

Syllabus- Political Science 1 – Los Angeles Mission College

Course Information

Course Title: Government of the United States

Course Number: Political Science 1 Section 3287

Course Date: Fall 2013
Monday 6:50 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Course Location: INST 1001

Instructor: True Beck, MS, MPA
Office hours: Monday 6:15 p.m.
Location: INST Bldg Faculty Offices, Cubicle 41
Phone: (818) 364-7600 ext. 4608
Email: Beckta@lamission.edu
Website: www.TrueBeck.com

Recommended: Students who have passed English 28 will be better prepared for success in this class.

Student Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this class, students should be able to do the following:

- 1) Define the powers, roles, functions and limitations of the duties of federal, state and local governments.
- 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 the California Constitution and laws.

Instructional Methods

Methods: This course is taught using a variety of instructional methods including lecture, class discussions, small group work, project creation, etc. My goal is to have each of you, not only learn the subject matter, but also improve your ability to write, think critically, and orally express your thoughts on a particular subject.

Textbook & Materials

Textbook Title: **American Government and Politics Today: Essentials 2013-2014 Edition, 17th Edition with California Politics**

Authors: Bardes, Shelley, Schmidt

Articles: Find assigned articles for reading on www.TrueBeck.com

Topics and Assignments

This provides an outline of the topics and assignments for each class. Assignments are due where bolded. You can find the assignments and instructions for turning them in under the Homework tab on www.truebeck.com.

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Week 1

Monday 8/26/13

Introduction to Political Science
Assignment – Read chapters 1-3 and “Politics and the English Language” by George Orwell and “Social Scientist Sees Bias Within”

Week 2

Monday 9/2/13

NO CLASS

Week 3

Monday 9/9/13

Constitution and Federalism
Assignment – Read Chapter 4

Week 4

Monday 9/16/13

Civil Liberties
Assignment - Read Chapter 5

Week 5

Monday 9/23/13

Civil Rights
Assignment – Read Chapters 6-7 and study for quiz

Week 6

Monday 9/30/13

Quiz on Chapters 1-5 (Bring a Blue Book)
Public Opinion and Interest Groups
Assignment – Read Chapters 8-9 and “Math Against Tyranny”

Week 7

Monday 10/7/13

Political Parties
Elections, Electoral College, and Media
Assignment – Read Chapter 10 and finish Political ID project

Week 8

Monday 10/14/13

Political ID Project due and presented
Congress
Assignment – Study for Midterm

Week 9

Monday 10/21/13

Midterm Chapters 1-9 (Bring a Blue Book)
Assignment – Read Chapters 11-13

Week 10

Monday 10/28/13

Presidency, Bureaucracy, and Courts
Assignment – Read chapters 14-15 and study for quiz

Week 11

Monday 11/4/13

Quiz – Chapters 10-13 (Bring a Blue Book)
Domestic Economic Policy and Foreign Policy
APA Style Guidelines
Assignment - finish Media Project

Week 12

Monday 11/11/13

NO CLASS

Week 13

Monday 11/18/13

Media Project due and presented
Assignment – Read “Who Killed California” and “Two Californias”

Week 14

Monday 11/25/13

Course Project Draft due (optional)
California Government and review for Final
Assignment – Finish up Course Project

Week 15

Monday 12/2/13

Course Project due and presented
Assignment – Study for final

Week 16

Monday 12/9/13 **FINAL Comprehensive - 8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.**

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Expectations/Policies

Quizzes	There are 2 quizzes throughout the semester comprised of short answer and multiple choice questions.
Midterm	There will be one midterm comprised of short answer, essay, and multiple choice questions.
Final	There will be one end-of-semester final comprised of essay questions.
Writing Assignments	There are 3 writing assignments that will be due on a topic of the instructors choosing. You can find them under the “Homework” tab at www.TrueBeck.com All assignments will only be accepted via email.
Report/Presentation	You will be responsible for writing a 6-8 page APA style type-written report, 12 pt. Times or Arial font, double-spaced with 1 inch margins. You will be asked to make a three minute presentation with a visual aid on your topic.
Handouts	Handouts/articles you need are online.
In Class Participation	As this class follows a lecture style format, lectures will draw heavily upon instructor/student interaction. As such, students will be expected to participate fully in discussions taking place in class and not simply be present. You are expected to be in class on time, ready to participate.
Late Work	Assignments are to be emailed to the instructor by midnight of the due date. If you are late, points will be docked from your grade. If assignment is not emailed by start of the next class, then you will receive a zero.
Missed Assign/Exams	If you miss an exam or assignment you will receive a zero.
Absences	You may miss up to two classes without penalty, but please refer to section regarding late work and missed exams.
Extra Credit	To be determined in class
Grades of Incomplete	Will only be granted in the most extreme circumstances with documentation
Cheating/Plagiarism	You will receive a zero on the assignment and reported to the school. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to the following actions: cheating on an exam, plagiarism, working together on an assignment, paper or project when the instructor has specifically stated students should not do so, submitting the same term paper to more than one instructor, or allowing another individual to assume one’s identity for the purpose of enhancing one’s grade. (<i>District Policy 9803.28</i>)
Student Conduct	Students are expected to behave professionally and discussions are expected to be civil, rational, and respectful of others’ opinions.
Cell Phones	Please remember to turn your cell phone off before class begins.

Grading Standard

Task	Points
Class Participation	20
Political ID Project	40
Two Quizzes (20 points each)	40
Media Project	50
Midterm	50
Final Course Report/Presentation	100
Final	100
Total	400

- A = 400-360**
- B = 359-320**
- C = 319-280**
- D = 279-240**
- F = 239**

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Student Resources

Americans with Disabilities Statement & Non-Discrimination Statement

LACCD is an equal opportunity institution. Students with documented disabilities who may need special instructional accommodations or who may need special arrangements in the event of an evacuation should notify the instructor as soon as possible, no later than the second week of the term. Students may contact LA Mission's Disabled Students Programs and Services at (818) 364-7732 or go to INST Building Room 1018 to discuss special needs.

Financial Aid Office – Need help paying for books or other college expenses? Visit Student Services Annex in the INST Building or call (818) 364-7648 for more information.

Other Helpful Resources:

APA Style Guide - <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

Critical Thinking - http://www.criticalreading.com/critical_thinking.htm

Writing Political Science essays and papers -
http://www9.georgetown.edu/faculty/kingch/Writing_PolSci_Essay.htm

http://qcpages.qc.edu/Political_Science/researching.html

****Note- this syllabus is subject to change***