

Los Angeles Community College District
West Los Angeles College
POLITICAL SCIENCE I: THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES
Section 1732
Spring 2015
Monday and Wednesday
Room GC 320
8:00 a.m. - 9:25 a.m.

Instructor: Arnedra Jordan

Office Location:

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Office Phone:

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday -9:30 am. - 10:00 am, any by appointment

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.

Course Requirements

- *Mandatory, Plagiarism Tutorial Workshop*
- *Study Chapters including vocabulary terms in text*
- *Current Events – Due each week*
- *Homework*
- *4 Surprise Quizzes*
- *Two in Class Exams*
- *Class Participation and Attendance*
- *Research of an Aspiring Leader- one page*
- *5 page Research Paper- Two drafts- one final*
- *Student Success Center/ Writing Lab*
- *Purdue Owl tutorial*

Please silence all cell phones or turn them off, attendance is mandatory in this class in order to succeed. We will establish Community Rules the 1st day of class. Please be respectful of your fellow class mate's perspective, opinions and views. Our class room is a safe place, last but not least please come prepared to class and be ready to be pushed to your learning edge.

Additional Support for your Learning

The Student Success Center (SSC) focuses on multidisciplinary success. As a student-centered instructional support provider, we are committed to partner with all West Los Angeles students to make their transition to college a success. Our qualified and friendly staff comprised of a dedicated coordinator, adjunct faculty, student tutors, program assistants, and community volunteers use innovative methods to assist students in their academic, personal, and career development. By working in on-on-one and small group settings, students can take advantage of our supplemental learning activities such as peer tutoring, directed learning activities, success seminars, web-based resources including tutoring and workshops, audio and video programs, study areas, computer services, and assessments for our contract education programs.

Learning Center Phone:
(310) 287-4404

The Writing Center

The English Writing Center (EWC) is a dedicated center EWC instructors and tutors assist students in both the academic and technical aspects of completing online lab assignments. Each visit or writing conference is for 20 minutes and is limited to WLAC class assignments. Each writing assignment is limited to three (3) writing conferences with a tutor. One (1) is for prewriting, and two (2) are for revisions. Prewriting includes organization and developing details. Revisions include re-organization, general review of sentence structure, and discussion of essay development. Only one (1) writing assignment is allowed per conference with one (1) visit per day. You may have a 20-minute grammar conference of one (1) specific grammar area at a time, such as sentence fragments, prepositional phrases, or commas.

Course Assignments:

In-Class Exams: Two in-class exams will be required.

Quizzes: There will be four surprise quizzes given at different times during the semester, the quizzes will be given the first 10 minutes of class. So be on time.

Portfolio: The rough draft papers allow writers to work on polishing their work all quarter in order to turn in their best work for a grade at the end of the quarter. While it may feel funny to be writing papers, during the quarter that you won't get a final grade on until the end of the quarter, writers can use this to their advantage. For example, you may learn something about your writing in the 5th week of the quarter that you can then go back and apply to an earlier paper in order to make it better. Portfolios allow you to take all you have learned over the quarter and revise your work to reflect your learning. Your Portfolio will include your 2 drafts of your research paper and your final research paper.

For your portfolio, you will need to include several items. For this reason, it is advisable to keep all of your work for the entire quarter in an organized 3-ring binder. Finally, you will need to submit all homework you did for the class. You will be notified during the quarter of which homework will specifically be submitted in the portfolio. Bring your portfolio to each class.

Special Note: It is vital that you complete both drafts of the research paper. Should you fail to have a draft ready when it is due (see assignment schedule), you will receive no feedback. Feedback is vital for you to be able to successfully revise your paper for your portfolio. Your participation and homework grades will also suffer.

All work for this class should be typed, double spaced, 12 point font, one inch margins.

Attendance and Participation: It is essential that you come to this class on a regular basis and are ready to participate in the class discussions and activities. The following is how your attendance grade will be determined. 0-2 days missed = A, 3-5 days missed = B, 6-7 days missed = C, over 8 days missed = F.

