

Political Science 001 – Government of the United States

Section 15529 Mondays and Wednesdays – 8:55am – 10:20am

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Office Hours	Mondays, Wednesdays 8:00am – 8:50am and by appointment	Location:	INST 1001

Text: American Government and Politics Today: Essentials 2017 - 2018 Edition, 19th Edition with California Politics by Bardes, Shelley, Schmidt, Gerston, and Christensen. (Previous edition of this book are an acceptable substitution, going back to the 2012-2013 edition.)

Description:

The primary objective of this class is to acquaint students with the basic tenets 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.

Important! Drop Date Information

The deadline to drop without a "W" is the last day of Week 2 (of the semester), which is **September 8th for Fall 2019**. If you must drop a course, drop before the specified deadline for dropping a class without a grade of "W." Dropping after Week 2 will result in a "W" on your transcript. **The last date to drop a class with a "W" is November 17th**. Effective since July 1, 2012 students now have just 3 attempts to pass a class. If a student gets a "W" or grade of "D", "F", "I", or "NP" in a class, that will count as an attempt. A student's past record of course attempts district wide will also be considered. Therefore, before the end of Week 2 you should carefully consider if you can reasonably manage this course with the other factors in your life (e.g. work, family, course load). If you think you will not be able to complete this course with a C or better, drop by Sunday, September 8th. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to talk to me.

Short-term classes: Drop dates for short-term classes are not the same as full semester classes. For specific deadline dates, please contact the Admissions Office.

Attendance: I will be taking attendance officially for the 1st 3 weeks of class. After that, I will not take attendance for the rest of the semester, except on exam days. Each student is still responsible to come to class as scheduled.

Remember, it is your responsibility, as an enrolled student, that if you decide not to attend anymore class sessions, you need to drop the class. Don't assume that I will notice you are not attending the class at all and I will drop you from the class for you. If you don't drop the class on your own, you may receive an 'F' in the course, which will bring down your entire GPA and could crush your hopes, dreams, and aspirations! Please, don't make me do that to you!! Please, be responsible, and drop the course if you plan to no longer to attend the course.

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.

Management of Stress and Mental health:

As a student, not only do you have the pressure of succeeding in school, you may also be contending with work, financial issues, relationships, managing time effectively, getting enough sleep, etc. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential student services offered on campus, including counseling and mental health services, by visiting the Student Health Center (SHC), which is currently located in the Bungalow just behind the Collaborative Studies Building*. <http://www.lamission.edu/healthcenter/contacthours.aspx> or calling: 818 362-6182. I also encourage you to enter the **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline number (1-800-273-8255)** into your cell phone in case you or someone you know is in distress and needs someone to talk.

IMPORTANT NOTICES!!!:

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! However, during the course of classroom discussion, anyone whom says any comments with any racial or ethnic slurs is subject to being dropped immediately from the class.

Requirements:

Three Exams

Each exam will be worth 100 points. The exams will consist of 25 multiple choice, and 25 true or false questions, for a total of 50 questions worth 2 points each. They will cover material from the text and lectures. The lowest score from the 1st 2 exams will be dropped from your final grade. For those students whom miss either of 1st 2 exams, that exam will be dropped from your point total.

Everyone must take the final exam. There will also be a review session of the study guide for the 1st 2 exams September 23rd and October 21st . **The review session for the final exam will take place on December 4th . The final exam WILL NOT be cumulative.** A week before each exam, I will give everyone in class via email, a study guide for the exam.

Exam #1: September 25th

Exam #2: October 23rd

Exam #3, The Final Exam: December 9th at 10:00am

Research Paper

The research paper requires that you research and analyze a question of importance to contemporary American Politics. Your paper should be balanced reviewing both sides of the question and considering the arguments and evidence raised by supporters of both sides. Evaluate the arguments and evidence; then, form your own conclusions and defend them with logical arguments and evidence. The minimum length of this paper should be six pages, double space. This paper will be due November 25th. A handout with more detail on this assignment will be given on September 9th.

Extra Credit

There will be 4 extra credit assignments this semester, which you may do two of the four assignments for 40 points. You may turn in the extra credit assignments at any time during the semester. The last day to turn in extra credit assignments will be the day of the final exam, which will be December 9th, 2019. I will accept them either in person or via email.

Grade Evaluation:

Grade evaluation will be based solely on performance and quality of work of the exams and research paper. The grade breakdown for this course, with a total available maximum of 300 points, will be the following:

- A – 270 – 300 points
- B – 240 – 269 points
- C-- 210 – 239 points
- D-- 151 – 211 points
- F – 150 points or less

Lecture Notes

Before each class every week, I will e-mail all of you a copy of my lecture notes that I will use to lecture the class that week. Please note that all the material that will be covered in the lectures will be available in the lecture notes. These lecture notes will be very comprehensive and useful to all of you to help study for the class and to review the lecture just given. I give you my lecture notes to not only help all of you out with understanding the material and studying, but as a courtesy service to make sure that all of you have a every tool available to you to succeed in this class and do the best you possibly can. In addition, I will allow everyone permission to record my lectures, should you need to with a portable tape recorder. All class documents can be found at the following website: <http://www.lamission.edu/~jokelm>

Note: The syllabus is subject to change as circumstances warrant at the instructor's consent.

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.

Course Schedule:

Week	Topic	Required Reading
8/26 – 8/28 – Week 1	Introduction, What is Political Science. American Political Culture	None
9/2 – 9/4 – Week 2	American Political Culture NO CLASS – 9/2	American Government and Politics Today Chapter 1
9/9 – 9/11 Week 3	Federalism and Research Paper Overview	American Government and Politics Today Chapter 2-3
9/16 – 9/18 – Week 4	Civil Rights and Civil Liberties	American Government and Politics Today Chapter 4-5
9/23 – 9/25 Week 5	Examination #1 – Multiple Choice, True or False Review Session on 9/23	None
9/30 - 10/2 Week 6	America's Public Opinion and political socialization and Political Parties	American Government and Politics Today Chapter 6, 9
10/7 – 10/9 – Week 7	The News Media NO CLASS – 10/9	American Government and Politics Today Chapter 7
10/14 – 10/16 – Week 8	Your American Democracy: Political Participation and Voting. Candidates, Campaigns,	American Government and Politics Today Chapter 8

10/21 – 10/23 – Week 9	Examination #2 – Multiple Choice, True or False. Review Session on 10/21	None
10/28 – 10/30 – Week 10	Power and Influence in the American Political System: Interest Groups and Lobbying Research Paper workshop – 10/28	American Government and Politics Today Chapter 10
11/4 – 11/6 - Week 11	The Power of Collection Action or Lack There of: The Congress. The Presidency on 11/6	American Government and Politics Today Chapter 11
11/11 – 11/13 - Week 12	NO CLASS – 11/11 - The Presidency.	American Government and Politics Today Chapter 12
11/18 – 11/20 - Week 13	The Robes Behind the Curtain: The Federal Court System	American Government and Politics Today Chapter 13
11/25 – 11/27 – Week 14	The Bureaucracy and The Federal Reserve Research Paper due – 11/25 .NO CLASS – 11/27 - Thanksgiving	American Government and Politics Today Chapter 13
12/2 – 12/4 – Week 15	American Foreign Policy and California Politics 12 – 4 Review Session #3	American Government and Politics Today, Chapter 14, 15
12/9 – Week 16	Examination #3: The Final Exam - 12/9 Multiple Choice, True or False Exam will begin at 10am	