Los Angeles Harbor College

POLITICAL SCIENCE 1

INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

INSTRUCTOR: Kenneth Poole
CLASS: Tuesday 7:00 p.m.  Spring 2016
Section # 3556  Classroom  NEA 122

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will engage a facilitative learning model as an Introduction to Political Science that will familiarize students with foundational knowledge and understanding of Nation, State and Local Government. This course includes an examination of fundamental concepts, government structures and political processes, institutions and contemporary political issues. This course will attempt to stimulate an inquiry of political issues, promote abstract and logical thinking, critical analysis, the integration and synthesis of knowledge, it strives for literacy in writing, reading, speaking and listening.

COURSE OBJECTIVE
1. At the completion of the course the student will be able to: recognize the basic information on the structure and functions of the United States Government, California State and Local Government.
2. Summarize the theories, purposes/practices, policy processes and politics of the national, state, and local governments of the United States.
3. Analyze various political instructions and their techniques used to influence the decisions of the voters and public officials.
4. Illustrate and understanding of how politics contribute to the management of conflict, the resolution of issues and the maintenance of political judgment and encourage responsible participation in the American Democracy,
5. To evaluate the democratic process by attending local meetings.

TEXTBOOKS

ON-LINE RESOURCES: Cengage Learning; Higher Education; Humanities-Social Science; Political Science; Introduction to American Government Brief; find our book; Student Companion Site TAKE THE STUDENT PRACTICE TESTS and USE THE OTHER STUDY AIDS PROVIDED BY THE PUBLISHER

GEOGRAPHY WEB:

Ilike2learn.com  Each web site has interactive maps to locate
Recording Devices
State law in California prohibits the use of any electronic listening or recording device in the classroom without prior consent of the teacher and college administration. Any student who needs to use electronic aids must secure the consent of the instructor. If the instructor agrees to the request, a notice of consent must be forwarded to the Dean of Academic Affairs for approval.

Classroom Courtesy
As approved by the Associated Student Organization and by the Academic Senate, all cell phones and electronic sound-emitting devices shall be turned off at all times during classes. Cell phones and pagers put on vibrate are acceptable, headsets are not.

Attendance
The student is expected to attend every meeting of all classes for which he or she is registered. A student absent from classes for emergency reasons must inform his or her instructor in writing of the reason for the absence at the next meeting of the Class. Students who have pre-registered for is class and who do not attend the first meeting of the class forfeit their right to a place in the class. The instructor may consider mitigating circumstances. **WHENEVER ABSENCES EXCEED THREE CLASSES, THE INSTRUCTOR WILL EXCLUDE THE STUDENT FROM CLASS.** It is the student’s responsibility to drop from class. Any drops or exclusions that occur between the end of the 4th week and the end of the 12th week (between 30% and 75% of the time the class is scheduled to meet, whichever is less) will result in a “W” on the student’s record which will be included in the determination of progress probation. Drops are not permitted beyond the end of the 12th week (or 75% of the time the class is scheduled to meet, whichever is less).

Students with disabilities: It is the policy and practice of Los Angeles Harbor College to create inclusive learning environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or to accurate assessment of achievement (such as time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, or the use of non-captioned videos) please notify the instructor as soon as possible. Students are also welcome to contact the Special Programs and Services Office, telephone 310-233-4622. For more information visit the SPS webpage at: http://www.lahc.edu/studentservices/sps/index.html
MAKE UP TESTS: If a student should miss a scheduled chapter test, the missed test can only be taken the following week. There will be no make up tests after May 1, 2016. Should the student not take the test on either date, the grade will be entered in the record as an “F”.

GRADE:

30% Chapter Test multiple-choice questions on the content of the Textbook chapters you have read (average 45 questions on text) usually 8 to 10

10% A chronology-timeline of historical/legal/political events mentioned in class and those added by the student (due one week prior to final examination)

10% Final Examination: Identify 10 Office Holders from President to Mayor

10% Final Examination: The map project: locate ten countries on given map from the 30-40 identified in class during the semester

30% Final Examination (50 – 75) multiple-choice questions chosen from the previously taken Chapter Tests.

10% Final Essay Questions: Answer 4 of 8 predetermined questions to demonstrate that you can apply what you learned

CHEATING:

Anyone caught cheating will be requested to drop this Class with a grade of W. If this is not acceptable, the course grade will be F.

SCHEDULE
Week One: 2/9 Class Orientation:
Value of Education; Effort; Class Requirements: attendance, grading, historical chronology, political geography, tests, text book, resources, Value of citizenship

Week Two: 9/16 Chp. 1
Foundations of American Government: forms of government; types of democracy; fundamental values, political ideologies
Week Three: 9/24
Chp. 2: The Constitution: colonial heritage, British restrictions and Colonial reaction, Independence, Articles of Confederation
(Last Date Student drop with refund)

Week Four: 3/1
Chp. 2 test
Chp. 2: The Constitution: bicameral, separation of powers, checks & balances, supremacy clause, Bill or Rights, Amendments

Week Five: 3/8
Chp. 3: The concept of Federalism: systems of government, federalism in the Constitution, McCulloch v. Maryland and Gibbons v. Ogden, states rights & civil war, federalism today

Week Six: 3/15
Chp. 3 test
Chp. 4 Civil Liberties: Bill of Rights; Freedom or Religion, Express, the Press; Right to Assemble & Petition, Right to Die (Health Power), Rights of the Accused

Week Seven: 3/22
Chp. 4 test
Guest Speaker: Madelon Yamamoto, resident of Manzanar
Chp. 5 Civil Rights: historical progress in African American civil rights; Immigration Women’s Rights; Rights of Disabled; Elder Abuse; Gay Rights

Week Eight: 3/29
Chp. 5 test
Chp. 9. The Congress: Functions; Powers; House-Senate Differences; Apportionment-Redistricting (find your District: lavote.net - voting and elections; district by address)

Week Nine: 4/5
Spring Break

Week Ten: 4/12
Chp. 9 test
Chp. 9. The Congress: Your Representatives; Committees; Leadership; How a Bill becomes Law

Week Eleven: 4/19
Chp. 10. The Presidency: Who; The process of getting elected; The many roles of the President

Week Twelve 4/26  Test 10

Chp. 10. The Presidency: Uses and Abuses of Presidential Power; The Executive Organization; Succession

Week Thirteen; 5/3
Guest speaker: Hon. Ricardo Ocampo, Judge Los Angeles Superior Court; Application of the 4th and 5th Amendments to actual court cases.

Week Fourteen: 5/10  Test 11
Chp. 12. The Courts: American Law; Federal Court System; The Supreme Court; Policymaking and the Court Control  (LAST DATE FOR ANY MAKE UP WORK)

Week Fifteen: 5/17 Test 12
California: Legislative, Executive and Judiciary; Elected Officials; term limits, budgets, three strikes; redistricting

Week Sixteen: 5/24 Differences between state and federal government

Week Seventeen: 5/31  Final
Final 7 pm

First Class assignment due March 15: Find a person who is a first generation American. Someone who has gone through the immigration process. Person can be a family member, neighbor, fellow worker. Write three paragraphs answering these questions: 1) Why did you come to this country; 2) Why did you become a citizen; 3) What was it like on the day you were sworn in as a US Citizen; 4) How do you feel now that it is over and you are a citizen.

All of you will read the book "My Beloved World" by Sonia Sotomayor. Will do a book report which will be due the first class after Thanksgiving Day.