

POLITICAL SCIENCE I: THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES

West Los Angeles College

Winter Session, 2014

5 weeks January 6 - February 8

Instructor: Ms. Sholeh Khoroooshi

Email: Use the class site email under private discussion during the session khoroooshis@yahoo.com after class ends

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.

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 Virtual 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 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, either in writing or pictures, of any kind at any time.*
2. *Please address everyone politely by their names.*
3. *Under no circumstances may you ask for a classmate's personal contact information or in any way ask for a personal meeting or date.*
4. *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.*
5. *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, 4th or 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

4 discussions 5 points each due day, Thursday

3 Weekly essay assignments of 2 full pages no more, no less, double-space, for 30 points or 10 points each due by Sunday (assignments that are late or are less or more than two full pages will not receive full credit). Essay assignments may not be copied from any sources on the Internet or any other sources. You will receive a fail grade for the first assignment that is not your own writing and will receive a fail grade for the course if you repeat that. 2 multiple-choice tests for 15 points each and a multiple-choice final exam for 20 points You'll be excluded from the class site if you miss more than one assignment/test,

(Discussion/essay assignments, tests and final exam due dates will not be not be extended or rescheduled for any reason); 4 class discussion for 20 points or 5 points each.

It is your responsibility to drop the class if you decided not to attend the class any more.

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

Lecture and Reading Schedule

Week 1: January 6 - 12

The Democratic Republic, The Constitution, Federalism

Reading Requirement: Bardes et al, chapters 1, 2, 3 & California Government chapters 1, 2

Discussion 1 due by Thursday, January 9

Essay 1 due on Sunday, January 12

Week 2: January 13 - 19

Civil Liberties, Civil Rights

Required Reading: Bardes et al, Chapters 4, 5

Discussion 2 due on Thursday, January 16

Test 1 on Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Friday – Saturday January 17 - 18

Week 3: January 20 - 26

Public Opinion and Political Socialization and the Media, Interest Groups and Political Parties, Campaign & Election

Required Reading: Bardes et al, Chapters 6, 7, 8 & CA Government chapter 3

Discussion 3 Due by Thursday, January 23

Essay 2 due by Sunday, January 26

Week 4: January 27 - February 2

The Congress, The Presidency, The Judiciary,

Required Reading: Bardes et al, 9, 10, 12 & CA Government chapters 4, 5

Essay 3 due by Sunday, February 2

Test 2 on chapters 6, 7, 8, 9 Fri – January 31 - February 1

Week 5: February 3 - 9

The Bureaucracy, Domestic and Economic Policy, Foreign Policy

Required Reading: Bardes et al, Chapters 11, 13, 14 & CA Government chapters 6, 7, 8,9

Discussion 4 due by Thursday, February 6

Final Exam on Chapters 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, Friday – Saturday, February 7 - 8