

## **LOS ANGELES MISSION COLLEGE**

### **Political Science 1: Government of the United States—Section 0411 Syllabus**

Fall Semester 2013 (August 26, 2013 to Dec 06, 2013)

Class Meetings: Friday (F) 8:50 PM to 12:00 PM

Location: Instructional Building Room 1001

Check for Updates and Resources: <http://www.lamission.edu/~chounls/>

#### **Instructor: Mr. Som Chounlamountry**

Telephone: (818) 364-7600 Extension 4149

Email: [chounls@lamission.edu](mailto:chounls@lamission.edu)

Office Hours: Friday 12:00 Noon to 1:10 PM

Office Location: Instructional Building Cubicle # 41

LAMC Sheriff Department (818) 364-7843

**Final Exam: Friday, Dec 13, 2013 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

#### **Mission College Catalog Course Description**

Principles, institutions, functions, and policy processes of the American Political System: including ideology and government; the constitution; federalism; Congress; the Presidency, the Judiciary; Civil Rights and Liberties; the media, elections and voting, political parties, interest groups. Also includes California government structure and constitution.

#### **Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Describe the powers, roles, functions, and limitations of the duties of federal, state, and local governments and the impact on individuals.
2. Analyze current American domestic and foreign policies and be able to put them into a historical perspective
3. Differentiate initiatives, referendums and recalls in California Constitution and laws.

#### **Class Materials**

Required Text:

Bardes, Shelley & Schmidt. American Government and Politics Today : Essentials 2013 - 2014 Edition, 17th Edition with California Politics , please use this ISBN # 9781285904214

This is a special edition for LAMC; please check the LAMC Bookstore for the latest version.

<http://eagleslanding.lamission.edu/>

13356 Eldridge Avenue

Sylmar, CA 91342

Phone: (818) 364-7768 or (818) 364-7767

#### **Additional Class Materials**

A total of three (3) Scantron forms 882-e and one (1) large “Bluebook” examination booklet are required for the In –Class Tests and Final Exam.

## Assessments and Points

<b>Assessments and Activities</b>	<b>Points</b>
In-Class Attendance, Participation, and Quizzes	25
Plagiarism, Voter Guide & Policy Proposal Assignments (Posted in Course Website)	75
Two (2) In-Class Tests (100 Points Each)	200
Policy Research Paper (1500-Words) or PowerPoint Presentation (20 Slides)	100
Final Exam	100

## Course Grading Scale

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Point Totals</b>	<b>Assessment Criteria</b>
<b>A</b>	450 to 500	Performance of the student has been at the highest level, showing sustained excellence in meeting all course requirements and exhibiting an unusual degree of intellectual initiative.
<b>B</b>	400 to 449	Performance of the student has been at a high level, showing consistent and effective achievement in meeting course requirements.
<b>C</b>	350 to 399	Performance of the student has been at an adequate level, meeting the basic requirements of the course.
<b>D</b>	300 to 349	Performance of the student has been less than adequate, meeting only the minimum course requirements.
<b>F</b>	0 to 299	Performance of the student has been such that minimal course requirements have not been met.

**Attendance and Participation:** Attendance is mandatory. As a courtesy to all, please turn off cell phones or place on vibrations. (AVOID texting during class or responding to calls and leaving room). If you are late, please remain outside the classroom and wait for a pause in lecture or class activity to minimize disruption to the class. If you have a special situation, please don't hesitate to talk to me about it. You are responsible for dropping the class through the Admissions Office Online. Please be disciplined about your education and attend consistently. Attendance quizzes incorporating reading, lecture and relevant current events may be used periodically.

Students are also expected to follow relevant current events. Ways to do so include following a daily newspaper, for instance the Los Angeles Times, a weekly news magazine, like Time, The Economist or Newsweek; watching a TV news program covering domestic political news such as "Newshour with Jim Lehrer" at 6 p.m. and BBC News at 5 p.m. and 11 p.m. on KCET Channel 28; and finally, listening to public radio on 89.3 FM or 89.9 FM. You can also have access to most of these papers, magazines, and news programs on the internet.

