

**POLITICAL SCIENCE I: THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES**  
**West Los Angeles College**

Spring Session, 2014

February 10 – June 9

Section 1732 MW 8:00 – 9:25AM at GC320

**Instructor: Ms. Sholeh Khorrooshi**

Office Location & Hours: GC 380B, MW 7:30 – 8:00AM and by appointment

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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**

*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 virtual community is a conducive learning environment for all students. As such, all students will please follow these policies of our classroom community for all emails, discussion groups and chat rooms:*

1. *No profanity or foul language of any kind at any time.*
2. *Please address everyone politely by his/her name.*
3. *Unless I specifically ask you to do so as a proper part of an assignment, do not include in your email signatures or other material in your messages any kind of a personal nature, including a photo, sales solicitation, information about a business, or a political or religious message of any kind. Do not include a blind or other kind of hyperlink to such information.*
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, California Government, 5th Edition, published by WadsWorth, Cengage Learning and are available at the College Bookstore. You may order the textbook online at the College website at the 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. 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 for any reasons during the class hours. You will be asked to leave the class if you do so.

Students who do not show up for the first week of school will be dropped. Also, I may exclude you if you miss more than 2 class sessions. No exception.

Do not be late for class sessions. Late students will not be allowed in the classroom.

**Grade Scale: 90 - 100 = A 80 – 89 = B 70 – 79 = C 60 – 69 = D 59 and lower = F**

### **Lecture and Reading Schedule**

#### **Week 1: February 10 - 12**

Orientation

The Democratic Republic

Reading Requirement: Schmidt et al, Chapter 1

#### **Week 2: February 19**

The Constitution

Required Reading: Schmidt et al: Chapter 2

#### **Week 3: February 24 - 26**

Federalism

Required Reading: Schmidt et al Chapter 3

#### **Week 4: March 3 - 5**

Civil Liberties

Required Reading: Schmidt et al: Chapter 4

#### **Week 5: March 10 - 12**

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

**Test 1 on chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Wednesday, March 12**

#### **Week 6: March 17 - 19**

Public Opinion and Political Socialization and the Media

Required Reading: Schmidt et al, Chapter 6

#### **Week 7: March 24 - 26**

Interest Group

Required Reading: Schmidt et al, Chapter 7

**Week 8: April 2**

Political Parties

Required Reading: Schmidt et al Chapter 7

**April 7 - 13**

**Spring Break – No Assignment**

**Week 9: April 21 - 23**

Campaign, and Elections

Required Reading: Schmidt et al, Chapter 8

**Week 10: April 28 - 30**

The Congress

Required Reading: Schmidt et al, Chapter 9

**Test 2 on chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, Wednesday, April 30**

**Week 11: May 5 - 7**

The Presidency

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

**Week 12: May 12 - 14**

The Bureaucracy

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

**Week 13: May 19 - 21**

The Judiciary

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

**Week 14: May 28**

Domestic and Economic Policies

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

**Week 15: June 2**

Foreign Policy

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

**Week 16: June 4**

**Final Exam On chapters 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 Wednesday June 4**

Due by Wednesday, May 28

5 pages long no more/no less

Four pages on a U.S. Constitutional Amendment

Include in your paper the following:

\*Background and history

\*When and how it was ratified

\*At least 3 references

\*At least 3 court cases that involve 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 for this Amendment