

UNIVERSITY OF LOS ANGELES / CALIFORNIA COLLEGE OF DIVINITY

POLS 101 Political Science

I. Rationale

This course examines the concepts of American politics and the origins of political values.

Aim

Students will analyze political theories and systems and investigate solutions to political issues.

II. Learning Objectives

1. Understand that rights are secured by constitutional government, the rule of law and an independent judiciary.
2. Give examples of the principles of democracy
3. Describe the function of each of the three branches of government.
4. Distinguish local, state and national government and their implied powers.
5. Identify strategies for effective political action that impact local, state and national governance.
6. Describe the purpose and function of law.
7. List the processes by which public policy is created.
8. Describe national interest and its use as a political tool in forming foreign policy.
9. Summarize America's values and political influence around the world.
10. Identify your local Congressional Representative, State Senator, Governor and Senator.

III. Format and Procedures

This course includes lectures, discussion, group presentations, essay and exams. Classes will often begin with a quiz from the assigned reading. Next there will be a short lecture followed by discussions based on your questions extracted from reading assignments.

IV. Course Requirements

1. Class Attendance Please contact me at least 24 hours before an expected absence. Without contact, you will not be excused from in class assignments of that day.

2. Course Readings

(a) **Text** Paletz, David L., Diana Marie. Owen, and Timothy E. Cook. [American Government and Politics in the Information Age](#). Washington D.C.: Flat World Knowledge, 2013.

3. Course Credit Assignments based on the number of credits for which the learner is enrolled (This option is available only to evaluation-eligible students).

(a) One credit – Students who will modify this course to earn one credit must complete the presentation.

(b) Two credits – In addition to those activities for one credit, students electing for two credits will complete daily participation, quizzes and 2 essay.

(c) Three credits – Those selecting three credits must complete the work for the first two credits and complete the midterm and final exam.

V. Grading

Participation	10%	Essay	25%
Quizzes	15%	Exams	30%
Presentation	20%		

Your grade is divided into 5 components. Participation includes your attendance and a quote and question from the reading. At times, I will offer quizzes that ask comprehension questions based on the reading assignment. You will be required to complete a presentation and can work with another student on this assignment. It includes the presentation, as well as an annotated bibliography and an outline. Finally your essay and exams are demonstrations of your mastery of the learning objectives.

VI. Academic Integrity

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the USESS Code of Academic Integrity. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work. Collaboration is allowed. You are encouraged to study together and discuss information and concepts covered in class with other students. However, these informal study groups should never involve one student having possession of a copy of work completed by another. Should copying occur, both students will earn a zero for the assignment. Penalty for violation of this Code can also be extended to include failure of the course and disciplinary action.

VII. Values

USESS is a non-denominational evangelical college with the highest Christian values. We value excellence in academics of higher education and practical ministry centered around a relationship with Jesus Christ. We value the development of Christian faith, thought and practice in the world to advance the work of God and impact the society at large.

VIII. Positive Participation

USESS is committed to providing an atmosphere for learning that respects diversity. While working together to build this community please:

- share unique experiences, values and beliefs related to the text or topic
- use discussions as an opportunity to create a more compassionate world with attentive listening

- refrain from sharing confidential information that will reveal the privacy of others

IX. Course Schedule

Week 1 Constitutional Government	Chapter 2 The Constitution and the Structure of Government Power
Week 2 Principles of Democracy	Chapter 3 Federalism Essay
Week 3 Branches of Government	Chapter 12 Congress Chapter 13 The Presidency Chapter 15 The Courts
Week 4 Power & Reach	Chapter 11 Campaigns and Elections Annotated Bibliography & Outline
Week 5 Political Action	Chapter 9 Interest Groups Chapter 8 Participation, Voting, and Social Movements
Week 6	Study Guide & Review
Week 7	Midterm
Week 8 Law	Chapter 5 Civil Rights
Week 9 Public Policy	Chapter 16 Policymaking and Domestic Policies Project Summary
Week 10 Foreign Policy	Chapter 17 Foreign and National Security Policies
Week 11 Political Influence	Chapter 14 The Bureaucracy
Week 12 Representation	Chapter 6 Political Culture and Socialization

Week 13	Projects Due
Week 14	Study Guide & Review
Week 15	Final Exam

Rubric	
Understand that rights are secured by constitutional government, the rule of law and an independent judiciary.	
1.0	Summarize the Constitution.
2.0	List the 10 Amendments of the Bill of Rights.
3.0	Understand that rights are secured by constitutional government, the rule of law and an independent judiciary.
4.0	Compare the rights of the colonists to the rights of Americans.
Give examples of the principles of democracy.	
1.0	Define democracy.
2.0	Compare democracy to monarchy.
3.0	Give examples of the principles of democracy
4.0	Predict the future of democracy in the United States in 2067.
Describe the function of each of the three branches of government.	
1.0	Understands that government has different branches.
2.0	Identify the three branches of government.
3.0	Describe the function of each of the three branches of government.
4.0	Profile an example of exclusive Executive Power.
Distinguish local, state and national government and their implied powers.	
1.0	Understands that government is divided into local, state and national divisions.
2.0	Discuss the roles of senator and governor.
3.0	Distinguish local, state and national government and their implied powers.
4.0	Explain what representation means to constituents in Washington D.C.
Identify strategies for effective political action that impact local, state and national governance.	
1.0	Understands the function of political campaigns.
2.0	Define propositions, measures and describe their importance.
3.0	Identify strategies for effective political action that impact local, state and national governance.
4.0	Volunteer or join a political campaign and create a report of your experience.
Describe the purpose and function of law.	
1.0	Recalls the Constitution and Bill of Rights.
2.0	Describe how a bill becomes a law.
3.0	Describe the purpose and function of law.
4.0	Evaluate the Supreme Court and offer a brief biography of its current members.
List the processes by which public policy is created.	
1.0	Recalls the function of the Senate and Congress.
2.0	Explains the advantages of a bill passing in the House of Representatives before the Senate.
3.0	List the processes by which public policy is created.

4.0	Create a policy and persuade others to sign a petition agreeing with your position.
Describe national interest and its use as a political tool in forming foreign policy.	
1.0	Define propaganda.
2.0	Distinguish propaganda, advertising and news outlets roles in forming national interest.
3.0	Describe national interest and its use as a political tool in forming foreign policy.
4.0	Explain what role media has in shaping national interest.
Summarize America's values and political influence around the world.	
1.0	Recall the American Revolution.
2.0	Understand how values influence culture.
3.0	Summarize America's values and political influence around the world.
4.0	Measure the changing influence of America on global political in the 21 st century.
Identify your local Congressional Representative, State Senator, Governor and Senator.	
1.0	Recalls individual liberties, rights and responsibilities as a citizen.
2.0	Compares Senate to House of Representatives.
3.0	Identify your local Congressional Representative, State Senator, Governor and Senator.
4.0	Write your Congressional Rep a letter about a bill that will be discussed in the House.

