Welcome to Political Science 1!!

Course Description

This course is a survey of the concepts, theories, and functions of the American political system. The basic principles of the United States Constitution and the government of California will be examined. Emphasis will be placed on the formal and informal influences of federalism on national and state governments.

We'll examine the different views of democratic government that have contributed to shaping the American political system. We'll also look at the evolution of the U.S. Constitution, federalism, civil liberties, civil rights, political dynamics, the Presidency, Congress, the federal bureaucracy, the judiciary and government economic policy. In addition, we will consider parallel elements of California state and local government.

Why take this class? Well, not just because during the last 6 years we've largely recovered from the worst economic recession of the last 70 years, and that government failures helped cause that recession in 2008 and that some government programs have tried to cushion its effects and help restore prosperity. More important generally is that government influences virtually every aspect of our lives, whether we're conscious of that influence or not. Laws affect the safety of our food, how fast we can drive our cars, how much tuition is charged to attend a public college or university and our right to privacy. In this course, we want to think systematically and critically about the political environment in which we live.

Course Prerequisite: Eligibility for English 1A is recommended.

Course Objectives:

1. Identify the theoretical foundations and the applications of the American political system.
2. Examine and analyze major political institutions: the presidency, bureaucracy, Congress, Judiciary, elections, political parties, and interest groups.
3. Examine the implementation of democracy.
4. Evaluate the role of the mass media in the political process.
5. Examine political culture and the function of political socialization.
6. Compare and contrast the relationship of federal and state governmental systems and processes with emphasis on California.
7. Examine the interdependence of economics and politics.
8. Distinguish between civil rights and civil liberties and their evolution in American society.
9. Assess the federal and state judicial systems and their impact on public policy.
10. Evaluate the public policy process in relation to diplomacy and domestic issues.*
11. Assess the concept and implementation of citizenship.
12. Analyze issues of race, ethnicity, class, age, and gender as they relate to the distribution of power in the political process.

* Will be covered insofar as time permits

**Expected Learning Outcomes:**

After completing this course:

- In a multiple choice test, students will demonstrate knowledge of the basic principles of the United States Constitution including its Articles and Amendments, as well as those for the government of California.

- In a multiple choice or written essay test, students will demonstrate an understanding of how political parties and interest groups serve as channels for popular participation, and compare/contrast the techniques they use to do so.

- In a written essay or multiple choice exam, students will demonstrate an understanding of the various roles played by the President and California Governor, the political resources available to them to meet the expectations associated with those roles, and how those resources are limited.

**Textbooks and Other Required Readings**


There will be occasional handouts made available at our course website. James Madison’s *Federalist Paper #10* in Appendix C of the textbook should be read in conjunction with Bardes' chapter on the Constitution.

There will also be some reading on the Web that will be needed for certain discussions during the course. And don’t forget to read the Notes sections of the “modules”!

You may be able to rent these books from the ECC bookstore. You definitely can rent the books from Cengage.

You can purchase your books at the bookstore on campus. If you purchase printed books online at Amazon or elsewhere, keep in mind that you will need the Bardes text for quizzes, beginning during the first week of class. And, finally, you can also buy online (downloadable) versions of Bardes’ and Gerston’s books at


and

Topic Areas

This class is divided into topic areas, or “modules,” such as federalism, civil liberties and Congress. Each topic area has information that I provide, as well as certain assignments, including discussion, and a short quiz that’s worth up to 20 points. All of the topic areas will be accessible from the main menu Modules item in Etudes, our course management system, but you will only be able to access the area that’s current as well as areas that we’ve already covered.

During the session, we will usually devote 6-9 days to each major course topic. You'll find a schedule below. The period during which each module is the focus begins at 12:00 am on the day specified and usually ends some days later at 11:59 pm Pacific Time. The assignments for the topic areas can be found in the Etudes modules. Plan to fulfill the discussion requirement for the topic and take the chapter quiz within this time frame.

Exams

Online Quizzes

There will be an online quiz in Etudes for each assigned chapter of Bardes. Each quiz will consist of ten multiple-choice questions and is worth up to twenty points. Once you begin a quiz, you will have 20 minutes to finish it. Each quiz is open-book, but you can take it only once and must take it during the period we are focusing on that particular topic. The quiz will not be available after that time. Since there will be just 20 minutes for each quiz, it would be a very good idea to have read the chapter first before taking the quiz! Before taking any quizzes, be sure to read Taking Online Quizzes in the Resources area of the course website. In general, Etudes is unforgiving when it comes to going over the time limit for a quiz. Be sure to keep an eye on the green Time Remaining indicator at the top left of the quiz. Your quiz results for each half of the course will be available for review until just before the midterm and final exam, respectively.

Major Exams

There will be two midterm exams and then a final exam in the course. All will be online. Each exam will have a combination of multiple-choice and essay questions. These are not open-book exams. I’m not going to be sympathetic to complaints that there wasn’t enough time on these exams to look up all of the answers.

Midterms - The first midterm covers Bardes chapters 1-5 as well as Madison’s Federalist Paper #10 and Gerston, chapters 1, 9 and 10. The second midterm covers Bardes chapters 6-10 and Gerston, chapters 2, 3, 4 and 5. There will also be questions based on the online unit lecture notes on both exams. September 30 and November 6, online.

Final - Covers Bardes chapters 11–14 and Gerston, chapters 6, 7 and 8. Again, there will also be questions based on the online unit lecture notes. Wednesday, December 9, online.

A short paper (3-4 pages, double-spaced). Please send to me as an email attachment.

Write a 3-4 page paper about one Democratic or Republican candidate who should NOT be elected President of the United States in 2016. I want to know the candidate you think would make the worst President, and why. You should select one of the following, all of whom are regarded as of the beginning of our course as possible presidential contenders. I realize that
there are more than 100 others in both parties who say they are running, but for our paper you’ll focus on just one of the people below.

**Democrats**  
Vice President Joe Biden  
Former US Senator and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton  
US Senator Bernie Sanders  
Former Governor Lincoln Chafee  
Former Governor Martin O'Malley  
Former US Senator Jim Webb

**Republicans**  
Businessman Donald Trump  
Former Governor Jeb Bush  
Dr. Ben Carson  
Governor Chris Christie  
Governor John Kasich  
Governor Scott Walker  
US Senator Ted Cruz  
US Senator Rand Paul  
US Senator Marco Rubio  
Governor Bobby Jindal  
Former Governor Mike Huckabee  
US Senator Lindsey Graham  
Businesswoman Carly Fiorina  
Former Governor Rick Perry  
Former US Senator Rick Santorum  
Former Governor George Pataki

Due **November 1**, but you will need to tell me by **October 1** which candidate you have selected. As with all assignments, it’s due by 11:59 pm, Pacific Time, on the announced due date.

Please send the paper to me as a Word or RTF or plain text document rather than as an Acrobat PDF file. More about the paper later.

Anything you take out of newspapers, books or websites—directly quoted or paraphrased—and other sources must be cited. The easiest format to use is MLA ([https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/)), although APA format is also acceptable. If it’s 3 a.m. the night before the paper is due and you don’t know whether or not to cite, err on the side of caution: when in doubt, footnote.

**Participation in Class Discussions**

Participation in online discussions is a vital part of this course and will be “graded.” The course is divided into a number of topic areas. At the beginning of each topic, I will begin the discussion. My posting will involve questions concerning my Notes for that period or another reading assignment, or perhaps current events. Each member of the class is **required** to respond once to my posting. Your response should be meaningful and add to the discussion. One or two sentences are usually **not** a meaningful response.

Each student is also **required** to respond to another student's posting. This response need not be as detailed. You are encouraged to participate as much as you like within reason. However,
you are required to participate at least twice per topic area except for the first discussion forum, where your introducing yourself is enough, and civil liberties, where I will post two different questions during the time we spend on this subject. You will need to respond to each of my civil liberties questions and also comment on two messages posted by another member of the class.

When you leave messages in our discussion forums, please avoid using large fonts and/or boldface fonts for entire messages. Their use for entire messages is the web equivalent of shouting. A message entirely in capital letters is also considered shouting. You will also need to use the Quote feature in Etudes discussions to quote someone else’s comments that you are agreeing or disagreeing with. Please read my discussion grading criteria and see the model response that I have posted as course Resources documents.

Course Schedule

August 24 - 29: Introduction to online learning and to this course

August 30 - September 5: The US Constitution: Its Creation and Development

September 6 - 12: American Federalism

September 13 - 21: Civil Liberties

September 22 - 28: Civil Rights

September 30 (online) Midterm Exam

October 1 – 7: Public Opinion and Political Socialization

October 8 – 14: Interest Groups

October 15 - 21: Political Parties

October 22 – 28: Campaigns, Elections and the Media

October 29 – November 4: Congress

November 6 (online) Midterm Exam

November 7 - 13: The Chief Executive

November 14 - 20: Bureaucracy

November 21 – November 30: The Courts

December 1 – 7: Domestic & Economic Policy

December 9 (online): Final Exam

The Etudes Course Management System

Since this is an online course, what we do will be done on the Net. For announcements, exams, and discussions, we’ll be using a Web-based course-management system called “Etudes” that provides students online access to course materials, discussion boards and online quizzes. Most El Camino online courses use Etudes.
You should find the system fairly intuitive to use. However you can refer to the Etudes student user guide that I have added to the Resources area of our class website for help in navigating the system, reading and posting to discussion forums, taking exams, etc. You will need cookies enabled in your web browser and Adobe's Flash Player on your computer. If you don't have Flash Player already, you can get it for Windows XP/Vista/7 at http://www.adobe.com/shockwave/download/index.cgi?P1_Prod_Version=ShockwaveFlash and for Mac OS X (Intel) or Mac OS X (PowerPC) at http://www.adobe.com/shockwave/download/index.cgi?P1_Prod_Version=ShockwaveFlash&P2_Platform=MacOSX Not all features of Etudes can be used on an iPhone or iPad. However Etudes has created a free IOS app – Etudes inTouch! – that will allow you to access certain features. The app is available for download from the iTunes Store.

You also need to make sure that you disable pop-up blocking in your web browser. Some features in Etudes will not work if pop-up blocking is enabled.

You can log in to Etudes at https://myEtudes.org/. To check the technical requirements for Etudes, go to the Etudes gateway https://myEtudes.org/portal/site!/gateway/page/4243c7b4-9b68-45fc-0016-148ad08653aa

**Grading Policies**

Your course grade is based on the following:

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<tr>
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<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Completion of self-test quizzes in Etudes</td>
<td>280</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterms (2)</td>
<td>240</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>120</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short paper</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation in course discussions</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total possible points</strong></td>
<td><strong>940</strong></td>
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Final course grades are based on these percentages of the possible 940 points:

- A = 90%
- B = 80%
- C = 65%
- D = 55%
Your first DAYS in the course

During this period you need to become familiar with the various components of the course. This process includes:

- Reading the syllabus and asking questions about any course requirements you may not be certain about. Once you read the syllabus, there's a button just below the online version at Etudes that you can click to acknowledge that you have read it and agree to its terms. **The College requires that you use the button to agree with the following:**
  - I affirm that I am the student who enrolled in this course. Furthermore, I affirm that I understand and agree to follow the regulations regarding academic integrity and the use of student data as described in the ECC Board Policy 5500 – Academic Honesty and Standards of Conduct Student Conduct Code that governs student rights and responsibilities. Failure to abide by the regulations may result in disciplinary action up to expulsion from the college as noted in ECC Administrative Procedure 5520.
- Logging in to Etudes and introducing yourself in our Introductions forum. **Logging in is required by the end of the first week.**
- Listing in Etudes whatever email address you prefer to use during the course. Go to My Workspace and then Account to enter or modify an address. By default your email address is not visible to other members of the class, but you can change that and other parts of your profile by clicking on the Discussion and Private Message menu item on the left and then clicking on My Profile at the top. I need email addresses for class mailings. You aren't required to provide any further Etudes profile information.
- **Making sure your computer meets the technical requirements for using Etudes.**
- Reading the first chapters of both the Bardes and Gerston/Christensen texts.
- Taking and submitting a short quiz based on the first chapter of our textbook by Bardes
- Sending me an email from whatever address you prefer using during the course.

ECC Withdrawal Policy

It is the student’s responsibility to withdraw from a class they are not able to complete. Withdrawals can be made online or at the Admissions Office. The deadline date is listed in the current Class Schedule. Failure to complete this process may result in the assignment of a letter grade of A through F.

How to Reach Me

I typically will be online on Monday evenings from 7:00pm - 8:00pm Pacific Time, among other times.

E-mail: [Joe.Georges@Gmail.com](mailto:Joe.Georges@Gmail.com) (preferred) or [jgeorges@elcamino.edu](mailto:jgeorges@elcamino.edu)

If you email me, please include your full name somewhere in your message, either in the "From:" line or in the body of your message. Don’t assume that I’ll remember who "MrNiceGuy" or "PrincessLucy" is.

I’ll generally respond to email on weekdays within 12 hours, and often much sooner.
ADA Statement:

El Camino College is committed to providing educational accommodations for students with disabilities upon the timely request by the student to the instructor. A student with a disability who would like to request an academic accommodation is responsible for identifying herself/himself to the instructor and to the Special Resource Center. Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Special Resource Center on campus as soon as possible to better ensure such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. As well, please contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. The SRC can be reached at 310-660-3295.

Course Policies and Expectations of Student Conduct

I encourage you to read the College’s FAQ for online classes at http://www.elcamino.edu/library/distance-ed/whatisdistanceeducation.asp

You are responsible for saving all assignments properly so that you can turn them in online. You should be comfortable using word-processing software. **Tests and quizzes cannot be taken late unless arrangements are made with me.**

You must do your own work. Quizzes, etc. must be your own work in your own words. Plagiarism certainly includes cutting and pasting information from websites without attribution and paraphrasing someone else’s ideas or writing without attribution. When citing ideas or facts from another source, always give credit. Plagiarized work will be given an “F” (0 points).

Disrespectful behavior in discussion forums is unacceptable. Students will be expected to treat all others in the class with the same respect they would want given to them. Disrespectful behavior can result in being dropped from the course. Note that anonymous postings aren’t allowed in course discussions.

When you leave messages in our discussion forums, please avoid using large fonts and/or boldface fonts for entire messages. Their use for entire messages is the web equivalent of shouting.

Materials used in connection with this course are generally subject to copyright protection. You can use them for this class only until the end of the term. Learn more about copyright at the U.S. Copyright Office web site at http://lcweb.loc.gov/copyright.

Our Etudes course website has a "Questions for Professor Georges" forum for you to ask general questions about the class, assignments, etc. Please use private email for questions about your own specific assignments, test results, etc.

Others who might access this class: As a courtesy, I’m letting you know that there might be others, such as course evaluators, and college technical support people, who would have access to our class websites from time to time.

Disclaimer: Students will be notified ahead of time when and if any changes are made to course requirements or policies

**Student Rights and Grievances Procedure 5530**

http://www.elcamino.edu/administration/board/policies.asp