INTRODUCTION TO HYBRID COURSES: A hybrid course is one in which some instruction takes place in a classroom setting and some in an online setting. This course will include a weekly lecture on the Compton campus on Saturday morning’s from 9:30 am -10:45 am in Room F-40. Attendance is required for all Saturday lectures. All assignments and exams will be submitted and administered online. To complete the course requirements will therefore require that you have access to a computer and that you utilize the Etudes course management system used by El Camino College.

STUDENT HANDBOOK FOR ONLINE COURSES: Before the session begins you should read the Student Handbook for Online Courses for SPRING 2011. It can be found on the Distance Education link at the Compton Center website (www.compton.edu). It is also available in the Distance Education Office located in Room G-38 on the Compton campus.

ABOUT ETUDES COURSE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM: All course information—including announcements, assignments, and exams—will be available online, on the El Camino distance education course management system called Etudes. You will need to familiarize yourself with how to access the Etudes system to complete this course and will need to have access to a computer that is compatible with this course management system. For help in logging on to Etudes go to the Distance Education link on the Compton Center web page.

Log-in instructions are also included in this syllabus. If you are unable to log on successfully, contact the Distance Education Office at 310 900-1600, ext. 2137 or stop by the Distance Education Office in Room G-38 on the Compton campus.

All assignments—and timelines for electronic submission—will be found on this site and online exams will be administered on this site on specified dates and at specified times, as listed in this syllabus below.

Students will also be expected to participate in online discussions on Etudes and will find essential information needed to prepare for exams there as well.

Often, the instructor will post announcements or send private messages to the entire class or individual students. These announcements and messages will be accessible on Etudes. You will also receive notice of an announcement/message at your El Camino email address. Be sure that you are familiar with your MyECC email address and access it on a regular basis.
IMPORTANT DATES:

- √ Last day to drop without notation on record: March 11, 2011
- √ Last day to drop with a "W": May 13, 2011
- √ Spring Break: April 9-15, 2011

I. MISSION STATEMENT: El Camino College offers quality, comprehensive educational programs and services to ensure the educational success of students from our diverse community.

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION: A survey of concepts, theories, and functions of the American political system; basic principles, functions, and administration of the United States Constitution and the government of California; emphasis on the formal and informal influences of federalism on national and state governments.

III. COURSE PREREQUISITE: Eligibility for English 1A, or equivalent, is strongly recommended. Tutors and instructional associates are available in the Learning Resources Center to help with writing assignments.

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course allows students to develop a greater understanding and appreciation for the American Political System while satisfying units needed for degree completion. This course is transferable to UC and CSU systems.

V. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME: Upon successful completion of the course students should be able to perform the following activities with 70% accuracy:

1. Identify the theoretical foundations and applications of the American political system
2. Deliberate on the success or failure of the United States Constitution
3. Describe the formal and informal processes of constitutional change
4. Examine political culture and the function of political socialization
5. Evaluate the role of the mass media in the political process
6. Examine and analyze the major American political institutions including the Presidency, Congress, Judiciary, the bureaucracy, elections, political parties, and interest groups
7. Address issues of race, ethnicity, social class, age, and gender as they relate to the distribution of power in the political process
8. Distinguish between civil rights and civil liberties as practiced in American society
9. Define the role of citizenship and assess the concept and implementation of citizenship
10. Describe the formal and informal processes of bureaucratic public policy making
11. Describe the formal procedures of the federal and state judicial systems and their impact on public policy
12. Describe the relationship between economics and politics
13. Compare and contrast the relationship of federal and state government systems and processes with emphasis on California.


