

POLITICAL SCIENCE 1

Fall Session 2008

Telecourse (ITV) section 9482

Orientation & exams: room F-40

Course materials available at www.intelecom.org

Facilitator: Paul M. Flor

Email: pflor@elcamino.edu

Office: H bungalow next to Allied Health Bldg.

Office hours: M & W 11am – 12:30

T & Th 9:30am – 11

Phone: (310) 900-1600 x2589

Course Title: Governments of the United States & California

Course Description: Survey of principles of American Government; covers the Constitution, functions, and administration of the governments of the United States and California; emphasis on the impact of federalism on the national and state governments.

Course Goal: While satisfying units needed for degree completion, this course allows students to develop a greater understanding of and appreciation for the American Political System. This course is transferable to UC and CSU systems.

Prerequisites/Co-requisites: Completion of English 1A with a grade of "C" or better, or equivalent, is strongly recommended. Tutors and instructional associates are available in the Learning Resource Center to help with writing assignments.

Method of Instruction: Course lectures are available on campus via DVD or VHS at the Learning Resource Center G-39 or the Voc Tech computer lab room on second floor. Students may also purchase a DVD set or view the 26 half hour episodes via streaming video through www.intelecom.org. There are periodic class meetings on campus to discuss video and textbook materials in preparation for midterm and final exams. Broadcast viewing and textbook readings are compulsory and contribute to your final grade. Outside of class, E-mail and Internet access are necessary to complete writing and political participation assignments, and to submit assignments to instructor. Students should obtain the textbook and study guide from the college bookstore as soon as possible. Students are encouraged to share the reading load with partners. Study groups are recommended.

Outcome Expectations for Students: Upon successful completion of the course students should be able to perform the following activities with 70% accuracy:

1. Analyze both the theoretical and the practical workings of the American political system
2. Examine and analyze the concepts of political culture and socialization
3. Describe the effectiveness of major American political institutions in serving the various minority racial, ethnic, and religious communities
4. Address issues of race, ethnicity, social class, age, and gender as they intersect with the distribution of power in society
5. Define the role of citizenship
6. Distinguish between civil rights and civil liberties as practiced in American society
7. Evaluate the role of the mass media in the political process
8. Compare and contrast federal and state government systems with emphasis on California
9. Examine and analyze the major American political institutions including the Presidency, Congress, Judiciary, elections, political parties, and interest groups
10. Identify the four basic principles underlying the Constitution
11. Describe the formal and informal processes of constitutional change
12. Summarize the provisions of each article of the United States Constitution
13. Deliberate on the success or failure of the United States Constitution
14. Describe the formal and informal processes of bureaucratic public policy making
15. Describe the formal procedures of the Supreme Court

Course Requirements:

Attendance at orientation, review sessions & exams	20 points	<u>Grade Scale:</u>
Political Participation	35 points	400 – 350 points = A
3 Current Event articles, 15 points each	45 points	349 – 300 points = B
Internet Research	60 points	299 – 250 points = C
Midterm exam	90 points	249 – 200 points = D
<u>Final exam (cumulative)</u>	<u>150 points</u>	199 or less points = F
Total	400 points	

Student Responsibilities:

No make-ups on missed exams, unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor.

Assignments submitted late will have points deducted, 10% per day.

For example, an assignment worth 40 points submitted 3 days late will be deducted 30% (30% of 40 = 12 points). So the maximum points for a good research paper is 28 points (40 – 12 = 28).

It is the responsibility of the student to drop the course. The instructor is not responsible for dropping students from the final roster. Students who drop the course must file for a drop or a (W) Withdrawal with admissions & records. Students who fail to do so and appear on the final grade roster will receive a failing grade of F. Important dates to remember:

The last day to add the class is Friday, September 05, 2008.

The last day to drop the class without a notation on student record is Friday, September 19, 2008.

The last day to drop the class with a notation of W on student record is Friday, November 14, 2008.

Students must request an (I) Incomplete from the instructor prior to Friday, December 05, 2008.

Absences and classroom standards: Viewing scheduled broadcasts or video tapes is very important and critical for successful completion of this course. Students are responsible for material from the textbook as well as the study guide. Throughout the semester, students are expected to come on-campus to turn in assignments, attend review sessions, and take exams. Be prompt to scheduled meetings. Pagers and mobile phones should be turned off or on silent mode so not to be nuisance. Instructor reserves the right to make alterations to any assignments or required readings and/or due dates with ample notification in the event of unforeseen events.

