

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: Monday and Wednesday 1:00pm – 2:25pm
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 2:30pm – 3:00pm
Location: GC 420
Semester: Fall 2013
Section: 1746
Lecture: 3 hours per week
Disclaimer: Syllabus/schedule subject to change
Fall Semester: Begins August 26, 2013 – Ends December 15, 2013

REQUIRED TEXTS:

American Government/California Government (Custom Bundle)

By: Shelley, Bardes, and Schmidt – ISBN 97812853300

Price: \$159.44 new – 119.50 used

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

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

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to

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. To promote a future interest in political science and political participation.

CLASSROOM POLICIES:

1. Attending all scheduled class meetings is mandatory and staying the entire class period
2. If you have a planned absents 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.

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 2003 or 2007. 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)
Congressional Letter = 25 - SLO Essay 2 = 25 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	Tuesday September 18, 2013	Congressional Letter	October 9, 2013
Midterm Exam	Tuesday October 9, 2013	Essay	November 6, 2013
Test Number 2	Tuesday November 6, 2013		
Final Examination	Tuesday December 9, 2013	Extra Credit Assignment	Do we need this?
December 9 – December 13, 2013 - Final Examination Week			

IMPORTANT DATES: WLAC is closed no classroom lecture

DATE	HOLIDAY
September 2, 2013	Labor Day
November 11, 2013	Veterans Day
November 28 – 29, 2013	Thanksgiving holiday

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS:

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

September 6, 2013	Last day to add a semester length course
September 6, 2013	Last day to drop with a refund or without paying the fee
September 6, 2013	Last day to drop a class without a “W” in person
September 8, 2013	Last day to drop a class without a “W” via the WEB
September 6, 2013	File for Pass/No Pass
November 15, 2013	Last day to drop with a “W” in person
November 17, 2013	Last day to drop a class with a “W” via the WEB

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:

Pages 4 – 6

Subject to change without notice

Federal Government	California Government
Week 1 - Class meets Monday August 26, 2013 and Wednesday August 28, 2013	
<i>Introductions</i> 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 Lecture: Chapter 2 - The Constitution The colonial background The colonial response Declaring Independence Drafting and final Document The Bill of Rights Homework: Key Word vocabulary	California the Sunshine State
Federal Government	California Government
Week 2 - Class meets Monday September 2, 2013 and Wednesday September 4, 2013	
<i>No class meeting Monday Labor Day holiday</i> 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	<i>Lecture resumes on Wednesday</i>
Federal Government	California Government
Week 3 - Class meets Monday September 9, 2013 and Wednesday September 11, 2013	
Lecture: Chapter 4 - Civil Liberties Assignment: The Bill of Rights The rights of privacy Homework: Key Word vocabulary	
Federal Government	California Government
Week 4 - Class meets Monday September 16, 2013 and Wednesday September 18, 2013	
Special: Test Number One Lecture: Chapter 5 - Civil Rights Slavery in America The Civil Rights Movement Women’s rights Immigration Homework: Key Word vocabulary	
Federal Government	California Government
Week 5 - Class meets Monday September 23, 2013 and Wednesday September 25, 2013	
Lecture: Chapter 6 - Public Opinion How public opinion if formed Political preferences and voting Behavior Technology and opinion polls Homework: Key Words vocabulary	Public Opinion and the Media

Federal Government		California Government
Week 6 – Class meets Monday September 30, 2013 and Thursday October 2, 2013		
Lecture:	Chapter 7 - Interest Groups	
Assignment:	Types of interest groups What makes an interest group powerful? Regulating Lobbyists	
Homework:	Key Words vocabulary	
Federal Government		California Government
Week 7 – Class meets Monday October 7, 2013 and Wednesday October 9, 2013		
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	Political Parties and Interest Groups
Homework:	Key Word vocabulary	
Federal Government		California Government
Week 8 – Class meets Monday October 14, 2013 and Wednesday October 16, 2013		
Lecture:	Chapter 9 – Campaign, Elections, and the Media Who wants to be a candidate? Financing the Campaign The media and politics	Campaigns and Elections
Homework:	Key Words vocabulary	
Federal Government		California Government
Week 9 – Class meets Monday October 21, 2013 and Wednesday October 23, 2013		
Lecture:	Chapter 10 – The Congress The nature and functions Of congress The powers of congress Congressional apportionment How a bill becomes a law	The State Legislature
Homework:	Key Word vocabulary	
Federal Government		California Government
Week 10 - Class meets Monday October 28, 2013 and Wednesday October 30, 2013		
Lecture:	Chapter 11 – The President The many roles of the president Special uses of presidential power The vice presidency	
Homework:	Key Word vocabulary	
Federal Government		California Government
Week 11 – Class meets Monday November 4, 2013 and Wednesday November 6, 2013		
Special:	Test Number 2	
Lecture:	Chapter 12 – The Bureaucracy 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	

Federal Government	California Government
Week 12 – Class meets Monday November 11, 2013 and Wednesday November 13, 2013	
<i>No lecture Monday Veterans Day Holiday</i>	
Lecture: Chapter 12 – The Bureaucracy The nature of Bureaucracy The organization of the Federal Bureaucracy Modern attempts at bureaucratic reform	<i>Lecture resumes on Wednesday</i> The State’s Plural Executive
Special: Review for Quiz Number Two	
Homework: Key Word vocabulary	
Federal Government	California Government
Week 13 – Class meets Monday November 18, 2013 and Wednesday November 20, 2013	
Lecture: Chapter 13 – The Courts Sources of American Law The federal court system The selection of federal judges What checks our courts?	The Judicial System
Homework: Key Word vocabulary	
Federal Government	California Government
Week 14 – Class meets Monday November 25, 2013 and Wednesday November 27, 2013	
Lecture: Chapter 14 – Domestic and Economic Policy The policy making process Health Care Immigration Environmental policy	Financing California Government
Special: Review for Final Examination	
Homework: Key Word vocabulary	
Federal Government	California Government
Week 15 – Class meets Monday December 2, 2013 and Wednesday December 4, 2013	
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	
Federal Government	California Government
Week 16 – Final Examination week December 9, 2013 – December 11, 2013	
Final Examination	Final examination - CE 420 Monday December 9, 2013 – 1:45pm to 3:45pm