

SYLLABUS- MIRAMAR COLLEGE- 6th Period Fall 2019

Course: POL 102: The American Political System

Advisory: ENGL 101 with a grade of "C" or better, or equivalent or Assessment Skill Level R6/W6

Instructor Information:

Email: rperry001@sdccd.edu, will respond within 24 hours. Please be professional

Class Meetings: Monday, Tuesday & Fridays- 1:18pm- 2:13 pm.

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Friday 11:30-12:15 in our assigned classroom.

Required Text:

Schubert, L., Dye, T. R., & Zeigler, H. (2016). *The Irony of Democracy: An Uncommon Introduction to American Politics* (17th Ed). Boston, MA: Cengage Learning. (ISBN-978-1-285-87028-1)

Student Learning Outcomes

Through written or oral questions on an exam, students will demonstrate an understanding of the two party system.

Student Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

1. Apply the basic concepts, principles, and terms common to meaningful political inquiry to the study of American government
2. Describe the political philosophies of the framers of the Constitution and the nature and the operation of United States political institutions (national, state, local) and processes under that Constitution as amended and interpreted
3. Explain the basis for American federalism
4. Locate the Constitution of the State of California within the framework of evolution of Federal-State relations and appraise the nature and processes of State and local government under the Constitution.
5. Weigh the obligations and responsibilities of American citizenship, including the duty of participating at the national, State, and local levels
6. Describe the role of major ethnic and social groups in significant events in the history of the United States including the nature of and efforts to achieve civil rights
7. Apply different analytical models to describe the various structures, functions, and policymaking activities of the American political system at the federal, state, and local levels
8. Compare and contrast American political ideals and constitutional principles, both stated and actual

9. Identify and analyze major issues faced by the American political system at all levels, including contemporary relationships of State and local government with the federal government; the resolution of conflicts and the establishment of cooperative processes under the constitutions of both the State and the nation; and the political processes involved.

Please bring both textbooks to class with you for each class meeting.

This Syllabus is subject to change/adjustment.

This course is designed to acquaint you with the fundamentals of U.S. government and politics. We will examine our government's constitutional foundation and political institutions including the Presidency, Congress, the Judiciary, interest groups, and the media. In addition, we will learn about the policymaking process and how structural, economic, and social factors influence political practices. Overall, we will consider if and how these influences bear on the ability of the United States to truly be a "representative democracy." In so doing, we will attend to how differences among people based on race, class, and gender mediate their relationships to U.S. political institutions and democratic values.

I have several goals for this class. One is to help you gain an understanding and appreciation for U.S. democracy and its institutions. As such, I hope this course enables you to be a wise and astute consumer (if not producer) of political information and ideas. Another goal is to impart on you that politics can be interesting, exciting, and above all else, relevant. As a result, I expect you to keep up with current events and prepare to discuss these in class.

Catalogue Description

This comprehensive survey course provides an in-depth study of the American political system. National and California systems of government are studied from the perspective of constitutional frameworks and political institutions, processes, issues, and policies. Other topics include political participation; political parties and interest groups; social movements and minorities; civil liberties; and the role of political ideology, culture, and the mass media in shaping public opinion and policymaking. This course is intended for transfer students, political science majors, or students interested in the American political system.

Course Description

Miramar College Catalogue Course Description (3 hours lecture, 3 units letter grade or Pass/no Pass option): This comprehensive survey course, designed for students intending to transfer to a four-year college or university, provides an in depth study of the American political system. Both national and California experiences are studied from the perspective of constitutional

frameworks, institutions, issues, and policies. NOTE: If used to satisfy part of the American Institutions requirement, Political Science 102 may not be used to satisfy the SDCC District's three-unit social science requirement. Political Science 102 is required for completion of the major in political science. *Political Science 102 Advisory: English 48 and English 49, each with a grade of "C" or better, or equivalent, or Assessment Skill Levels R5 and W5.

Canvas Account

Canvas is a course management system widely used throughout colleges and universities in the U.S. Class information, such as grades, assignments, quizzes and exams will be administered electronically on Canvas. Register for your Canvas account before the second class meeting.

Directions for creating a Canvas Account:

Go to <http://www.sdccdonline.net/login/index.htm> Type in your Username, which is your CSID number. Type in your password, which is your 8-digit birthdate (mmddyyyy). You need to be officially enrolled. If so, "Political Science 102 CRN 66481" will automatically be listed under "My Courses" If you need additional training, go to the Canvas 9student training webpage <http://www.sdccdonline.net/students/training/> for useful tutorials, FAQs, orientation schedules at the start of each semester, help accessing Canvas and downloading/opening files from in the course.

