



Welcome to ITV - The Week-End College!

You are enrolled in:

Political Science 1 (7034) (UC: CSU) 3 Units

The Government of the United States I

Meets the graduation and transfer requirements for all majors to take a course in federal, state and local governments. Deals with how the U.S. Constitution and Government meet democracy's challenge in a world of change; plus California and local governments.

The Weekend College classes combine video lessons with online activities and weekend class meetings. You should complete all three components to successfully pass the class. The course requirements are in the online syllabus. If you have questions contact your instructor via email or by telephone during their office hours listed above.

Instructor
Michael Bressler Ph.D.
(818) 364-7600, ext. 7164
mbressler@lbcc.edu

Office Hours
Wednesdays, 1:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Getting Started

Although the first class meeting is not until the weekend of September 5 & 6, the class officially begins online Monday, August 31, 2009. Follow the checklist below to get started in your class now.

1. Choose a Campus

Select the campus to attend your weekend class and make note of its time and location. Directions and maps to the campuses can be found at: www.laccd.edu/our_colleges/.

2. Buy Your Books

The back of this page lists the required and recommend books for your course. Buy your books as soon as possible so that you can get started on your assigned readings. Textbooks can be purchased at City, Mission, Southwest, Valley, and Pierce Colleges or from most online bookstores.

3. Log In

The class website opens **Aug. 31**, log in and read your course syllabus. It will list all assignments and quizzes times and due dates. You can find log-in instructions on the last page of this letter.

4. Email Your Instructor

Once you have logged in, email your instructor and let him know that you have successfully logged in to the class website.

5. Plan Your Schedule

Weekend College courses are fast paced—covering a lot of material in eight weeks. At a minimum, students expect to spend 16 hours per week on the class. Schedule time in advance for reading the textbooks, watching the video episodes and completing the online assignments. If you plan to watch or record the videos on the educational cable channel LA 36, note those times and set your Tivo or DVD recorder in advance. The broadcast schedule is on the back of this page.

Classroom Location Schedule

Attend class at any one of the four campuses: L.A. City, L.A. Pierce, L.A. Southwest or L.A. Valley College. The instructor teaches at all four locations.

Day	Campus	Time	Location
Saturday	L.A. SouthwestCollege	9:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon	Lecture Lab., Rm. 203
	L.A. City College	1:30 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.	DaVinci Hall, Rm. 306
Sunday	L.A. Valley College	9:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon	Foreign Language Bldg., Rm 106
	L.A. Pierce College	1:30 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.	Pierce Village, 8111

Attendance at the class meetings is expected.
If you fail to attend, you may be dropped from class.

Fall 2009 CALENDAR

August 31 – October 25, 2009

Important Dates and Deadlines

Semester Begins	Aug. 31
Last Day to Drop or Change Classes	Sept. 5
<i>(without Incurring Fees)</i>	
Cablecasts Begin on Cable Channel LA 36	Sept. 11
Last Day to ADD Classes	Sept. 11
Last Day to Drop Classes Without a "W"	Sept. 16
<i>(no refund)</i>	
Last Day to File for Credit/No Credit	Sept. 23
Last Day to Drop with a "W"	Oct. 11
<i>(After this date a grade must be issued)</i>	

Class Meeting Schedule

Class Meeting	Sept. 5 & 6
Class Meeting	Sept. 12 & 13
Class Meetings.....	Sept. 19 & 20
Midterms Exams..... Sept. 26 & 27	
Class Meeting	Oct. 3 & 4
Class Meeting	Oct. 10 & 11
Class Meeting	Oct. 17 & 18
Final Exams..... Oct. 24 & 25	

A photo ID is required to take exams.

Textbooks

Required:

Title: We the People
Author: Patterson, Thomas E.
Edition: 8/E, 2009
Publisher: McGraw-Hill
ISBN: 978-0-0733-7896-1

Title: California Government and Politics Today
Author: Field, Mona
Edition: 12/E, 2009
Publisher: Longman
ISBN: 978-0-2056-2007-4



Textbooks are available in the college libraries. Most libraries have the texts on Reserve, (two hour use, in the library) some libraries have copies in the General Collection. Individual Library Policies apply and they may be different at each campus. Students must have a valid student ID **for the campus they intend to use**, to check out or use library materials. For example, to check out books from Pierce College Library students must have a valid Pierce College Student ID. Students who enrolled only in ITV classes may obtain a Mission College ID through the Admissions Office at Mission College.