Methods of Evaluation: All final drafts of written assignments must be submitted word processed, using font size 12, with standard one-inch margins. Written assignments may be e-mailed or delivered to instructor's office.

1. Political Participation: Participation in some political activity is required. This may range from writing and sending a letter to a government official (proof of mailing required), participating in a political organization, working on a political campaign, or attending a speech, forum, or city council meeting. For more information, ask the instructor for help or recommendations. Do not leave this for the end of the course. This assignment is due before December 01, 2008. This assignment can be emailed or delivered to M1-bungalow next to the Allied Health building, behind the G row.
2. Current Event articles: Throughout the course, students are required to read three articles from major newspapers or magazines about current political events, foreign or domestic, or articles related to the American political process. Students are to write three one-page papers addressing the following four parts: a) a brief synopsis of the event; b) how the event will impact/change the political process; c) how the event will affect individual lives and/or communities; d) publication or web address and date of the article used. The last day to submit articles is December 05, 2008.
3. Internet Research: A research-based assignment requiring use of the Internet to gain access to political officials and political party websites will be explained and assigned at orientation. This assignment is due before September 19, 2008.

4. Mid-term Exam: There is one mid-semester exam scheduled for 10-24-08. The exam consists of 60 multiple-choice questions and three short answer questions covering course content presented in readings and broadcasts. Bring scantron, writing paper, pen, and #2 pencil.

5. Final Exam: Scheduled for Friday, December 12, 2008, this cumulative exam consists of 90 multiple-choice questions and six short answer essays. It covers all course content presented in readings and broadcasts. Bring scantron, writing paper, pen, and #2 pencil.

6. Attendance at orientation and exams: Perhaps the simplest points awards for attendance, punctuality, and participation at orientation, review sessions and exam dates.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): Students with verified disabilities requiring accommodations should make a specific request of the instructor in a timely manner at the start of the semester and at least one week prior to the identified need. Special services are available on campus.

Course Textbook: Thomas E. Patterson, *We the People – A Concise Introduction To American Politics*, latest edition, McGraw Hill

Study Guide: David E. Carleton, John R. Vile, et.Al., *On Common Ground: Framework for Democracy*, McGraw Hill

Orientation: Thursday, August 28, 2008 Time: 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. Location: Room F-40
Discuss Course syllabus, Course requirements, broadcasting schedule, on-campus viewing of tapes, textbooks and study guide, submission of assignments, on-campus meetings, and test dates.

Session 1 - American Heritage: The American Experiment **Session 8** - Government by Committee: The
Reading: Chapter 1 Glorious Burden
Study Guide: Introduction & lessons 1 & 2 Reading: Ch. 11; SG lessons 15 & 16

Session 2 - The Living Constitution: A Question of **Session 9** - Leader for a Nation: The Federal
Sovereignty Workplace
Reading: Ch. 2 & 3; Study Guide lessons 3 & 4 Reading: Ch. 12; SG lessons 17 & 18

Session 3 - Most Basic of Rights: Rights of the Accused **Session 10** - The Power Imperative: The Rule
Reading: Ch. 4; Study Guide lessons 5 & 6 of Nine
Reading: Ch. 13; SG lessons 19 & 20

Session 4 - The Struggle for Equality: Frames of Reference **Session 11** - Legal Precedent: Balancing Act
Reading: Ch. 5 & 6; SG lessons 7 & 8 Reading: Ch. 14; SG lessons 21 & 22

Session 5 - Voice of the People: Party Politics **Session 12** - The Nation's Welfare - Health of
Reading: Ch. 7 & 8; SG lessons 9 & 10 the Nation: Health of the Planet
Reading: Ch. 15&16; SG lessons 23&24

Session 6 - Campaign Trail: Pressure Politics **Session 13** - Global Politics: Preserve, Protect,
Reading: Ch. 9; SG lessons 11 & 12 & Defend
10-17-08 Mid-term Exam review, Room F40, 4:30 - 6:30pm Reading: Ch. 17; SG lessons 25 & 26

10-24-08 Mid-term Exam, Room F40, 4:30 - 6:30pm
Bring scantron, writing paper, pen, and #2 pencil 12-05-08 Review for Final, Room F40
4:30 - 6:30pm

Session 7 - The Fourth Estate: The First Branch 12-12-08 Final Exam, Room F40, 4:30 - 6:30pm
Reading: Ch. 10; SG lessons 13 & 14