There is a 24/7 Helpdesk for all technical support and login issues: 1-866-271-8794

Required Technical Materials: You should have daily access to a reliable functioning desktop or laptop computer and internet connection. It is not possible to take this course and submit all assignments in the required format with a smartphone or tablet.

Attendance Policy: No student may be reinstated if he/she is dropped from the class. As per SDCCD policy, *it is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw.* "Students who remain enrolled in a class beyond the published withdrawal deadline, may receive an evaluative letter grade in this class." This could possibly mean an "F". **YOU** are responsible for officially withdrawing from this course by the drop deadline, or you will receive a letter grade (i.e. Do NOT take it for granted that you will be dropped from this course for failure to meet any of the above policies). Please contact your counselor to drop.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Completion of assigned readings
2. Weekly Discussion Assignments (15)
3. Quizzes (3)- 1 objective and 2 short answers
4. Current Event Assignments (4)
5. Group Project on a Supreme Court case
5. Objective Midterm Examination (1)
6. Objective Final Examination (1)
7. Letter to Public Official

GRADING

1. 20 pts Political Awareness Assignment (4 Assignments, 20 points)
2. 60 pts Weekly Canvas Discussion Assignments (15 assignments, 60 points)
3. 65 pts Quizzes (1=25 points, 2=20 points each)
4. 50 pts Midterm Examination
5. 50 pts Final Examination
6. 20 pts Letter to Public Official
7. 15 pts Supreme Court Group Project
8. 20 pts Participation

300-270 points = A= Excellent

269-240 points = B= Good

239- 210 points = C= Satisfactory

209-180 points = D= Passing - Less than satisfactory

180 points or lower = F=Fail

CURRENT EVENTS

I expect you to keep up with events in the news to help synthesize material we cover in class. The links below are suggested news outlets to keep up with current events:

www.bbc.co.uk (BBC – British news site)

www.economist.com (The Economist – British magazine)

www.guardian.co.uk (The Guardian – British news site)

www.thenation.com (The Nation – this is a decidedly left-wing publication)

www.nationalreview.com (The National Review – this is a decidedly right-wing publication)

www.nyt.com (The New York Times)

www.rte.ie (RTÉ – Irish news site)

www.wsj.com (The Wall Street Journal)

ww.washingtonpost.com (The Washington Post)

Overview of Requirements:

1. Opinion Piece Assignment, 20 points of Grade:

You will have 4 opinion piece assignments during this term. Each assignment will be worth 5 points. The first will be due on 09/13/19 after that, they will be due on the first of each month. You will need to select a current event and write a 1-2 page plus paper about it. Please proofread each document prior to submittal. This assignment is geared to get you concentrated on events that happen in our nation. Please make sure that the assignments relate to American Politics. I will give you a topic to discuss. You will need to write about your feelings about the topic I assigned:

- A. How it relates to this class
- B. Your feelings on this event.
- C. How this may affect our society.

2. 1 objective quiz and two short Answer Quizzes- 65 points of grade

There will be 3 quizzes given through the class. The first objective quiz will be worth 25 points. The two other quizzes will each be worth 20 points.

3. Canvas Discussions- 15 each worth 4 points for a total of 60 points

Read the assignment carefully. It might contain a question and suggestions for your commentary. Select anyone of the questions included in the assignment and answer it after completing the unit's assigned readings. Provide a short, critical essay of at least 200 words. Follow the APA format for writing and citation when you do your assignment.

Read any commentary written by other students and respond to at least two of them in no less than 50 words each by Sunday. I will grade these on Monday. These replies should not be simple agreement or disagreement, or likes and dislikes, but replies that show your understanding of other students' writings and support it or reject it with evidence. I will grade discussions and responses on the Monday after the due date.

It is suggested that you write your commentary in a word processor such as Microsoft Word, then cut-and-paste it in the area provided in the unit. Do spell check.

Finish all units according to the deadlines set. Late work will not be accepted. If you do not reply to two of your classmates you will lose 1 point. If you have two typo or writing mistakes, you will lose .5 point for each. If you have less than 200 words for your assignment posting, if you

do not do APA in-text citation and references, or if you do not answer fully all aspects of the question, you will lose points.

4. Midterm Examination: 50 points of grade

There will be one midterm exam. 50 questions M/C and T/F. Each question is worth 1 point. This exam will cover all material from the beginning of class up until the exam. A study guide will be provided and we will have a review the class meeting prior to the exam.

5. Final Examination- 50 points of grade,

There will be a final exam. It will cover material from the second half of the class. 50 M/C, T/F. To be held in class.

6. Group Project- 15 points of grade

You will work in groups of no more than 5. I will give you a famous Supreme Court Case. You will need to create a 5-10 minute presentation about this case. Please use some type of visual aid in your presentation. Presentations will be given week after Winter Break. I will give you more info on this assignment during the semester

7. Letter to Public Official- 20 points of grade

Students are to write a letter to a public official. This could be a complaint/concern or even a compliment. I am not going to require you to send it. Please write this in a professional, business type letter. Please DO NOT include your address on the letter you turn in to me. If you want to send it, keep me updated on any response. Officials may include the following:

- a. President
- b. One of your state's Senators
- c. Your US Congress Representative
- d. State Official (governor, assembly member, state senator)
- e. Local Official (mayor, councilperson, Board of Supervisor)

8. Class Participation 20 points of grade

Attendance/Participation:

Writing and thinking are never separate processes; consequently, an integral part of this class relies upon your effort & mental awareness. I expect punctuality, alertness, and participation in class discussions and exercises. High quality participation includes listening carefully and responding thoughtfully to classmates' ideas, in addition to expressing your own ideas about the course material. Attendance is not an option--it is a requirement.

Participation is worth 20 points. You all will start off with 20 points. In order to receive a grade of 20 points, the following needs to happen:

1. You need to come to class. If you are not in class, you cannot participate. Therefore you will not earn points.
2. Do not talk while I am talking.
3. If you need to leave early, let me know. It is rude to leave when I am talking without my permission,
4. No sleeping. If I notice this (trust me I notice), you will not receive participation points.
5. I will take attendance each day. This will be done on Canvas. If you are present and participate in class, you will earn participation points for that class. We have 48 classes. If you miss class, you cannot participate. Therefore, you will lose .5 points for each class you do not participate. If you have a verifiable school activity, you will not be penalized.

My Expectations

I have some expectations that need to met during the course of the semester:

1. Please participate in class. This will increase interest.
2. Please come to class prepared
3. Complete all readings assigned by me.
4. Please be respectful and courteous of other people's opinions and culture. Any deviation from this will not be tolerated.
5. Please be on time. If you need to leave class early, please let me know prior to the beginning of class.
6. Do not disrupt my class. I expect you to have cell phones on vibrate. Please only answer a call if it is an emergency. Also, leave the room if you need to answer a call. NO TEXTING, TWEETING, FACEBOOKING, SNAPCHATING, INSTAGRAMING.
7. Please do not cheat or plagiarize assignments. I am a former student so I know the tricks. Anyone caught cheating or plagiarism will be dealt with severely.
8. My goal is for everyone to pass this class. If you give an effort and show that you comprehend the material, you should be fine. I am an open person so if there is something that you don't understand, please ask.

We are older and need to act accordingly.

Class Calendar

Readings assigned are for the next class section.

Week 1 (08/26/19)

Introduction, review of syllabus, Elite Theory v. Pluralist Theory

Readings: Chapters 1-2 (Irony of Democracy).

Week 2 (09/02/18); No Class 09/02/2019

Chapter 2- Elite Consensus of the Founding Fathers, The US Constitution.
California Constitution.

Readings for next week: Chapter 3, Federalist 10 and 51

First Discussion Assignment due on 09/06/19

Week 3 (09/09/19)

Chapter 3: Elites in America and Elites in California

Readings for next week: Chapter 4

Second Discussion Assignment due on 09/13/19

First Opinion Piece Assignment due on 09/13/2019 to Canvas

Week 4 (09/16/19)

Direct Democracy in California, Initiative, Referendum, Recall

Quiz 1- 09/20/2019 (in class)

Third Discussion Assignment due on 09/20/19

Week 5 (09/23/19)

Second Political Awareness Assignment due on 10/01/2019 to Canvas

Chapter 4- Masses in the United States and California

Reading for next week: Chapter 5

Fourth Discussion Assignment due on 09/27/18

Week 6 (09/30/19)

Chapter 5- The Media

Readings: Chapter 6 (Irony)

Fifth Discussion Assignment due on 10/04/19

Second Opinion Piece Assignment due on 10/01/2019 to Canvas

Week 7 (10/07/19)

Chapter 6- Elections, Parties and Democracy

Readings for next week: Chapter 7

Sixth Discussion Assignment due on 10/11/19

Week 8 (10/14/19)

Chapter 6 Continued

Chapter 7- Elites and Organized Interests

Readings for next week: Chapter 8

Seventh Discussion Assignment due on 10/18/19

Week 9 (10/21/19); No class 10/21/19

Midterm 10/25/2019. Weeks 1-8. In class

Chapter 8- Congress (US and California), Committees, How Bills becomes a law

Eighth Discussion Assignment due on 10/25/19

Week 10 (10/28/19)

Electoral College, Chapter 9 Presidency

Ninth Discussion Assignment due on 11/01/19

Second Opinion Piece Assignment due on 11/01/2019 to Canvas

Weeks 11 (11/04/19)