Grading:

Your grade will be calculated according to the grid below. The following is the weight of each assignment as it corresponds to your overall grade.

- 1) Journal (13) 25 points each = 325 points
 - 2) Drafts (2): 25 points (50 points each)
 - 3) Test (2): 100 points (200 points each)
 - 4) Research Paper: 100 Points
 - 5) Leader Paper and Presentation: 100 Points
 - 5) Quizzes (4) 25 points : 100 points
 - 6) Extra Credit (3 total) : 25 points each : 75 points total
 - 7) Final= 100
- Total Point = 1050**

Grading Scale

900-1050- A

899-800= B

799-700= C

699-600= D

Anything below an 600 = F

“ A ”	“A” work excels the expectations for the assignment. It goes above and beyond in clarity, content, organization, and presentation.
“ B ”	“B” work is above average. It goes beyond meeting the assignment, but doesn’t go as far as “A” level work. “B” work may excel in some areas, but not in the majority of areas designated by the assignment.
“ C ”	“C” work meets the expectations of the assignment. It shows competency, but does not go above and beyond the assignment in any significant way.
“ D ”	Below passing means that the work failed to meet the assignment’s requirements.

Course Policies and Rules

Plagiarism: Plagiarism occurs when you knowingly submit someone else's ideas or words as your own. Plagiarism is an act of intentional deception that not only is dishonest, it robs you of the most important product of education---the actual learning. Should I suspect that you have plagiarized, I will talk with you one-on -one and ask you to prove that the work in question is your own. If you are found guilty of academic dishonesty, you will automatically fail that assignment. If you are caught plagiarizing again in the same quarter, you will fail this class.

You should also know that it is possible to plagiarize yourself! If you submit work already completed for one course as original work for another course, you are plagiarizing.

Attendance and Punctuality: Should you miss class, it is your responsibility to make up all the work done that day as well as get the notes for that class period from a peer in the class. If you missed a test it is up to you to reschedule a make-up test time with me. Don’t expect me to seek you out and reschedule a time for you. I also appreciate if you would email me l letting me know of your absence.

I will start the class as close to on time as possible. If you are late and class has already begun, it is your responsibility to get on board with what the class is doing without disturbing the class to ask questions.

Adhere to the Rules of Conduct: On the next page, I have included a guideline for student conduct. This lists the behavior that is acceptable and unacceptable as well as the procedures I will follow if there is a problem with student conduct in this class.

An Invitation: If you have any questions or concerns about your progress in this course, please arrange a time to speak with me immediately. There are few problems that can't be worked around, but it is necessary that you initiate a discussion with me about the issue at hand in order for any action to result.

Special Note: If you believe you qualify for course adaptations or special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, it is your responsibility to contact the Disability Support Services Coordinator in the LASC and provide the appropriate documentation. If you have already documented a disability or other condition through the DSP&S office which would qualify you for special accommodations, or if you have emergency medical information or special needs I should know about, please notify me during the first week of class.

Learning Disabilities Assessment

DSP&S serves LASC students who are not achieving their educational goals because of difficulties with study, organizational, reading, writing, spelling, or math skills. Students with learning disabilities may find it difficult to perform well or to succeed in the classroom without help, and DSP&S offers such students support. Special classes focus on basic learning strategies and skill development for overcoming specific learning problems. Students may be referred to the program by an instructor or counselor, or they may refer themselves. Each student will receive an initial interview and, if appropriate, will be individually assessed for learning disabilities. Based on the student's learning profile, the LD Specialist will make educational Recommendations for accommodations **Accommodation:** Office of Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) Heldman Learning Resources Center (HLRC), Room 119 | (310) 287-4450.

