

**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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Office: 380S General Classroom Building – Third Floor  
Class Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 11:10 am – 12:35 pm  
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 am – 11:00 pm or by appointment  
Location: GC 420  
Semester: Spring 2015  
Section: 1743  
Lecture: 3 hours per week  
Disclaimer: Syllabus/schedule subject to change  
Fall Semester: Begins February 09, 2015 – Ends June 07, 2015

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

American Government/California Government (Custom Bundle)

By: Shelley, Bardes, and Schmidt – ISBN 97812853300

Price: \$95.65 new – \$71.75 used – prices subject to change

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

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

**STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to: Note to students, SLO 4, 5, and 6 in *italics* were instated Fall 2013

1. Describe and to interpret the systemic framework for their study and analysis of American Government.
2. Identify the major components of American Political Culture.
3. Distinguish the complexities of American Government both in form and function on the state and local levels.
4. *Critically analyze political institutions, systems, processes, events and constitutional principles in order to exercise one's rights and to defend civil liberties.*
5. *Take an informed position on a political issue, candidate or situation and support your position with objective, logical, effective debate and discussion.*
6. *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 and staying the entire class period
2. If you have a planned absents and or an unplanned absents let me know via e mail
3. Cheating on examinations will result in failure of the examination
4. Be on time to class and be ready to learn
5. Un excused absences will result in a lowered grade
6. Keep up your reading!

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY POLICY:**

The syllabi should reference 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 both in hard copy and electronically. Format will be specified on the handout. All electronic documents will be submitted in MS Word 2007 or 2010. You can also submit in PDF format. Other 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.

**GRADING AND TEST POLICIES:**

There will be 4 (four) exams given in this class. The examinations will include two examinations, a midterm examination and the final examination. Grading will be done on a straight percentage value; >90% = A, >80% = B, >70% = C, >60% = D, >59% and below = F.

Test 1 = 100 Midterm = 100 Test 2 = 100 Final Examination = 150 (the final examination is cumulative)  
 Research project = 50 for a total of 500 points possible. Student classroom participation is required in this class. Make up exams will be at my discretion.

Grade Scale – you can track your course grade by adding exam and written assignments				
A	B	C	D	F
500 – 450	449 – 400	399 – 349	348 – 300	299 and below

**EXAMINATION AND WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DATES:**

Examinations	Examination Date	Written Assignment	Assignment Due Date
Test Number 1	Thursday March 05, 2015	Research Project	May 12, 2015
Midterm Exam	Thursday March 26, 2015		
Test Number 2	Thursday April 30, 2015		
Final Examination	Tuesday June 02, 2015		
12:35 pm – 2:30 pm	GC 320		
June 01, 2015 – June 07, 2015 - Final Examination Week			

**IMPORTANT DATES:** WLAC is closed no classroom lecture

DATE	HOLIDAY
Friday, February 13 - Monday, February 16, 2015	President's Day Weekend
Tuesday, March 31, 2015	Caesar Chavez
Saturday, April 4 - Friday, April 10, 2015	Spring Break
Monday, May 25, 2015	Memorial Day

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS:**

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

Date	Event
Friday February 20, 2015	Last day to add a semester length course
Friday February 20, 2015	Last day to drop with a refund or without paying the fee
Friday February 20, 2015	Last day to drop a class without a "W" in person
Friday February 20, 2015	File for Pass/No Pass
Friday May 8, 2015	Last day to drop with a "W"

**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) "Ws" 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.

**ACADEMIC COURSE WORK BY WEEK: - SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE**

Federal Government	California Government
<b>Week 1 - Class meets Tuesday February 10, 2015 and Thursday February 12, 2015</b>	
<p><i>Introductions</i></p> <p>Lecture:     <b>Chapter 1 - The Democratic Republic</b> Democracy and other forms of government What kind of democracy do we have? Political Ideologies</p> <p>Homework:    Key Words vocabulary</p> <p>Lecture:     <b>Chapter 2 - The Constitution</b> The colonial background The colonial response Declaring Independence Drafting and final Document The Bill of Rights</p> <p>Homework:    Key Word vocabulary</p>	California the Sunshine State
<b>Week 2 - Class meets Tuesday February 17, 2015 and Thursday February 19, 2015</b>	
<p><i>No class meeting Monday President's Day holiday</i></p> <p>Lecture:     <b>Chapter 3 – Federalism</b> The constitutional basis for American federalism States' rights and the road to civil war</p> <p>Special:       Review for Test Number One</p> <p>Homework:    Key Word vocabulary</p>	<i>Lecture resumes on Wednesday</i>
<b>Week 3 - Class meets Tuesday February 24, 2015 and Thursday February 26, 2015</b>	
<p>Lecture:     <b>Chapter 4 - Civil Liberties</b></p> <p>Assignment:   The Bill of Rights The rights of privacy</p> <p>Homework:    Key Word vocabulary</p>	
<b>Week 4 - Class meets Tuesday March 03, 2015 and Thursday March 05, 2015</b>	
<p>Special:       <b>Test Number One</b></p> <p>Lecture:     <b>Chapter 5 - Civil Rights</b> Slavery in America The Civil Rights Movement Women's rights Immigration</p> <p>Homework:    Key Word vocabulary</p>	
<b>Week 5 - Class meets Tuesday March 10, 2015 and Thursday March 12, 2015</b>	
<p>Lecture:     <b>Chapter 6 - Public Opinion</b> How public opinion if formed Political preferences and voting Behavior Technology and opinion polls</p> <p>Homework:    Key Words vocabulary</p>	Public Opinion and the Media

