

POLITICAL SCIENCE 001

Political Science 001: The Government of the United States 3.00 units (UC: CSU)

WHO: Professor Eva Nagler . Section 1748

WHEN: T Th 1:00 – 2:25 pm.

Office hours : after every class or by app't.

WHERE: Building GC 420

HOW: You can reach me by email or voice mail

naglerep@wlac.edu or (310)287 -4200 x.8023

Course Description

This course examines the principles, institutions, and divisions of power in the government of the United States. The government of California is introduced for comparison and contrast.

This course meets the U.S. Constitution requirement.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course you will be able to:

Describe the forces inside and outside government that play a role in the shaping of public policy.

Grasp the underlying principles embedded in America's Founding documents.

Understand the political values that unite us and the ideologies that divide us as a nation.

Explain why the United States is not a democracy but a constitutional republic.

Required Reading

1. *American Government and Politics Today: Brief Edition 2012 – 2013*

By Schmidt, Shelley, Bardes (shrink-wrapped with)

California Government Fifth Edition

by John Korey

2. All instructor handouts, and lecture notes.

Grading

This course is divided into **four parts** . Each part will be followed by an objective exam for a total of **four** in-class **EXAMS**. The questions will be *multiple choice, matching, or true/ false*. Bring a scantron (up to 100 questions) and a #2 pencil to each exam. **100 points each**.

There will be **one post-election report**, covering one aspect of the 2014 congressional elections. A choice of specific topics with guidelines will be provided. **100 points**.

Other Policies

Students are expected to comply with the "standards of student conduct" described in the current catalogue. Note especially Board Rule 9803.28 which relates to academic dishonesty. Specific details are available online at **www.lattc.edu**.

Three or more **unexcused absences** may result in a lowered grade , exclusion , or failure.

However, up to 50 points may be earned for perfect attendance and outstanding class participation.

Student Learning Objectives

Learning to analyze, evaluate and assess what you hear and read is what we mean by **critical thinking**. Along with good **communication** skills, these are two important SLO's- **Student Learning Objectives**- we will pursue this semester.

Student Success Center and Disability Support Services

To further your success, reinforce concepts, and achieve the Student Learning Outcomes (SLO's) for this course, I refer you to the Student Success Center in C building. There you will find free tutoring in reading, writing and exam taking.

Students with Disabilities who need assistance or accommodation should contact me and should be aware of our DSPS center located in SSB 320. The phone number is 310 287 - 4420.

Fall 2014 Schedule Pol. Sci. 01

Section 1748

Part I: Founding Documents

Week 1: Sept. 2 – Sept. 4	Topics	Welcome and Overview Key concepts and definitions Enduring Principles
	Read	AG-Ch. 1 and 2
Week 2: Sept. 9 – Sept. 11	Topics	<i>The Declaration of Independence</i> <i>The U.S. Constitution</i> <i>The Bill of Rights</i>
	Read	AG-Ch. 3
Week 3: Sept. 16 – Sept. 18	Topics	California's constitution The American System: "A republic , if you can keep it."
	Read	CG Ch 1 & 2
Week 4: <u>Sept. 23 –</u> <u>Sept. 25</u>	Topics	Review EXAM 1

Part II: Politics in Action

Week 5:	Topics	Interest Groups Political Parties
Sept. 30 – Oct. 2	Read	AG-Ch. 7
Week 6:	Topics	Campaigns and Elections
Oct. 7 – Oct. 9	Read	AG Ch.8
Week 7:	Topics	Review
Oct. 14 – Oct 16		EXAM 2

Part III: Government in Action: The Elected Branches

Week 8:	Topics	Congress
Oct. 21 – Oct. 23		<u>AG - CH.9</u>

Week 9:	Topics	The Presidency
Oct. 28 – Oct. 30		

	Read	AG-Ch. 10
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Week 10:	Topics	Bureaucratic Politics CA's "Plural Executive"
Nov. 4 – Nov. 6		Read CG Ch. 7

Week 11:

Nov. 11
VETERAN'S
Day

NO Class

Nov. 13
Library
Research
Day

NO Class

Week 12

Nov. 18 – Nov.
20

Report Due

Exam 3

Part IV:
Civil
Liberties,
Civil Rights,
and the
Courts

AG CH. 4 and AG 5

Week 13

Nov. 25

No Class

Nov.
27
THANKSGIVI
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Week 14

Order and Equality

Dec. 2 – Dec. 4

AG CH. 12

Week 15

The Unelected Branch

Dec. 9 – Dec. 11

**Week 16 DEC. 18
3:45P.M.**

EXAM 4 1:45 P.M. –

