

Political Science 001 – Government of the United States

Section 3288 -Wednesdays – 6:50pm – 10:00pm

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Office Hours	Wednesdays – 5:20pm – 5:50pm and by appointment.	Location:	CSB 201

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

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 **Sunday, September 8th for Fall 2013**. 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. 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 the 1st 3 weeks, I will pass out a sign in sheet during class just to see whom is still attending class on a regular basis. Students are expected to attend the class regularly.

If you do miss a class which we will be having an exam and you have a valid excuse for missing the exam (family emergency, sickness, etc.) we can make arrangements for you to make up the exam. Otherwise, missing an exam can't be made up and will result in a zero (0) on the exam.

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.

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!

Requirements:

Three Exams

Each exam will be worth one hundred points. The exams will consist of multiple choice, true or false, and four essay questions, which you will pick one of the questions to answer. Each exam will begin at 8:00pm. They will cover material from the text and lectures. There will also be a review session of the study guide for one hour before the 1st 2 exams on Sept. 25th and October 30th. 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 30th

Exam #3, The Final Exam: December 11th

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 in week 13, November 20th. A handout with more detail on this assignment will be given on the 3rd week of class.

California Government Essay – Take Home

As a requirement of this class, you need to have an assignment involving California Government. You will be assigned a take home essay assignment on California government based on the California government section of the American Government and Politics book. The essay will be worth 30 points and will be due in week 15, December 4th.

Grade Evaluation:

Grade evaluation will be based solely on performance and quality of work of the exams, research paper and the California government essay. The grade breakdown for this course, with a total available maximum of 430 points, will be the following:

- A – 387 – 430 points
- B – 344 – 386 points
- C-- 280 – 343 points
- D-- 220 – 279 points
- F – 219 points or less

Lecture Notes

As college students, I am sure everyone has had sufficient experience taking notes during lecture. After 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. They lecture notes be emailed to all of you each Thursday. 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. My lecture notes were very popular in the classes I interned in and lecture for in previous semesters and I am sure you will find them useful as well. In addition, I will allow everyone permission to record my lectures, should you need to with a portable tape recorder.

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
8/28 – Week 1	Introduction and What is Political Science and why does studying American government matter.	None
9/4 – Week 2	American political culture and theories: Pluralism and Elite theory.	American Government and Politics Today Chapter 1
9/11 – Week 3	The Constitutional foundations of the Republic and U.S. Democracy. Understanding Federalism	American Government and Politics Today Chapter 2 – 3
9/18 – Week 4	Our Civil Rights and Civil Liberties	American Government and Politics Today Chapter 4-5
9/25 – Week 5	Examination #1 – Multiple Choice, True or False, and Essay.	None – Study Guide
10/2 – Week 6	America's Public Opinion and political socialization.	American Government and Politics Today Chapter 6
10/9 - Week 7	The News Media: its effects on American politics and your information on the candidates and issues.	American Government and Politics Today Chapter 9
10/16 – Week 8	Your American Democracy: Political Participation and Voting.	American Government and Politics Today Chapter 8

10/23 – Week 9	Candidates, Campaigns, and Political Parties: American Elections and Political Parties.	American Government and Politics Today Chapter 8
10/30 – Week 10	Examination #2: Multiple Choice, True or False, and Essay.	None – Study Guide
11/6 – Week 11	Power and Influence in the American Political System: Interest Groups and Lobbying.	American Government and Politics Today Chapter 7
11/13 – Week 12	The Power of Collective Action or Lack Thereof: The Congress.	American Government and Politics Today Chapter 10
11/20 – Week 13	The Power, Responsibility, and Prestige of this Office: The Presidency. Research Paper due.	American Government and Politics Today Chapter 11
11/27 – Week 14	The Cogs in the Government: The Bureaucracy of the American Government and The Robes Behind the Curtain: The Federal Court System	American Government and Politics Today Chapter 12, 13
12/4 – Week 15	The making of Domestic and Foreign Policy and California Politics. California Government Essay Due.	American Government and Politics Today Chapter 14, 15
12/11 – Week 16	Examination #3: The Final Exam: Multiple Choice, True or False, and Essay. The exam will begin at 8pm.	None – Study Guide