Federal Government	California Government
<b>Week 6 – Class meets Tuesday March 17, 2015 and Thursday March 19, 2015</b>	
Lecture: <b>Chapter 7 - Interest Groups</b> Assignment: Types of interest groups What makes an interest group powerful? Regulating Lobbyists Homework: Key Words vocabulary	
<b>Week 7 – Class meets Tuesday March 24, 2015 and Thursday March 26, 2015</b>	
Special: <b>Midterm Examination</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 Homework: Key Word vocabulary	Political Parties and Interest Groups
<b>Week 8 – Class meets Tuesday March 31, 2015 and Thursday April 02, 2015</b>	
Lecture: <b>Chapter 9 – Campaign, Elections, and the Media</b> Who wants to be a candidate? Financing the Campaign The media and politics Homework: Key Words vocabulary	Campaigns and Elections
<b>Week 9 – Class meets Tuesday April 07, 2015 and Thursday April 09, 2015</b>	
Lecture: No lecture Spring Break Homework: Review class materials Review for test 2	No lecture Spring Break
<b>Week 10 - Class meets Tuesday April 14, 2015 and Thursday April 16, 2015</b>	
Lecture: <b>Chapter 10 – The Congress</b> The nature and functions Of congress The powers of congress Congressional apportionment How a bill becomes a law Homework: Key Word vocabulary	The State Legislature
<b>Week 11 – Class meets Tuesday April 21, 2015 and Thursday April 23, 2015</b>	
Lecture: <b>Chapter 11 – The President</b> The many roles of the president Special uses of presidential power The vice presidency Homework: Key Word vocabulary	

Federal Government	California Government
<b>Week 12 – Class meets Tuesday April 28, 2015 and Thursday April 30, 2015</b>	
Special: <b>Test Number 2</b> Lecture: <b>Chapter 12 – The Bureaucracy</b> The nature of Bureaucracy The organization of the Federal Bureaucracy Modern attempts at bureaucratic reform Special: Review for Quiz Number Two Homework: Key Word vocabulary	
<b>Week 13 – Class meets Tuesday May 05, 2015 and Thursday May 07, 2015</b>	
<i>No lecture Monday Veterans Day Holiday</i> Lecture: <b>Chapter 12 – The Bureaucracy</b> The nature of Bureaucracy The organization of the Federal Bureaucracy Modern attempts at bureaucratic reform Special: Review for Quiz Number Two Homework: Key Word vocabulary	<i>Lecture resumes on Wednesday</i> The State’s Plural Executive
<b>Week 14 – Class meets Tuesday May 12, 2015 and Thursday May 14, 2015</b>	
Lecture: <b>Chapter 13 – The Courts</b> Sources of American Law The federal court system The selection of federal judges What checks our courts? Homework: Key Word vocabulary	The Judicial System
<b>Week 15 – Class meets Tuesday May 19, 2015 and Thursday May 21, 2015</b>	
Lecture: <b>Chapter 14 – Domestic and Economic Policy</b> The policy making process Health Care Immigration Environmental policy Special: Review for Final Examination Homework: Key Word vocabulary	Financing California Government
<b>Week 16 – Class meets Tuesday May 26, 2015 and Thursday May 28, 2015</b>	
Lecture: <b>Chapter 15 – Foreign Policy</b> Facing the world: foreign and Defense policy Challenges in world politics Who makes foreign policy? Special: Review for Final Examination Homework: Key Word vocabulary	
<b>Week 17 – Final Examination week June 01, 2015 – June 07, 2015</b>	
Final Examination: CE 320 - Tuesday June 02, 2015 – 12:35 pm – 2:30 pm	

West Los Angeles College  
Spring Semester 2015  
All Sections

Student obligations for success

1. Attend all scheduled class meetings
2. Buy and read your text book
3. Attend all scheduled assessments (tests)
4. Submit your research project (written and research) on time
5. If you decide not to attend this class you must drop yourself.  
If you do not drop yourself you will receive a F for your final grade

Drop classes with a refund/no fee owed..... Fri, Feb 20

Drop classes w/o a "W" ..... Fri, Feb 20

Drop classes with a "W" ..... Fri, May 8

I have read the above and understand these classroom policies. I also understand they are for my benefit and future success.

Print Name:

Sign Name:

Student Number:

Date: