Political Science 102: Introduction to American and CA Government

Fall 2016
Schedule Number 22822

COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Yvonne A. Gastélum
Class Days: MWF
Class Times: 12-12:50pm
Email: gastelum@post.harvard.edu
Office Hours: Monday 1-2:30pm, Wednesday 1-2:30pm
Location: Nasatir Hall 116

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The science of politics is often described as the study of “who gets what.” It is the study of power, collective action, and negotiation between individuals and groups for resources, recognition, and influence over the public agenda and law. It is also the study of the institutional design needed to determine and implement collective goals.

All of these definitions tell part of the story. In this course you will learn how to integrate different aspects of politics into a cohesive understanding. We focus on how American politics functions and to what ends. We specifically study the institutions and political issues of the United States including, federalism, majority rule, representation, Congress, the Executive, and the Judiciary; as well as the institutional mechanisms needed to support liberal democratic government at the national and local levels, with an emphasis on California Government. In addition, we will focus on the connection between political ideals and practice--the “isms” and the “pressure system” of political parties, media, and interest groups.

We will be considering questions about and formulating thoughtful answers to contemporary and historical political problems and events. Which frameworks offer the best explanations and which fail? Why? In answering these questions we will learn how to assess the political world, the institutions that order it, and our role in making decisions which govern our communities.

This is an introductory course in Political Science. You will be assigned multiple readings that should be completed prior to the assigned syllabus date. We will use our books in class during lecture and you are expected to come to class with your books and materials in hand.

COURSE MATERIALS (*Bundle Available in Bookstore)

1. Ginsberg et al., We the People, 10th Core ed. (Norton, 2014) + InQuizitive.*
2. Anagnoson et al., Governing California, 5th ed. (Norton, 2015).*
3. Ebook Available through Blackboard Link (includes both books and InQuizitive Access).
STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. You will learn central concepts of political science, including: sovereignty, federalism, liberalism, democracy, and collective action.

2. You will learn to define and explain concepts and institutions pertaining to U.S. politics, including the legislative, judicial, and executive branches; the separation of powers, representation, pluralism, and electoral politics at national and local levels.

3. You will learn to analyze the political institutions of the United States and how citizens interact with them, with specific attention to American political culture and the history of American constitutional government.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Written Argumentation Skills: formulate and defend coherent written arguments with effective support and evidence and revise writing in response to feedback.

2. Critical Reading Skills: identify main points and arguments in different types of texts including scholarly writings; provide critical analysis, and assess individual texts against a broader literature.

3. Disciplinary Knowledge: Knowledge of the U.S. Political System: demonstrate knowledge of political institutions, governmental and non-governmental political actors and movements, and different policy outcomes of the political process.

GOALS for GE COURSES in the SOCIAL and BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

Goal 1: Explore and recognize basic terms, concepts, and domains of the social and behavioral sciences.

Goal 2: Comprehend diverse theories and methods of the social and behavioral sciences.

Goal 3: Identify human behavioral patterns across space and time and discuss their interrelatedness and distinctiveness.

Goal 4: Enhance understanding of the social world through the application of conceptual frameworks from the social and behavioral sciences to first-hand engagement with contemporary issues.
1. Tests (Multiple Choice) (20% each). Tests must be started no later than 8:30pm on the due date to be submitted by 10pm.
   a. Test 1 covers Units 1, 2, 3, 4 (20%). Test 1 DUE 10/17 at 10pm.
   b. Test 2 covers Units 5, 6, 7 (20%). Test 2 DUE 12/12 at 10pm.
   c. No notes, books, or other aids allowed during Tests.
   d. Do not resize or refresh the browser window while taking the exam. Be aware that going onto another browser tab or window will close out the exam. In other words, do not change screens during the assessment.
   e. You can't go backwards. If you attempt to do so the exam will crash.
   f. There are no make-ups. You must complete the Test by the due date, within the allotted time.
   g. Upon completion of the exam click on "Save and Submit" and check your score. Check “My Grades” to make sure score is recorded.

