

POLITICAL SCIENCE 1 : AMERICAN GOVERNMENT



Spring/14 (2/11-6/3/14)

Section 1734 Room: GC 140 T-Th. 8 a.m.-9:25 a.m.

Instructor: Olga Shewfelt

Office: B4-103

Office Telephone (310) 287-4223

Email: shewfeo@wlac.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays: 11:40 a.m.- 12:10 p.m. at my office. If this time is not convenient for you, please talk to me after class to see if we can schedule another time, or email me.

.....
Course Materials

Required Texts:

1. Bardes, Barbara A.; Shelly II, Mack C.; & Schmidt, Steffen W. (refer to as Bardes or “B” in the weekly assignments) *American Government & Politics Today, The Essentials 2013-2014* edition. Wadsworth.
ISBN- 13 :978-1-133-60437-2
2. Korey, John L., *California Government*. Fourth or most recent edition.
(refer as or “K” in weekly assignments)

Other materials & Resources:

Provided in class and/ or available in the internet on selected course topics:

- U.S. Constitution, Declaration of Independence, and Bill of Rights.
<http://www.archives.gov/national>
- Federalist Papers. <http://www.thomas.loc.gov/home/histdox/fedpapers>
- Library of Congress : <http://www.loc.gov/index.html>

- U.S. Budget : <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/overview>
- California Budget: <http://www.ebudget.ca.gov/2013-14/BudgetSummary/BSS/BSS.html>
- Newspapers & Magazines: Los Angeles Times & New York Times, Washington Post, and selected magazines.
- Selected Videos/DVD's/ web links
- Handouts (study questions & articles)

POLITICAL CONCEPTS AND FEDERALISM

Week of

- 2/11 Political Concepts/ Government & American society.
Political Ideologies & Political Parties, Bardes, chapter 1
- 2/18 The Constitution. "B" Chapter 2
California History & Constitution, "K" chapters 1&2
- 2/25 Federalism "B" chapter 3
CA Budget "K" chapter 10
- 3/4 Federalism continues
- 3/11 **EXAM I**

THE CONSTITUTIONAL CENTERS OF POWER

The Legislative Branch

- 3/18 Congress: The People's Branch. "B" chapter 10
The California Legislature, "K" chapter 6
- 3/25 Campaigns and Elections.
"B" chapter 9. California Elections "K" chapter 5

The Executive Branch

- 4/1 The Presidency. "B" chapter 11
The Plural California Executive. "K" chapter 7
- 4/7 -4/13 Spring Break. College Closed.
- 4/15 The Presidency. Foreign Policy. Bardes, chapter 15

4/22 ***EXAM II***

The Judicial Branch

4/29 **The U.S. Judiciary. The Rule of Law/ U.S. Supreme Court
“B” chapter. 13. California Judiciary. “K” chapter. 8**

5/6 **Civil Liberties: Rights of the Accused. “B” chapter 4**

5/13 **Civil Liberties continues.**

5/20 **Exam III**

5/27 **Non Instructional Day.**

5/28 **Civil Rights. Political Participation: Voting and Interests Groups
“B” chapters 5&7.**

6/3/14

***Final Paper .Political Participation Project due
& Presentations: 8am-10 am at GC 140)***

Course Student Learning Objectives:

Course Student Learning Objectives:

At the completion of this course, using the course materials of study and using the learning tools of critical thinking and good communication skills the student will be able to :

- 1)** The student will be able to know, demonstrate and assess the principles of Federalism and representation, two of the main components of U.S. Constitutional Government.
This SLO will be evaluated with Exam 1, homework assignments and the Appropriate analysis and application of these concepts in the course’s final paper (PPP)

- 2)** The student will be able to know, and differentiate the three branches of U.S. government and their basic functions and structures.
This SLO will be evaluated with Exam 2, homework assignments and the Appropriate analysis and application of these concepts in the student final paper (PPP) for this course.

- 3) The student will be able to identify and differentiate the U.S. Bill of Rights and its role to protect individual freedoms in the United States as well as the main landmark cases in the incorporation of the Bill of Rights to the state governments and the struggle for civil rights in American history. This SLO will be evaluated with Exam 3, homework assignments and the appropriate analysis and application of these concepts in the student's final paper (PPP) for this course.

Each e of the three (3) course exams is worth 20% of the total course grade. For a total of 60%

The final paper PPP is the most comprehensive work the student does in this course. This is the evaluation tool that summarizes the course content and the student's learning in the analysis and application of the appropriate concepts, theories, and facts. It is worth 30% of the course's final grade. Class Participation is worth 10% of the final course grade.