Comparative Politics: Assignment Schedule

Unit #1: Comparative Politics: Themes and Approaches

Week #1 Feb. 9, 11	Personal Profile Sheet Ice Breaker/Community Rules Introduce the syllabus Chapter 1 Homework Assignment <i>The Democratic Republic</i> <i>Reading Requirement: Schmidt et al, Chapter 1</i>
Week #2 Feb 16- No Class Feb. 18	Chapter 1 The Democratic Republic Citing APA Homework <i>The Constitution</i> <i>Required Reading: Schmidt et al: Chapter 2</i> <i>Current Event – International Article (Use APA Format)</i>
Week #3 Feb. 23,25	Chapter 2 The Constitution In Class Debate Homework Schedule Office Hour Visit With Me First draft of paper due. Feb. 23 Federalism Required Reading: Schmidt et al chapter 3 <i>Current Event (Use APA Format)</i>
Week #4 March 2, 4	Chapter 3 Federalism Homework <i>Civil Liberties</i> <i>Required Reading: Schmidt et al: Chapter 4</i> <i>Current Event</i>
Week #5 March 9, 10	Chapter 4 Civil Liberties Homework Civil Rights Required Reading: Schmidt et al: Chapter 5 Liberties and Rights: <i>Current Event</i>

- Week #6--**
March 16,
18 Chapter 5 Liberties and Rights
Homework
Read Chapter 6 Public Opinion and Political Socialization and the Media
Required Reading: Schmidt et al, Chapter 6
Test 1 on chapter 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 - Monday
Current Events
- Week #7**
March 23,
25 Required Reading: Schmidt et al, Chapter 7 & California's Strong Pressure Group: Carney, Chapter 6
Homework
Read Chapter 8
Current Events
Great Leaders Paper Due
- Week #8**
March 30
April 1 Campaign and Elections 8
Required **Reading**: Schmidt et al Chapter
Begin 2nd draft of your research paper.
Citations workshop: citing politics and secondary sources in the text of your paper.
Citations workshop: the works cited page.
Homework
Read Chapter 9
Current Events
- Week #9**
April 6,8 **Work on Your 2nd draft of your research papers don't forget to revise your papers based on my edits**
Have A Great Spring Break
- Week #10**
April 13,14 The Congress
Required Reading: Schmidt et al, Chapter 9
Homework
Read Chapter 10
Current Events
Second Draft of Research Paper Due April 13
- Week #11**
April 20,21 The Presidency
Required Reading: Schmidt et al, Chapter 10 and Korey, Chapters 1, 2

Test 2 on Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9 Monday April 20

Homework

Read Chapter 11

Current Events

Week #12
April 27,28

The Bureaucracy

Required Reading: Schmidt et al Chapter 11 and Korey, Chapter 3, 4

Homework

Read Chapter 12

Current Events

Week #13
May 4,6

The Judiciary

Required Reading: Schmidt et al, chapter 12 and Korey, Chapters 5, 6

Homework

Read Chapter 13

Current Events

Week #14
May 11, 13

Domestic and Economic Policies

Required reading: Schmidt et al, Chapter 13 and Korey, chapters 7, 8

Homework

Study for Final

Continue to work on Research Papers

Week #15
May 18, 20

Foreign Policy

Required Reading: Schmidt et al, Chapter 14 and Korey, chapters 9, 10

Week #16
May 27

Final Review

Final Draft Research Papers are due

Homework

Study for Final

Week # 17

Final Exam On Chapters 10, 11, 12, 13, 14

June 1, 3

Note: This schedule is subject to change. Students will be notified in writing of any changes made to this schedule.

Extra Credit

There are different ways to earn extra credit for this class, which should make it fairly easy for you to improve your grade, each extra credit assignment is worth 25 points. For each extra credit assignment you must write a one to two page paper, along with a cover and bibliography page, your paper must include the following:

1. Describe the basic themes, plot elements, storylines.
2. Describe how these themes relate to the learning goals for your class or any of the learning goals for the specific subunits of your class.

You may choose one or all of the following.

1. Watch the Movie the 1st Grader
2. Read Elena Johnson Sirleaf book – This Child Will Be Great
3. Present your Inspiring Leader in Class