2. Quizzes (20%). There are 4 Quizzes. Each Quiz consists of 3 questions (short essay format). Each answer is worth a possible 3 points, for a total of 9 points possible per quiz.
   a. Quizzes are “open book” and you may use your book, lecture notes, and downloaded lecture slides to complete your quizzes.
   b. Quizzes will be completed online through Blackboard. Each quiz has a due date and time. Quiz due dates will be posted on Blackboard Announcements as quizzes are made available (after relevant material is completed).
   c. There are no make-ups of quizzes. You must complete and submit the quiz by the due date and time.
   d. Quizzes will be graded on content and organization, and should include:
(i) a thesis argument in the first paragraph that defines and explains the subject/problem/issue in the prompt, explaining why this is significant and how it matters;
(ii) analysis and development of key points, including any elements presented in the prompt, that stays close to the material presented in the course;
(iii) specific examples that support your thesis and explain the ideas presented in the body of the essay;

e. The following point scale will determine your grade for this portion of the course:

35+ points = A (98)
33-34 points = A (94)
30-32 points = A- (92)
28–29 points = B+ (88)
25-27 points = B (84)
21-24 points = B- (81)
18-20 points = C+ (78)
15-17 points = C (74)
14 points = C- (70)
Below 14 points will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

g. Common Feedback on Quizzes:
   (i) Good: Correct. Good analysis.
   (ii) Filler: This portion of your writing is unnecessary, does not follow from the previous points, and does not advance your argument.
   (iii) Not Quite: This is incorrect.
   (iv) Level of Analysis or Summary w/o Sufficient Analysis: There is insufficient analytical development of this idea. You need to further develop it by explaining the concept or point, and in addition, explaining why it is important (the significance) and how it is applied, or how it works/functions/matters, etc.

3. Analytical Writing Assignments (25%).

a. You will choose at least 2 assignments from the list under Blackboard Assignments but not more than 4 assignments for a total 20 possible points. This means you may choose from the following combinations:
   (i) two 10 point assignments
   (ii) four 5 point assignments
   (iii) one 10 point assignment and two 5 point assignments
b. Assignments include discussion boards, mock policy proposals, close readings of articles; and responses to videos, news clips, and coverage of current events.

c. Each assignment has its own due date/time and will be submitted online. Each assignment will require you to access Blackboard and either submit a response through Blackboard (for example, with discussion boards) or upload a PDF file to a dedicated link for that assignment (example: policy proposal). Assignments are listed under Assignments on Blackboard.

d. Each assignment is a specific number of points (+5 or +10), which will be tallied for a total point value measured by the following scale. The following scale will determine the grade for this portion of the course:

- 19-20 points = A (98)
- 18 points = A- (94)
- 17 points = A- (92)
- 16 points = B+ (88)
- 15 points = B (84)
- 14 points = B- (81)
- 13 points = C+ (78)
- 12 points = C (74)
- 11 points = C- (72)
- 10 points = C- (70)

Below 10 points will be considered on a case by case basis.

4. InQuizitive Chapters (15%).

a. There are three Inquisitive Chapters to complete during this course due on the followings dates by 10pm:
   - (i) Chapter 2: Founding and Constitution due Monday, 9/12.
   - (iii) Chapter 4: Civil Rights or Chapter 5: Civil Liberties due Monday, 11/21.

b. Inquisitive Chapters have a sliding confidence bar to choose from that will directly affect your score. Choose one of the following before answering:
   - (i) I know I know it
   - (ii) I’m pretty sure
   - (iii) I think I know it
   - (iv) I might know it
   - (v) I have no idea!

c. Choose the confidence bar wisely as it will affect your score per question. The higher your confidence the more points you get if you are correct. However, if you choose “I Know It” and you get it wrong it will deduct
more points than if you had chosen a lower confidence position. Remember to slide the confidence bar per question.

d. You can work on each chapter until you get 100% or you can opt to stop once the minimum number of questions are completed. If you stop short of 100% whatever your score is will be calculated into this portion on your grade based on the average score for chapters you completed.

e. **InQuizitive can be accessed through Blackboard. Click on the link in the side menu labeled InQuizitive Chapters.**

   (i) You must access InQuizitive through Blackboard in order for your scores to report to the Gradebook. You will see a green box stating “connected to LMS” if you are connected properly while accessing chapters.

   (ii) The first time you click on the InQuizitive link you will be prompted to create an account and register a code. All new books in the bookstore include an 8-digit code that gives you access to InQuizitive and the ebook.

   (iii) You can also purchase the code from this site if you choose to purchase a used book or rent a book.

   (iv) You may sign up for 3 weeks of free trial access. If you sign up for trial access, make sure you use the same account (email address) when you are ready to upgrade so that all your work will follow you. If you fail to do so your scores will not be recorded and you will receive a “0”.

