LOS ANGELES MISSION COLLEGE

Political Science 1: AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Spring 2014

Instructor: Dr. Durukan

Days: TTh 10:35- 12:00pm

Section: 0433

Location: Room 1001

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Office Hours: M-12-1pm; T-12-1:50 pm; W-12-1pm, Th-7:50-8:50 am. Room: INST 25

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Add Deadline: Feb.21

Drop Deadlines: Feb.23 (w/o penalty); May 11 (w/W)

Course Description and Objectives:

The primary objective of this class is to introduce students to the basic concepts and ideas of the American political system, showing the extent to which politics and the government is a part of our daily lives. In order to realize this goal, we will explore how American government was established, the ideology behind this establishment, and the meaning of the American constitution. Analysis of American government branches (the executive, legislative, and the judiciary), in addition to political participation, interest groups, and the media will also take place. Finally, an exploration of the American political system as compared to other countries will help us define what the proper worldview of the American political system ought to be.

Course Materials:

There is only one required book for the course which can be purchased at the Mission College Bookstore:

American Government and Politics Today: Essentials 2013 - 2014 Edition, 17th Edition with California Politics by Bardes, Shelley, Schmidt, Gerston, and Christensen

Students are also expected to follow current events. 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”

on PBS ; and finally, listening to public radio on 89.3 or 89.9FM. You can also have access to most of these papers, magazines, and news programs on the internet.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend the class regularly and also participate in discussions. I reserve the right to drop you from the course in the case of excessive absence.

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.

Course Requirements:

Readings and Exams

Students should come to class prepared, which means all the assigned readings must be completed before the class.

There will be three tests and a final exam. Each test is worth of 200 points and final is worth of 250 points. Only the best two test scores will be counted towards your class grade. The exams will be made up of multiple choice questions. Make up exams will be given only if there is an emergency. Should an emergency arise, students should e-mail prior to the exam. Just not showing up at the exam day is not acceptable.

Team Solution Paper and Presentation

A four-page team solution paper is to be written and presented by groups of 3. A solution paper is one in which the writer urges its readers to argue for a proposed solution to one particular problem. The objective is for the writer to convince his/her audience that his/her way of defining and solving a problem makes the most sense. Groups are required to submit the topic of their choice by_____for approval. Finding partners, getting together and brainstorming is strongly recommended to come up with good ideas for your group project.

All the papers are due on_____. Presentations of these papers will be given on_____. Before the presentation, each team should provide a one-page paper with the names of the group members, the topic, and an outline of the presentation.

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.

Performance Evaluation:

Grades are based on the following:

Tests : 200 points each (400 total)

Final Exam : 300

Group Paper : 250 points

Participation & Attendance: 50 points

Total : 1000 points

A : 1000-900 points (Outstanding work)

B : 899- 800 points (Above average)

C : 799- 700 points (Average work, meets basic requirements)

D : 699-600 points (Below average, but passing)

F : 599-0 points (Unsatisfactory, fails to meet basic requirements)

Miscellaneous:

Grades will not be affected by the political views or comments of the students. To show respect for your fellow students' beliefs, views, and ideas is the number one priority!

Lecture Schedule

Feb. 11, t	Introduction
Feb. 13, th	What is Politics? What is Government? How Does Government Affect Us On a Daily Basis? (Ch. 1)
Feb. 18, t	Different Types of Government (Ch. 1)
Feb. 20, th	The Constitution (Ch. 2)

Feb. 25, t	Federalism (Ch. 3)
Feb.27, th	Civil Liberties (Ch. 4)
March. 4, t	Civil Rights (Ch. 5)
March. 6, th	Test # 1
March 11, t	The Congress (Ch. 10)
March 13, th	The Congress
March 18 t	Paper Workshop
March 20, th	The Presidency (Ch. 12)
March 25, t	The Presidency
March 27, th	The Courts (Ch. 13)
April 1, t	Case Study: Capital Punishment
April 3, th	Test # 2
April 15, t	Public Opinion and Political Socialization (Ch. 6)
April 17, th	Interest Groups (Ch. 7)
April 22, t	Political Parties (Ch. 8)
April 24, th	Political Parties Simulation

April 29, t	Campaigns and Elections (Ch. 9)
May 1, th	Campaigns
May 6, t	Media & Politics (Ch. 9)
May 8, th	Test # 3
May 13, t	Foreign Policy (Ch. 15)
May 15, th	Foreign Policy (Ch. 15)
May 20, t	California Politics
May 22, th	Student Presentations
May 29, th	Student Presentations
June 3, t	Student Presentations
June 5, th	Final Review
May 10am-12:00pm	Final

At the end of the semester you will

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.