**Late Assignments and Incomplete Grade:** Late assignments are permitted only for religious, medical or college businesses. I reserve the right to drop the student to for in cases of excessive absences, and/or incompleteness of assignments. It is your responsibility to drop the course. Incomplete Grade requests must meet the LAMC standards for approval.

**Extra-Credit—Optional Internship:** Students may select to do internship with a political official or a candidate of their choice. LAMC does not favor, promote, nor endorse one political office/official/candidate over another. If you decide opt for this assignment, you are required to write a three-page reflection paper explaining your internship and how this experience has helped you understand the political process better.

**Cheating:** Unauthorized material used during an examination (including electronic devices), changing answers after work has been graded, taking an exam for another student, forging or altering attendance sheets or other documents in the course, looking at another student's paper/scantron/essay/computer or exam with or without their approval is considered cheating. Any student caught cheating will receive a zero for the assignment/exam and referred to the Department chair and/or Student Services for further disciplinary action.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is defined as the act of using ideas, words, or work of another person or persons as if they were one's own, without giving proper credit to the original sources. This includes definitions found online on Wikipedia, materials from blogs, twitter, or other similar electronic resources. The following examples are intended to be representative, but not all inclusive:

- failing to give credit by proper citations for others ideas and concepts, data and information, statements and phrases, and/or interpretations and conclusions.
- failing to use quotation marks when quoting directly from another, **whether it be a paragraph, a sentence, or a part thereof**

- Paraphrasing the expressions or thought by others without appropriate quotation marks or attribution

- Representing another's artistic/scholarly works such as essays, computer programs, photographs, paintings, drawings, sculptures or similar works as one's own. **First offense, you will receive a zero for the assignment in question. Any further offenses may result in expulsion from the class, as determined by the disciplinary action from the Office of Student Services.**

**Recording Devices in the Classroom:** Section 78907 of the California Education Code prohibits the use of any electronic audio or video recording devices, without prior consent of the instructor (including cell phones, laptops, MP3 players, and more).

**Reasonable Accommodations:** If you are a student with a disability and require accommodations, please send me a private email. The sooner I am aware of your eligibility for accommodations, the quicker I will be able to assist the DSP&S Office in providing them. For students requiring accommodations, the DSP&S Office at Mission College provides special assistance in areas like: registering for courses, specialized tutoring, note-taking, mobility assistance, special instruction, testing assistance, special equipment, special materials, instructor liaisons, community referrals and job placement. If you have not done so already, you may also wish to contact the DSP&S Office in Instructional Building 1018 (Phone: (818) 364-7732 TTD: (818) 364-7861), and bring a letter stating the accommodations that are needed.

## Tentative Lecture, Reading, and Assignments Schedule

For the most recent updates, please check the class website at <http://www.lamission.edu/~chounls/>