Grade System: 3 Exams: Total of 60%. Each is worth 20% of your final grade. Political Participation Project (PPP): 30% .of your grade. This project is counted as your final course exam. Class Participation 10%.

Exams:

Each exam is worth 20% of your final course grade. Each exam has 3 sections: Multiple Choice (25 questions(2pts each=50 points). Be sure to bring a scantron form 882E(100 questions) to your test. Fill-in-section, 5 questions=(2 pts each=10 points) and an Essay Section(2 essays (each worth 20 pts= 40 pts). For a total of 100 pts. These 3 sections add to a total of 100 pts, or a letter grade of "A".

Grade Breakdown:

100%A+	88-89%B+
94-99%..... A	84-87%.....B
90-93%.....A-	80-83%.....B-
78-79%.....C+	68-69%.....D+
74-77%.....C	64-67%.....D
70-73%.....C-	60-63%.....D-
	59% and below F

Note: Final course grades will be solid letter grades. No minus or pluses are accepted at the office of admissions and records. Therefore, your total course average from the 3 exams and the PPP will be calculated as 90% of your grade, and up to 10% will be added for class participation. The result of this computing operation will be your final course grade.

Make Up Exams:

If you don't take an exam on the scheduled date, *you may* take a make-up exam provided that you present a valid excuse before or immediately after the scheduled exam. *YOU MUST schedule a new exam immediately after the missed exam, to be taken no later than one week from the date of the regular exam. If you do not take the make up exam in this timeframe, your missed exam will be graded with a letter "F".*

Class participation: 10% of your total course grade! It includes but is not limited to, your class preparation, participation in class discussions, questions, comments and timely contributions of media resources to specific class topics.

Class Attendance: Good attendance is an essential part of your learning. Students who attend class regularly throughout the semester are more likely to succeed in the course. I expect you to arrive punctually or a few minutes before 8 a.m. so I can start the class right at 8 a.m. I keep strict records of attendance. If you fail to attend two (2) weeks of instruction or 4 classes, you will be dropped from the class. Three late arrivals or early departures will be considered as one absence. However, for all academic purposes, it is ultimately your obligation to drop officially from the class. You may do so by 2/21/14 without a "W" and by 5/9/14 with a "W". Failure to drop officially from the course may result in you being listed as active in the class at the end of the course and for this reason having an "F" as a final course grade.

Political Participation Project (PPP) 30% of your grade!

This is a very important part of your learning experience and performance in this course. It gives you an opportunity to choose a topic and organization that inspires you to become more active in the political process of your community, the state and/or the nation. Your topic choice and work in this project, would give you an opportunity to get involved in the political process and apply many of the concepts and facts learned in this course. Your Political Participation Project (PPP) is worth 30% of your final course grade.

In lieu of a regular final exam, you will work on a project of political participation in the United States. You need to choose a public or private organization that works in a topic/area of your interest and deals with government regulations and policy-making issues. After your first course Exam, I will give you written instructions with more details about this project and additional in-class explanation about potential topics/organizations for the project. Finally, you need to let me know your topic /organization choice in writing by 4/1/14 . If you want my feedback on your draft, you must turn your draft by 5/13/14.

Final Projects are due on Tuesday, June 3 at 8 a.m. at GC 310. No extensions whatsoever! If you do not turn your PPP on this day, you will obtain an "F" on your PPP (final exam).

There will be class presentations of the projects from 8 am. to 10 a.m. I will deduct 20% of this final project grade to anyone missing the PPP class presentations.

Course Material:

It consists of the assigned chapters, plus study questions, handouts, videos and lectures. The student is responsible for keeping track of all course materials and studying them for every exam.

Student Conduct:

You are expected to abide by the norms of the Board of Trustees and the California Education Code. (See West Catalog). Student use of electronic devices during class, or voice taping and/or video taping of my lectures are not permitted unless there is a written request for accommodation of DSP students, or the uses of these devices is directed by the instructor as part of a learning exercise.

Academic Honor Code: Each student understands and honors the value of academic integrity in all his/her academic endeavors including tests, quizzes, written assignments and final paper (PPP). Cheating and Plagiarism in a particular test or written assignment will result in an “F” grade for that particular assignment and any other appropriate disciplinary actions related to student conduct.

Communication with Instructor: Feel free to contact me after class, or during my office hours. You may also leave a phone message at my office, or send me an e-mail. If the assigned office hours are not convenient for you please contact me via email or in person to set a different meeting time. *In case of an emergency (ONLY) contact me at my cell phone at (213) 392-0489.*