**VII. ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES:** Assignments, unless otherwise noted on the syllabus, and exams will be administered and turned in online. Students will also be expected to participate in online discussions. Assignments and discussion contributions must be submitted by the specified deadlines listed on Etudes. Exams must be taken online on and at the prescribed dates and times. Students will be evaluated and assessed to demonstrate understanding of subject matter through the following activities:

A. Online written summaries requiring critical thinking skills and knowledge of subject content.
B. Multiple choice, true-false, and matching online exams.
C. Participation in online class discussions related to each chapter of the textbook.
D. Participation in face-to-face in-class discussions

**VIII. EVALUATION CRITERIA:**

1. **Political participation assignments:** participation in some political activity is required. This may range from writing or sending a letter to a government official (proof of mailing required,) participating in a political organization, working on a political campaign, attending a speech, or city council meeting. For more information, ask the instructor for help or recommendations. Do not leave this for the end. This assignment can be submitted in class or by mail before the due date. This assignment is due March 19th and is worth up to 25 Points.

2. **Midterm Exam:** The midterm exam consists of 50 multiple-choice questions and five short response questions covering course content presented in the readings and lectures. The midterm exam is April 2nd and is worth up to 100 points.

3. **Internet research:** a research-based assignment requiring the use of the Internet to gain access to political representatives and political party websites will be explained and assigned on the first day of class. This assignment can be submitted in class or by email before the due date. This assignment is due April 16th and is worth up to 25 points.

4. **Current event essay:** during the course, students will be assigned an article to read from a major newspaper or magazine about a current political event, foreign or domestic, or one related to the American political process. Students are to write one page analysis addressing the following: a) a brief synopsis of the event; b) how the event will impact the political process; c) how the event will affect individual rights and or communities. The current event essay should answer these questions in four paragraphs. This assignment can be submitted in class or by e-mail before the due date. This assignment is due May 14th and is worth up to 25 points.

5. **Final exam:** The final exam consists of 70 multiple-choice questions and five short response questions and covers all course content presented in readings and lectures after the midterm exam. The final exam is June 4th and is worth up to 100 points.

6. **Attendance and class participation:** the simplest points are awarded for attendance, punctuality, and participation in class discussions and in class activities. This is worth up to 25 points.

7. **Online Discussions/Posts:** You will be required to post online, via the Etudes “Discussion and Private Message” link, on a weekly basis and due every Friday at 10pm. You are to post two comments for each discussion topic, the first responding to the listed questions and the second to student comments. Participation for each discussion topic will be worth up to 10 points. There will be discussion questions posted for each chapter of the textbook. This is worth up to 100 points.
8. **Quizzes:** We will have a total of 10 quizzes. They will be administered at the beginning of class every Saturday excluding the days we have assignments due or exams. They will consist of 10 true and false questions on the reading from the previous week’s topic. **Each quiz is worth 10 points for a total of up to 100 points.**

- Attendance & Class Participation = 25 points
- Political Participation = 25 points
- Midterm Exam = 100 points
- Final Exam = 100 points
- Current Event Essay = 25 points
- Internet Research = 25 points
- On-Line Discussions/Posts = 100 points
- Quizzes 10 (@ 10 pts each) = 100 points

**IX. GRADING SCALE:**

- 400-500 points = A
- 300-399 points = B
- 200-299 points = C
- 100-199 points = D
- 99 points = F

**X. DUE DATES FOR ASSIGNMENTS:** Due dates for assignments are listed above. Online discussion posts are due every Friday at 10pm.

**XI. LECTURES & COURSE CONTENT:**

- **Week 1 Topic 1** Course Introduction, Course Syllabus
  - Course Requirements
  - Reading for next class: Chapter 1

- **Week 2 Topic 2** Constitutional Democracy
  - Reading for next topic: Chapter 2

- **Week 3 Topic 3** The Living Constitution
  - Reading for next topic: Chapter 3

- **Week 4 Topic 4** American Federalism
  - Reading for next topic: Chapter 4

- **Week 5 Topic 5** – Ch.1 to 3
  - Bill of Rights & Civil Liberties
  - Reading for next topic: Chapter 5 & 6
  - Internet Research Due 03/19/11

- **Week 6 Topic 6** Equal Rights Under the Law
  - Reading for next topic: Chapters 7 & 8