Week	Date	Lectures and Readings (Please have readings done before meeting)
Week 01	8/30/2013	Course Overview and Introductions. What is Politics? What is Government? Homework: 1. Update your email with LACCD <a href="http://laccd.edu/student_information/current_students.htm">http://laccd.edu/student_information/current_students.htm</a> View and Modify your personal information 2. Email instructor a Brief Bio to <a href="mailto:chounls@lamission.edu">chounls@lamission.edu</a>
Week 02	9/06/2013	How Does Government Affect Us On a Daily Basis? (Ch. 1) Different Types of Government (Ch. 1)
Week 03	9/13/2013	The Constitution (Ch. 2) Federalism (Ch. 3) and Local Government (California Ch. 9) Bring Copy of US Constitution & Declaration of Independence (Online) Bring <a href="#">Copy of US Constitution &amp; Declaration of Independence</a> (Click to Download)
Week 04	9/20/2013	Civil Liberties (Ch. 4) <b>DUE: (Plagiarism Assignment Due) 25 Points</b> 1. Go to <a href="https://www.indiana.edu/~istd/definition.html">https://www.indiana.edu/~istd/definition.html</a> 2. Learn about Plagiarism by doing the exercises 3. Take the Test for the Certificate. <a href="https://www.indiana.edu/~istd/test.html">https://www.indiana.edu/~istd/test.html</a> 4. Only a perfect will get the unique TIME STAMP certification. 5. Copy and Paste the Confirmation Certificate into a Word Processor and appropriate assignments when required 6. Print the Confirmation Certificate and bring it to class for verification.
Week 05	9/27/2013	Civil Rights (Ch. &5) <b>DUE: Policy Research Proposal and List of 10 Possible Sources (25 Points)</b> <a href="#">Rubric for LAMC Research Paper with Plagiarism and CA Bill.pdf</a>  For 3/8: 1. Select a topic from the list provided. 2. Read the assigned CQ Research Article. 3. Research and List in APA or MLA 10 possible reputable sources for your topic. 4. Bring the list to class. Using <a href="http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/">http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/</a> , focus on finding journal, magazine and newspaper articles using the LAMC Library Database. Avoid using websites, as they will not count.
Week 06	10/04/2013	<b>Test # 1 (100 Points). Please bring Photo ID</b> Paper Workshop: Bring your 10 Possible Sources Printed or Electronic Form <a href="#">LAMC AMERICAN GOVERNMENT Midterm Review Sheet.pdf</a>
Week 07	10/11/2013	Congress (Ch. 10); Domestic Politics (Ch. 14)
Week 08	10/18/2013	The President (Ch. 12); Foreign Policy (Ch. 15) Bring 2 copies of <a href="#">Prisoners Dilemma Game and Rules.pdf</a>
Week 09	10/25/2013	The Bureaucracy (Ch. 12); The Courts (Ch. 13) Review of the Three Branches & The Bureaucracy

Week 10	11/01/2013	Public Opinion and Political Socialization (Ch. 6) Political Parties (Ch. 8) Campaigns and Elections (Ch. 9) <b>DUE: Personal Voter Guide Due (25 Points)</b>  <b>Political Ideology and Personal Voting Guide:</b> Each student will use web resources to understand his/her own political ideology then create a personal voting guide on the candidates and issues for an upcoming or past election.  See <a href="http://www.lamission.edu/~chounls/">http://www.lamission.edu/~chounls/</a> for instructions.
Week 11	11/08/2013	<b>Test # 2 (100 Points). Please bring Photo ID</b> <b>Test # 2 (100 Points). Please bring Photo ID and Scantron 882-e</b> Review: Congress (Ch. 10); Domestic Politics (Ch. 14), The President (Ch. 11); Foreign Policy (Ch. 15); The Bureaucracy (Ch. 12); The Courts (Ch. 13); Public Opinion and Political Socialization (Ch. 6); Political Parties (Ch. 8); Campaigns and Elections (Ch. 9)
Week 12	11/15/2013	<b>Researching and Writing about Politics and Government Workshop.</b> Please bring your sources, outlines, and drafts. Laptops are encouraged.
Week 13	11/22/2013	California Politics (CA Ch. 1 to Ch. 5) <b>DUE: Policy Papers and Presentations (100 Points)</b> <a href="#">Rubric for LAMC Research Paper with Plagiarism and CA Bill.pdf</a>
Week 14	11/29/2013	<b>THANKSGIVING BREAK: NO CLASS</b>
Week 15	12/04/2013	California Politics (CA Ch. 6 to End); Student Presentations <b>Extra-Credit Assignment +10 Points LAMC Personality and Resume Extra-Credit.pdf</b> <b>*Make sure your Resume is only 1 (one-page) and looks like the examples in the UC Berkeley Guide:</b> <a href="https://career.berkeley.edu/Guide/ResumeLetterWriting.pdf">https://career.berkeley.edu/Guide/ResumeLetterWriting.pdf</a> Student Presentations Course Review Download Final Review Sheet
<b>FINAL</b>	<b>12/11/2013</b>	<b>Final Exam: Wednesday, December 13, 2013 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM (100 Points) Please bring Photo ID</b>

*This syllabus is a guide to use throughout this course and is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. Please do not hesitate to ask for assistance; it is my goal that you succeed in this class.  
Revised 8.16.2013*