   (v) If you have any technical trouble open a help desk ticket at support.wwnorton.com. If you do not see your InQuizitive scores in your Blackboard Grades, or if you are prompted to enter a Student Set ID, or if you do not see a green box stating “connected to LMS,” it means that you are not enrolled correctly. Simply click on the InQuizitive link in Blackboard and sign in, and your account will sync up.

5. **Attendance in class is Required. Regular attendance will aid in your understanding of the course material. There is a sign-in sheet every day in class.**

**ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services at (619) 594-6473. To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that accommodations based upon disability cannot be provided until you have presented your instructor with an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services.
GENERAL COURSE GUIDELINES

1. There are no make up tests, exams, quizzes, or assignments in this class. It is your responsibility to make time to complete your course work within the required time and by the due date and time. All coursework is submitted online by the due date and time.

2. Excused absences (illness, family emergency, hospitalization, work conflict, traveling team) need to be communicated prior to the absence via email directly to gastelum@post.harvard.edu and documentation should be provided. Scan your documents and attach to the email.

3. You may NOT record lecture unless you have prior, written permission from me.

4. Syllabus dates are subject to change (i.e. if we need an extra day for a given author we will take it and shift further readings and exam or assignment dates).

5. All course assignments and requirements must be completed to receive credit for the course. Missing course work will result in an F for the course. You will not receive credit for the course if you turn in assignments without attending a majority of lecture.

6. Appointments are available on a first come/first serve basis. You must set up an appointment via email with me at gastelum@post.harvard.edu. Once you receive a response with an appointment time you must confirm your appointment in a reply email.

7. All discussion of student grades on assignments and final course grades will be in office hours. It is your responsibility to make time to attend office hours or procure an appointment within the available time slots to discuss grades (see #6 above).

8. Plagiarism or Cheating invalidates an assignment, and will result in an “0” for that assignment, and an F in the course. Note the following section on Cheating and Plagiarism in this syllabus.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The University adheres to a strict policy regarding cheating and plagiarism. These activities will not be tolerated in this class. Any cheating or plagiarism will result in failing this class and a disciplinary review by Student Affairs.

The following definitions (edited for our purposes) are from the SDSU General Catalog and should serve as a sample reference for considering what constitutes cheating and plagiarism.

CHEATING

Cheating is the act of obtaining credit for academic work by the use of dishonest or fraudulent means. Examples of cheating include, but are not limited to:
(a) copying from another's test or other examination;
(b) discussing answers or ideas relating to the answers on a test or other examination without the permission of the instructor;
(c) obtaining copies of a test, an examination, or other course material without the permission of the instructor;
(d) using notes, cheat sheets, or other devices not explicitly authorized by the instructor;
(e) submitting work previously presented in another course, if contrary to the rules of the course;
(f) altering or interfering with the grading procedures;
(g) plagiarizing, as defined below; and knowingly assisting another student in any of the above.

**PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is the act of incorporating ideas, words, or specific substance of another, whether purchased, borrowed, or otherwise obtained, and submitting the same as one’s own work to fulfill academic requirements without giving credit to the appropriate source. Plagiarism shall include but not be limited to:
(a) submitting work, either in part or in whole, completed by another;
(b) omitting footnotes/endnotes for ideas, statements, or facts that belong to another;
(c) omitting quotation marks when quoting directly from another;
(d) close and lengthy paraphrasing of the writings of another without proper citation;
(e) submitting as one's own work papers purchased from others (companies, peers, online editing services, etc).

**TURN IT IN**

Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. You may submit your papers in such a way that no identifying information about you is included. Another option is that you may request, in writing, that your papers not be submitted to Turnitin.com. However, if you choose this option you will be required to provide documentation to substantiate that the papers are your original work and do not include any plagiarized material.

**ONLINE COMPONENT**

Students are required to:
- Make use of the online course materials available via Blackboard. Access to these materials is available once you have registered for the course. Blackboard can be accessed at https://blackboard.sdsu.edu/
- Complete online readings and assignments by the dates indicated. Analytical Assignments will each have a due date listed under the Assignment, which is listed under Assignments on Blackboard.
- Maintain a reliable email and check email regularly and before each class. Keep up with Blackboard Announcements and update Blackboard information accordingly.
COURSE COMMUNICATION

1. All emails to the instructor should be sent directly to gastelum@post.harvard.edu (type it in, do not cut and paste).

2. Include your name, class section and time, and specific information on the subject you are emailing about.

3. Use of Blackboard to email fellow students is appropriate for class related issues only and any student using Blackboard to communicated directly with classmates should identify their name in the email and their class section.