Videos

Framework for Democracy

Four Ways to Watch the Videos

1. Available on the Los Angeles Educational Channel, LA 36. The broadcast schedule is:
Fridays, Sept. 11 – Oct. 23 @ 8:00 – 10:00 AM
2. Purchase a complete set of the DVD's from the Pierce or Mission College Bookstore:
www.piercecollege.edu or www.lamission.edu
3. Available in Broadband at: www.lamission.edu/ITV
4. Watch the video lessons in the Learning Resource Centers at any of the LACCD Colleges. You must bring your fee receipt to view the videos.

Dear Political Science 1 Students:

Welcome to Political Science 1. This should be a very interesting time for taking the course, with a new President in office and the country and the world facing some very critical economic, environmental, security, and social issues. I hope that this class will provide some insight into how the government and political process in the U.S. operate, and that it will help make the political system and the underlying issues with which the system is dealing more interesting and intelligible to all.

As the class instructor I will briefly introduce myself to you, and then look forward to meeting you at our first class sessions on September 5 and 6. I have taught American Government and World Politics in the California Community College system since January 2005, and have also instructed courses at CSU Long Beach and UCI. I have a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California Irvine, and a Masters degree from San Diego State University, and have pretty much always been interested in how the political system works, why it works as it does, and what goes on beneath the surface. I have done some research in the areas political behavior and international relations, and in my scarce spare time I enjoy songwriting, guitar playing, and keeping up with what is happening in the world.

Our course will necessarily be fast paced because we will be covering a semester's worth of work in two months. But it is quite doable. The course officially begins on Monday, August 31, and in order to keep to the schedule I will ask that all students complete the following assignments by the time of our first meeting: 1) read the course syllabus; 2) read the first two chapters of the text *We The People*; 3) review the timeline for what needs to be completed and when assignments are due; and 4) introduce yourself by participating in the classroom introductions forum located in the Discussion Forum area of the class web site. The information for accessing texts, videos, and the course website, is available on the ITV welcome letter in this email.

Please come prepared to our first session with any questions you may have, and feel free to email me, if you like, but be sure to include your name and "ITV" in the subject line of your emails.

Welcome Aboard and Best of Luck,



Mike Bressler, Ph.D.

Instructor

-OVER-

Online Class Website

Step 1. Where do I go to log on to this course?

- Go to <http://etudes-ng.fhda.edu/portal>
- Bookmark this page!
- Enter your user ID

Step 2. What is my User ID?

In lowercase letters and with no spaces:

- use the first 2 letters of your first name
- *and* the first 2 letters of your last name
- *and* the last 5-digits of your student ID #

Example: Donna Smith:

Student ID #: 88 455 6789

User ID:

My User ID is: _____

Step 3. What is my Password?

Using four numbers together with no spaces:

- use two numbers for your birth month
- *and* use two numbers for the birth day

Example: if your birth date was January 3

Password:

My Password is: _____

Once you have logged in you will see the sections on the top left of the page, My Workspace and on the right, your class website which begins with LAMCITYV. Click on the tab to enter the course. See the example below:



E-mail your instructor once you have successfully logged in to the course website.

NOTE TO AOL USERS: Launch either an Internet Explorer, Netscape or Firefox browser after you connect using AOL and minimize the AOL Browser. DO NOT USE THE AOL BROWSER.

Add/Drop Classes & Check Grades

Forms for adding/dropping a class or requesting an official transcript can be found at www.lamission.edu/itv. These forms can be faxed to (818) 833-3598 or brought in to our office.

To Add/Drop a class and check Official Grades online, visit www.laccd.edu.

To Add/Drop classes through the Student Telephone Enrollment Process (STEP):

1. Call (213) 689-8888 or (310) 605-0505 or (323) 226-1999 or (818) 988-2222
2. Press 0 for ITV/The Weekend College
3. Follow the instructions to complete your request

We're here to Help

If you need technical assistance logging in to your course, contact ITV Technical Support at (818) 833-3596 or send an email to mckennpg@lamission.edu. Be sure to include:

- Your full name
- Course title and instructor
- Student ID
- Your phone and e-mail address
- Date enrolled