

LOS ANGELES MISSION COLLEGE, Spring 2013

Political Science 1: AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Section: 0428

Instructor: Mark Romano

Days: Tu-Thu 7:15 a.m. - 8:40; **Room:** INST 1001

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Office Hours: Tu. 8:45-9:30 a.m. Instructional Building, Cubicle # 28

Phone: (818) 364-7600 EXT. 4324

Course Materials:

Required Text: **American Government and Politics Today–The Essentials 2011-2012, 16th Edition, by Bardes, Shelley, Schmidt, and Korey. ISBN:978-1-133-52335-8, Available at:**

Los Angeles Mission College Bookstore.

13356 Eldridge Avenue, Sylmar, CA 91342; Phone: (818) 364-7768 or (818) 364-7767

<http://www.lamissionbookstore.com/> or <http://eagleslanding.lamission.edu/>

Additional Class Materials:

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

Students are encouraged to follow current events relevant to the course material. Ways to do so include following a daily newspaper, for instance the Los Angeles Times, a weekly news magazine, like Time or Newsweek; watching a TV news program covering domestic political news such as “News Hour” at 6 p.m. and BBC news at 5 p.m. and 11 p.m. on Channel 28; Al Jazeera or RTN, the Russian News Network, all of which have APPS available, or a weekly politically focused program such as “This Week In Washington”, “The McGlaughlin Group” or similar; and finally, listening to public radio on 89.3 or 89.9FM. You can also access most of these papers, magazines, and news programs on the internet.

Course Guidelines:

Students are expected to attend the class regularly and also participate in discussions. I reserve the right to drop any student from the course in the case of excessive absence, and tardiness. Students are responsible for finding class notes for any days they are not able to attend. No cell phone use or texting will be permitted in class. All students will treat others, and can expect to be treated, with respect at all times. **Any tests must be taken on the date assigned; only late tests will be granted which have received prior permission from the instructor.**

Important Dates:

Deadline to add full term classes (In Person) February 15

Drop Deadline: February 18

No Instruction Day: March 28

Spring Break: 3/30- 4/7

Last Day to petition for Spring/Summer Graduation: March 29

Graduation Day: June 4

Mission College Catalog Course Description for Political Science 1:

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.

Class by Week; Please keep current with readings and assignments:

Week 1: 2/5_7: What is Politics? What does Government do; How Does Government Affect Us On a Daily Basis? (Ch. 1) The Democratic Republic (**Ch. 1**)

Week 2: 2/12_14: Historical Development of Western Government and Declaration of Independence (**Ch. 1**)

Week 3: 2/19_21: The Constitution and Amendments (**Ch. 2**)

Week 4: 2/26_28: Federalism (**Ch. 3**) **Test 1: 2/28. Review; TEST #1; Chapters 1-3; 50 Questions, Form 882-E Scantron**

Week 5: 3/5_9: Exam Review; PLEASE NOTE THE JUMP TO CHAPTER 6: Public Opinion & Political Socialization (**Ch. 6**) Interest Groups (**Ch. 7**)

Week 6: 3/12_14: Political Parties (**Ch. 8**) Campaigns, Elections, and the Media (**Ch.9**)

Week 7: 3/19_21: Test 2 Summation and Review; **3/21:Test #2; Chapters 6-9, 50 Questions, Form 882-E Scantron;**

Week 8: 3/26_28: Exam Review; **3/26: Term Paper Outline Due; The Congress (Ch. 10) 3/28: NO INSTRUCTION DAY.**

Week 9: 4/2_4; **Spring Break**

Week 10: 4/9_11; The President (**Ch. 11**) The Bureaucracy; (**Ch. 12**)

Week 11: 4/16_18; Courts (**Ch. 13**)

Week 12: 4/23_25; Review; **4/25: Test #3; Ch. 10-13; Form 882-E Scantron**

Week 13: 4/30_5/2; Exam Review; Court Cases & Civil Liberties (**Ch. 4**) Civil Rights (**Ch. 5**) Landmark Supreme Court Cases

Week 14: 5/7_9; Domestic & Economic Policy (**Ch. 14**) **Term Papers Due**

Week 15: 5/14_16; Foreign Policy (**Ch. 15**) 5/16: **Test #4, Chapters 4-5, 14-15; Form 882-E Scantron**

Week 16: 5/21_23 **California Seminar 5/23: California quiz. 5/23: Last Day of Class**

Final Exam: 5/28: Inst. 1001; 7:30-9:30; Form 882-E Scantron and Blue Book. This is a cumulative exam, with questions culled from all previous exams.

PS 1 SLO: At the conclusion of this class, students should be able to:

- A.) Define the powers, roles, functions, and limitations of the duties of federal, state, and local governments. Assessment will be made through 4 equally weighted exams, including the Final exam.
- B.) Analyze current American domestic and foreign policies and be able to put them into a historical perspective. Assessment will be made through the term paper and final exam.
- C.) Differentiate initiatives, referendums, and recalls in California Constitution and laws. Assessment will be made through a California-specific exam.

Term Paper:

The term paper will be an assignment in which each student will prepare and submit an original paper, consisting of research on a specific, current government domestic or foreign policy program. Students will be allowed to select from a list of several possibilities, but must submit their initial choice, and 3 primary sources of research, by **Tuesday, March 26**. This will be handed in via a typed or computer generated hard copy, consisting of the topic chosen, and the bibliography entries for at least three primary research sites. A separate handout will be provided for the Term Paper.

The final term paper due date will be **Thursday, May 9**. There are no excuses for late papers; any late assignments will be penalized 10% for each day late.

Term Paper Assessment will be made on:

- 1.) The quality and quantity of research material. Students will be expected to utilize a minimum of 3 contemporary or scholarly sources in the preparation of the paper, to achieve a minimum, passing grade. More sources will be considered when assessing the final grade.
- 2.) The quality and quantity of the paper itself. The paper should be presented in MLA format, with a title page and bibliography included. The paper should be well-edited, free of misspellings and grammatical errors. A minimum of 10 pages is required to achieve a minimum, passing grade.
- 3.) Arguments for and against the policy decision must be included; the assessment will include a determination of whether both sides, pro, and con, are equally weighted in the research material.
4. The paper must contain a strong conclusion, stating agreement or disagreement with the given policy, supported by the research included in the preparation of the paper.

All written material that is not quoted must be original. The college has a strong policy against plagiarism, which is stated as follows:

What is Plagiarism:

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.

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.

Overall Student Assessment:

Your grades will be based on the following:

3 Tests:	100 points each (300 total)
California Quiz:	50 Points
1 Final Exam:	100 Points
1 Term Paper:	100 points
Participation & Attendance:	50 points
<u>Total:</u>	600 points

A : 600-540 points (Outstanding work)

B : 539-470 points (Above average)

C : 469-340 points (Average work, meets basic requirements)

D : 339-280 points (Below average, but passing)

F : 279-0 points (Unsatisfactory, fails to meet basic requirements)

I encourage students to keep track of their grades as we progress through the semester. Grades will not be affected by the political views or comments of the students. Show respect for your Instructor and fellow Students at all times.

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.

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.