FINAL COURSE GRADE RUBRIC

The following percents constitute the range for each grade assigned as a final course grade:

93 and above : A
90-92     A-
87-89     B+
82-86     B
79-81     B-
77-78     C+
72-76     C
70-71     C-
68-69     D+
62-67     D
60-61     D-
Below 60   F

READING SCHEDULE

(\*) Starred Readings are available under the Course Documents on Blackboard. Read Blackboard Announcements for updates about Reading Schedule.)


Unit 1: What is Politics?

Wednesday, 8/31: We the People, Chapter 1, pp.3-19, 24-37

Friday, 9/2: We the People, Chapter 6, pp. 209-216.
Monday, 9/5: HOLIDAY, NO CLASS

Unit 2: Liberal Democracy, the American Constitution, and Federalism

Wednesday, 9/7: We the People, Chapter 2, pp. 39-59.

Friday, 9/9:  
a) We the People, Chapter 2, pp. 60-75.  
b) Federalist #10 and #51 (in textbook Appendix and online)*

Monday, 9/12:  
a) We the People, Chapter 3.  
  b) Inquisitive Chapter 2 DUE by 10pm.

Wednesday, 9/14: We the People, Chapter 3

Friday, 9/16: Review Lecture.

Unit 3: Congress, Parties, and Representation

Monday, 9/19: a) We the People, Chapter 12, pp. 479-490 and Chapter 10, pp. 387-390.

Wednesday, 9/21: a) “Obama Vows to Reduce Pork Barrel Spending”*  
  b) Inquisitive Chapter 3 DUE by 10pm.

Friday, 9/23: We the People, Chapter 12, pp. 492-517 and Chapter 9, pp. 341-370.

Monday, 9/26: We the People, Chapter 9, 371-383 and Chapter 10.

Wednesday, 9/28: Excerpt from Principles and Practice of American Politics*

Friday, 9/30: Excerpt from The Future is Ours, “Political Parties and Minority Voters”*

Monday, 10/3: Review Lecture

Unit 4: Participation, Public Opinion, and Interest Groups

Wednesday, 10/5: We the People, Chapter 11.

Friday, 10/7: Chapters 6 and 8.

Monday, 10/10: Excerpt from The Future is Ours, “Coordination, Media Effects, and the Largest Direct Action in U.S. History”*
Wednesday, 10/12: Review Lecture.

Friday, 10/14: Assignment Review.

**Unit 5: Executive Power**

Monday, 10/17: a) *We the People*, Chapter 13, pp. 519-534.
   b) **Test 1 DUE TODAY by 10pm. Begin test no later than 8:30pm.**

Wednesday, 10/19: *We the People*, Chapter 13, pp. 535-557.

Friday, 10/21: *We the People*, Chapter 14.

Monday, 10/24: a) Selection from Skowronek, *The Politics Presidents Make: Leadership from John Adams to Bill Clinton**
   b) Article, “What It Will Take for Obama to Become the Next FDR”*

Wednesday, 10/26: Article, “The Obama Doctrine”*

Friday, 10/28: Foreign Relations Handout.*

Monday, 10/31: Review Lecture.

**Unit 6: The Judiciary and Civil Rights**

Wednesday, 11/2: *We the People*, Chapter 15.

Friday, 11/4: Chapter 15 continued.

Monday, 11/7: Excerpt from *Principles and Practice of American Politics*, “Interpreting Constitutional Texts”*

Wednesday, 11/9: *We the People*, Chapter 4.

Friday, 11/11: HOLIDAY, NO CLASS

Monday, 11/14: *We the People*, Chapter 4 continued and Excerpt from *Griswold v. Connecticut* (1965)*

Wednesday, 11/16: *We the People*, Chapter 5, pp. 157-183.

Friday, 11/18: *We the People*, Chapter 5, pp. 184-205.
Monday, 11/21: Review Lecture and Inquisitive Chapter 4 or Chapter 5 due by 10pm.

THANKSGIVING BREAK 11/23-11/25

Unit 7: Voters and Democratic Power: California Politics

Monday, 11/28: California Handouts 1-3 and We the People, Chapter 10, pp. 396-398.

Wednesday, 11/30: Voter’s Edge (class exercise).

Friday, 12/2: Governing California, Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5.

Monday, 12/5: Review Lecture.

Wednesday 12/7: Review Lecture.

Friday 12/9: Review Lecture. All Discussion Boards Due TODAY by 10pm.

12/12: LAST CLASS. TEST 2 DUE by 10pm. Start test no later than 8:30pm.