

POLITICAL SCIENCE I: THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES

West Los Angeles College

Fall Session, 2013

August 26– December 15

TTH 8:00 – 9:25AM at GC420

Instructor: Ms. Sholeh Khorrooshi

Office Location & Hours: GC 380B, MTW TH 7:30 – 8:00AM

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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 Objectives

- 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 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 classroom is a conducive learning environment for all students. As such, all students will please follow these policies of our classroom community for

all class discussions and questions:

1. *No profanity or foul language of any kind at any time.*
 2. *No use of cell phone for any reasons.*
 3. *No use of laptop unless is for taking lecture notes only.*
 4. *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, 2012-2013 Brief Edition ISBN #978-1-111-83293-3 California Government, 5th Edition, ISBN # 978-0-547-04193-3 published by WadsWorth, Cengage Learning and are available at the College Bookstore. You may order the textbook online at the College website under bookstore.

Course Requirements

One term paper of 5 full pages (no more, no less) double space for 25 points; Paper content may not be copied from any sources on the Internet or any other sources. You will receive a fail grade for the course if the writing is not your own; 2 multiple-choice tests and a final exam for 20 points each; (Tests and final exam will not be rescheduled for any reason); class discussion and attendance for 15 points. I may exclude you from attending the class if you miss two class sessions. Arriving late or leaving early is considered absent. Also, it is your responsibility to drop the course if you decided not to attend any more. Failure to drop the class will result in a fail grade for the course.

You may not use your cell phone or text anyone during the class hours. You may only use your laptop if you need to take class lecture notes

Students who do not show up for the first week of school are dropped.

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 27 & 29

Orientation

The Democratic Republic

Reading Requirement: Schmidt et al, Chapter 1

Week 2: September 3 - 5

The Constitution

Required Reading: Schmidt et al: Chapter 2

Week 3: September 10 & 12

Federalism

Required Reading: Schmidt et al chapter 3

Week 4: September 17 & 19

Civil Liberties

Required Reading: Schmidt et al: Chapter 4

Week 5: September 24 & 26

Civil Rights Required Reading: Schmidt et al: Chapter 5 Liberties and Rights:

Week 6: October 1 & 3

Public Opinion and Political Socialization and the Media

Required Reading: Schmidt et al, Chapter 6

Test 1 on chapter 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Tuesday, October 1

Week 7: October 8 - 10

Interest Group

Required Reading: Schmidt et al, Chapter 7 &

Week 8: October 15 & 17

Political Parties Required Reading: Schmidt et al Chapter 7

Week 9: October 22 & 24

Campaign, and Elections

Required Reading: Schmidt et al, Chapter 8

Week 10: October 29 & 31

The Congress

Required Reading: Schmidt et al, Chapter 9

Week 11: November 5 & 7

The Presidency

Required Reading: Schmidt et al, Chapter 10 and Korey, Chapters 1, 2

Test 2 on Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, Tuesday, November 5

Week 12: November 12 - 14

The Bureaucracy

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

Week 13: November 19 & 21

The Judiciary

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

Week 14: November 26

Domestic and Economic Policies

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

Week 15: December 3 & 5

Foreign Policy

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

Week 16: December 10 & 12

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

Political Science 1 U.S. Government Term Paper Fall 3013

Due by May December 3 - 5, 2013

5 pages long no more/no less

Four pages on a U.S. Constitutional Amendment

Include in your paper:

Background and history

When and how it was ratified

At least 3 references

At least 3 court cases that involved the Amendment

Last page of your paper (1 full page) would be on a new Amendment that you may think should be added to the U.S. Constitution. 50 – 70 words

Defend your idea