Chapter 9- Presidency, Governor (CA), Duties

Quiz #2 due 11/08/2019

Tenth Discussion Assignment due on 11/08/19

Weeks 12 & 13 (11/12/19) & (11/25/19)

Chapter 10- Courts, US and California,

Eleventh Discussion Assignment due on 11/15/19

Twelfth Discussion Assignment due on 11/29/19

Fourth Opinion Piece Assignment due on 12/1/18

Week 14 (12/02/19)

Chapter 11- Bureaucracies

Thirteenth Discussion Assignment due on 12/06/19

Week 15 (12/09/19)

Chapter 12- Federalism

Quiz #3 Due on 12/13/19

Fourteenth Discussion Assignment due on 12/13/19

Week 16 (12/16/19); No class 12/16/19

Chapter 13- Civil Rights

Fifteenth Discussion Assignment due on 12/20/2019

Week 17 (1/06/20)

Chapter 13- Civil Rights Continued

Letter to Public Official due on 1/10/2020

Group Projects

Week 18 (1/13/20)

Review for Final

Final Exam 1/14/2020

Make Up Policy

All coursework is due on the date stated. If you have an extenuating circumstance, you will need to inform me with advanced notice. You will be deducted .5 of a grade for each class meeting after the assignment is due. Please make sure to acquaint yourself with due dates on this syllabus.

Cheating/Plagiarism

Students are expected to be honest and ethical at all times in the pursuit of academic goals. Students who are found to be in violation of Administrative Procedure 3100.3 Honest Academic Conduct, will receive a grade of zero on the assignment, quiz, or exam in question and may be referred for disciplinary action in accordance with Administrative Procedure 3100.2,

Grade Dispute Policy

Board Policy 3001 Student Records, as well as section 76224 of the California Education, section 55024 of Title 5 California Code of Regulations and is designed to provide uniform standards to ensure due process when a student challenges a grade received for a class taken at the District.

Please visit

https://www.sdccd.edu/docs/District/procedures/Student%20Services/AP%203001_02.pdf

Student Code of Conduct

Students are expected to adhere to the Student Code of Conduct at all times. Students who violate the Student Code of Conduct may be removed from class by the faculty for the class meeting in which the behavior occurred, and the next class meeting.

Incidents involving removal of a student from class will be reported to the college disciplinary officer for follow up. The Student Code of Conduct can be found in Board of Trustees Policy, BP 3100, Student Rights, Responsibilities, Campus Safety and Administrative Due Process posted on the District website at:

<http://www.sdccd.edu/public/district/policies/index.shtml>

Additional Information

Posting of any of my materials, quizzes, exams & study guides on sites constitutes theft of my personal intellectual property and will be referred to the appropriate legal/school authorities.

Miramar College Student Resources

Accessibility for Students with Disabilities: The California Community College System is committed to providing equal access to education for students with disabilities. Students with disabilities who may need academic accommodations should contact me by email. You and I can coordinate with the Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS) department to identify your appropriate accommodations. To contact a DSPS counselor call (619) 388 - 7312 or email miradsps@sdccd.net. Note: I have made every effort to ensure that this course is accessible to all students, including students with disabilities. If you encounter a problem accessing any portion of this course, please contact me.

Individual Tutoring Services at 'The Place:' There are resources on the Miramar College campus to support students in need of additional help. For further details, call 619:388-7852.

Conflict Resolution:

Generally, if a student has an unresolved conflict in a class, the first step is to consult with the instructor to resolve the matter. If a resolution is not reached with the instructor, the student may contact Ms. Morrill in the counseling office.

Reiterating Attendance Policy

No student will be reinstated if he/she is dropped from the class. As per SDCCD policy, it is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw. "Students who remain enrolled in a class beyond the published withdrawal deadline, will receive an evaluative letter grade in this class." This could possibly mean an "F". **YOU** are responsible for officially withdrawing from this course by the drop deadline, or you will receive a letter grade (i.e. Do NOT take it for granted that you will be dropped from this course for failure to meet any of the above policies). Please contact your counselor to drop.

ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY

1. I will take attendance at the start of class. This information will be given to Scripps Ranch High School Administration. In order to do well

in this class you must be present. Also, you will not be able to leave early.

2. You will not be allowed to make up a test or any other work from another class during our period. I have been informed by SRHS admin that this should not happen.
3. If you have a school related function that requires you to miss class (sports, ASB, ROTC, ect.), please have the instructor in charge email or contact me about your absence.
4. Part of participation is completing readings and bringing your textbook to class.
5. I will create a seating chart during the first weeks of class. If I feel I need to adjust the seating I will.
6. This is a college level class and will be taught as one. If you feel that there is too much work, make sure to contact your counselor.
7. As part of your attendance, I expect you all to participate and to respect each other's opinion.