- **Week 7 Topic 7** – Ch.4 to 6
  - Political Culture, Ideology

- **Week 10 Topic 10** Mid-term Exam – Ch. 1 to 13
  - Reading for next topic: Chapter 14

- **Week 11 Topic 11** Congress, the Legislative Branch
  - Reading for next topic: Chapter 15 & 16

- **Week 12 Topic 12** Presidency, the Executive Branch
  - Reading for next topic: Chapter 17

- **Week 13 Topic 13** Court systems, the Judicial Branch
  - Reading for next topic: Chapter 18 & 19
  - Current Event Essay due 05-14-11

- **Week 14 Topic 14** – Ch. 14 to 17
  - Economic & Regulatory Policy Making Process
  - Foreign & Defense Policy Making Process
  - Reading for next topic: Chapter 20 & 21

- **Week 15 Topic 15** Domestic Policy Making Process
  - Reading for next week: Chapter 22
  - Political Participation Assignment due 05/14/11
XII. CHEATING OR PLAGIARISM: Students should refer to the El Camino College-Compton Center student handbook for detailed guidelines regarding this policy. Instructor abides by the policy as reflected in the student handbook.

XIII. SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS: 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 a week prior to the identified need. Special services are available on campus to meet needs outside of class.

XIV. DISCLAIMER STATEMENT: Students will be notified ahead of time if and when any changes are made to the course requirements, schedule, or policies. 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.

XVI. STATEMENT OF STUDENT CONDUCT: Conduct at El Camino College Compton Center conforms to the laws of the State of California, District Policies, and campus rules and regulations. We are dedicated to maintaining an optimal learning environment; the standards of behavior as outlined in this policy are essential to the maintenance of a quality college environment. Please take visit the following link for a complete version of student code of conduct: http://www.elcamino.edu/studentservices/studentcodeofconduct.asp

XVII. ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS: Class attendance is very important and critical for successful completion of this course. This class meets weekly on the Compton campus every Saturday morning from 9:30 am -10:45 am in Room F-40. Attendance is required for all Saturday lectures. Students are responsible for material from the textbook. At any time during the semester, a student with three unexcused absences may be dropped from the course. Be prompt, as tardiness will not be tolerated. Leaving the class early without prior notice is considered an absence. Pagers and mobile phones should be turned off or on silent mode so not to be nuisance.

XVIII. ETUDES LOG-IN INSTRUCTIONS:

WELCOME TO YOUR ONLINE ETUDES CLASS! http://myetudes.org

ETUDES stands for “Easy To Use Distance Education Software.” Once you have officially enrolled in an ETUDES class, please follow the steps below to log in and access your class:

√ STEP 1: When you log in for the first time, you will be required to enter two pieces of information: your User ID and your Password (see Steps 2 and 3 below)

√ STEP 2: Your User ID is: your first name (underscore) last name [all lower case]
*Some ECC student id numbers have been adjusted to accommodate multiple persons with the same name. If step 2 does not work please visit this site to verify your id:  
https://secure.elcamino.edu/portal/logininfo/main.aspx?item=forgot

EXAMPLE: Albert Einstein is enrolled in an online ETUDES classes and has the following:

User ID: albert_einstein [all lower case]

✓ STEP 3:  Your default Password is the month and date of birth included in your ECC record.

EXAMPLE: Albert Einstein’s birthdate is March 25. His Password is: 0325

✓ STEP 4:  Print out this page so that you can refer to these instructions when you log in for the first time.

✓ STEP 5:  Now you are ready to login!

Starting on the first day of the semester (and after waiting 24 hours after you registered for the class), log in to your class by going to the Etudes portal. (http://myetudes.org)

REMEMBER: “BOOKMARK” THIS SITE TO ACCESS YOUR ONLINE CLASS QUICKLY!

REMEMBER: WRITE DOWN YOUR USER ID AND PASSWORD. STORE IT IN A SAFE PLACE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.