary	

Finals Week	
Special:	Final Examination December 14, 2015 9:15am – 11:15am – Room 1 ARTC

Notes: