POLITICAL SCIENCE 1

Spring 2017

The Governments of the United States and California

Syllabus

El Camino College

Section 4178: Online

Course Objectives:

1. Identify the theoretical foundations and the applications of the American political system. 2. Analyze major political institutions: the presidency, bureaucracy, Congress, Judiciary, elections, political parties, and interest groups. 3. Examine and assess the implementation of democracy, including the different perspectives of elitism, pluralism, and majoritarianism. 4. Evaluate the role of the mass media in the political process. 5. Identify and discuss 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. Evaluate and analyze 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. Examine and discuss the process of public policy making in relation to international and domestic policy 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.

Student Learning Outcomes:

SLO#1 Articles and Amendments- 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.

SLO#2 Linkage Mechanisms- 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.

SLO#3 The Executive Branch- 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.

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 Resources Center. To make arrangements for academic accommodations, contact the Special Resources Center.

Instructor: Van P. Chaney, MPA

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Phone: 310-660-3593

Required Texts:


The Following is the approximate lecture, reading, and exam schedule for the spring term. The subject matter can be engaging with implementing current events with the historical foundations of our political culture.

**TENTATIVE CALENDAR**

**Week of**

Week 1 Introduction/Federalism (Chapter 3)
Week 2/3 Constitutional Beginnings (Chapter 2)
Week 4/5 Civil Liberties (Chapter 4)
Week 6/7 Civil Rights/Social Movements (Chapter 5)
Week 8 Public Opinion & Socialization (Chapter 6),
Grading Policy

Grading will be distributed in the following manner:

- Chapter Quizzes, 20 pts. each (160 pts. total)
- Discussions, 20 pts. weekly (160 pts. total)
- Research Paper 60 pts.
- Final Exam, 75 pts.

(455 pts. possible)

Percentage/Point Grading Scale

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90% and above</td>
<td>409-455</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 – 89</td>
<td>364-408</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>70 – 79</td>
<td>318-363</td>
<td>C</td>
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Weekly Quizzes

At the end of each module I will publish a quiz covering the that module. The quiz will be located under Assignments, Tests and Surveys, and will be due one week later at 11:59 pm.

Discussions

Each chapter there will be four discussion questions that you are to answer. In addition, you are to reply to at least two of you fellow co-horts replies to earn full credit (20 pts.) per week.

Research Paper/Exams

The research paper centers on the essay written by Henry David Thoreau titled, Civil Disobedience. The report should be at least five pages in length covering the issues and a personal critique of the work. In addition, the report must also include its relevance to future civil rights and political leaders including, Mohandas Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In addition to Civil Disobedience you also have the option to write a report on Niccoló Machiavelli’s work, The Prince or Betty Freidan’s, The Feminine Mystique. Further information on the content will be given during the semester.

You will be notified in advance of extra credit opportunities throughout the semester.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a form of cheating. Any time a student uses someone else’s work and does not give that person credit, it is plagiarism. Anyone who plagiarizes or cheats on an exam will receive an “F” and possible expulsion from the class and El Camino College. If you are suspected of plagiarism or cheating, you will bear the burden of proof and present rough drafts or related materials to prove otherwise.

Attendance and Exclusion Policy
• **Emails:** Any emails that are sent to me, please title the subject line as "PS1-online-Section #." I will attempt to answer your emails within a day of receiving them. Please be aware that I teach a full schedule of classes so I will not always be able to respond as fast as you or I might like. Another thing to remember is not to panic. If something goes wrong, you do not need to send me frantic emails. There is no problem that we cannot solve so no one needs to panic. I will not be checking emails on Sunday and will respond to weekend emails on Monday.

• If you intend to drop the class, it is your responsibility to drop yourself. I will not drop you. If you do not drop yourself you will receive an “F” grade. The following is the important dates to remember for the summer session:

**IMPORTANT DATES**

Weekday Classes Begin Monday, February 13, 2017

Add/Drop Period Begins* Monday, February 13, 2017

Washington’s Day Holiday (Campus Closed) Monday, February 20, 2017

Last Day to Add (Full Semester Courses) Friday, February 24, 2017

Last Day to Challenge Residency Status for Current Semester Friday, February 24, 2017

Last Day to Drop/be Eligible for Enrollment Fee Refund* Friday, February 24, 2017

Last Day to Drop Without Notation on Permanent Record* Friday, February 24, 2017

Last Day to Apply for Spring Degrees and Certificates Friday, March 3, 2017

Spring Recess (No Classes) Saturday-Friday, April 8-14, 2017

Mid-Term Classes Begin Saturday, April 15, 2017

Last Day to Drop with a “W” Friday, May 12, 2017

Commencement Friday, June 9, 2017

Spring Semester Ends Friday, June 9, 2017
• In order to be successful in this class you need to have strong study skills and be a self-motivator. You will need good reading and writing skills as well as being organized. Finally, you will need minimal computer skills and it will be hard to "learn as you go."

• 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 Resources Center. To make arrangements for academic accommodations, contact the Special Resources Center.

**Special Resource Center**

1. If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible.

2. If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Special Resource Center as early as possible in the term.

3. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor during office hours to discuss their disability related accommodations. Use of SRC services including testing accommodations, requires prior authorization by SRC and compliance with approved procedures.

4. It is the college’s policy to provide, on an individual basis, reasonable accommodations to student who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or meet course requirements. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact their instructor to discuss their individual needs for accommodations.

**Americans with Disabilities Act**

ADA Statement: 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.
Student Code of Conduct

http://www.elcamino.edu/administration/board/boarddocs/5500%20%20Academic%20Honesty.pdf

Student Rights and Grievances Procedure 5530 http://www.elcamino.edu/administration/board/policies.asp