

Course Syllabus ~ Political Science 1/American Government & Institutions

Semester/Instructor: Fall, 2010, with Dr. Kaliopi Pappas.

When: Tuesdays, 6:30pm-9:30pm. Final exam: Tuesday, December 14, 6-7:50pm.

Where: Mountain House 102.

Course Registration Number: 21620

Instructor Email: kpappas@deltacollege.edu.

Required Texts:

1) Kenneth Janda, Jeffrey Berry, Jerry Goldman, and Kevin Hula. 2009. The Challenge of Democracy, Brief Edition, 7th edition. Mason: Cengage Learning.
BUNDLED WITH: John L. Korey. 2009. California Government, 5th edition. Mason: Cengage Learning.

BOTH the Janda and Korey segments are required, so make sure your edition includes BOTH of them. The textbook is available at the Delta College Bookstore, on main campus. Also available through <http://bookstore.deltacollege.edu>.

2) Required course web supplements (and copy of this syllabus) are located at the course website, located at <http://civ.strangeirl.com/polisci/>. Remember, course readings are required IN ADDITION to textbook readings.

Basic Course Objectives:

- 1) To gain basic knowledge of how American government is structured, and why it was designed that way.
- 2) To understand how the American political process actually works, why it works that way, and how political realities match up with the intentions of those who created the American political system.
- 3) To learn about the various participants in the American political system, including the major societal institutions that interact with/within it.
- 4) To separate the theory and reality of the political system, while understanding the historical context.
- 5) To understand and appreciate the rights and privileges granted by the United States Constitution.
- 6) To gain a basic understanding of California state government, how it is structured, and how it functions.

Student Obligations:

- **In-class discussion is expected! :D You must have regular, weekly access to the course website.**

- **You must check your Delta College student email every day, in case I need to get in touch with you. Last-minute schedule changes (for example, I have to cancel a class meeting) will be emailed to you.**
- Read this syllabus carefully, as it is the administrative backbone of the course. You are responsible for knowing and understanding the information presented here. That being said, you should also understand that I may change or adjust course rules, procedures, assignments, and/or schedule as we go along. If you have questions, ask me!

Attendance/Enrollment

Refund date: 8/27.

Last drop date without a W: 9/10.

Last drop date with a W: 11/16.

Enrollment Information

- If you are currently on the waiting list, I'll add you as space is available.
- If you are NOT registered for the class and NOT currently on the official waiting list, talk to me after the first class and I'll add you if space is available.

Remember to CHECK YOUR ENROLLMENT now and periodically over the course of the semester to make sure you are actually signed up for the class; it's your responsibility to make sure you are appropriately enrolled. It's also your responsibility to drop yourself if you need to, for ANY reason. If you are in ANY doubt over the status of your enrollment, CHECK! If there's a problem, contact me and I'll try to help.

Attendance

- You must attend class regularly, take notes, and participate in discussions and activities. Participation, and by extension attendance, will affect your grade (See excused absence policy below).
- Please be on time, and plan to stay the whole class period. Yes, that means you're expected to come back after the break when we have one. :)
- **To verify your attendance, be sure to sign your enrollment name clearly on the attendance sheet at each class meeting.** This is important!

If you miss **any** of the **first three** class meetings for any reason, you may be dropped. This is pursuant to college Policy 5150, Section A:

“Any student who fails to attend any class session during the first three sessions of the class at the beginning of a term may be dropped from that class unless the student has advised and obtained an absence approval from the faculty member.”

Additionally:

“A faculty member shall mandatorily drop a student from class when the student's absences prior to the end of the fourth week of the semester exceed two weeks of class time (i.e. 2 X the number of times the class meets per week throughout the semester).” (Policy 5150, Section B)

However, if you need to drop the course at any time during the semester, please use the appropriate official channels to do so. DO NOT simply stop coming to class; I will not automatically assume you aren't coming back.

Excused Absences

- Jury duty and official Delta field trips are the only board-sanctioned excused absence types. In both cases, you must provide me with written documentation well in advance so I'll know why you're not in class.
- Other absences may be excused at my discretion on a case-by-case basis. NO GUARANTEES.

No Late Work/No Make-ups Policy

- All students must turn in all assignments and take all exams ON TIME. I cannot give credit for assignments/exams which have not been completed.
- In general, **I don't accept late work, nor do I schedule makeup exams.**
- **Exceptions:** I will reschedule exams in cases involving excused absences (see above) with written documentation provided well in advance. If your excused absence means you'll be away from class on a paper due date, arrange to turn in your paper early or send it to class on the due date with a classmate you trust.
- In cases involving extreme illness (you or an immediate family member), death of an immediate family member, or something similarly sudden and severe, I reserve the right to schedule make-ups or accept late work at my discretion and with no guarantees.
- Whether your situation involves an “officially-excused” absence or not, get in touch with me AS SOON AS POSSIBLE to discuss your options. Don't wait. Also, follow my instructions PRECISELY. If I ask you for written verification, bring it to me ASAP.

Assignments/Tests

- **READINGS:** You must complete weekly **assigned readings** on time (textbook and on the website), so you can participate during the scheduled discussion. This information sheet provides a tentative schedule, which may be adjusted as we go along. In the case of online readings, go to our course website and look under the appropriate meeting date.
- **COURSE PARTICIPATION:** If you attend class regularly and participate actively in class discussions, you will very likely get a high participation total. However, note that the precise participation scores will be awarded at my discretion.

- **EXAMS:** The **midterm and final** will be in class, closed-note, and closed-book. They will consist of essay questions and several definitions; there will most likely be 1 essay question and three definitions on the midterm, and 2 essay questions and five definitions on the final (actual numbers may vary, just so you know). **The final exam WILL be comprehensive.** Students must bring their own bluebooks or stapled packets of binder paper on which to write their exams. Please use blue or black ink and remember to double-space as you write.
- **RESEARCH ESSAY:** This short paper assignment is an opportunity for you to play “election pundit.” The paper will be due on **November 30**.

*Over the course of this semester, we'll discuss a number of political influences that affect voter choices and election outcomes. Further, you'll find a number of opinions presented in the news media as to the considerations that will affect midterm election results this November. Political scientists and reporters often remark about the changing role and influence of political parties on the electorate, but it's often difficult to parse exactly how and when this phenomenon applies. Before the election occurs, I'd like you to use the information you're learning in class and via the news media and various national polls to **decide how you think political parties and partisan politics will affect national outcomes in the November midterm elections.***

What will net Congressional results be? What do you think these results will signify about voter feelings and considerations, particularly when it comes to the two major political parties? What roles will party activities and identities - both in and out of government - play in determining voter choice? What other forces - such as third parties, independent candidates and voters, affiliated segments of the two majors (such as the Tea Party wing of the GOP), issue/ideological advocacy groups, and other special interests (many of them high-spending campaigners in their own rights, as well as major candidate campaign donors) - will affect the results, to what extent, and why? While the major races are Congressional and Gubernatorial, how might these results reflect upon public opinion of the President of the United States?

Once the November election is over, review and analyze your predictions. Do you think you were you right? Why or why not? Were there any factors that you think you may have overestimated, underestimated, or completely missed? In all, how much of a role do you think partisan considerations played in the outcomes of this election? Further, do you think this role supports or refutes the basic notions of partisan importance presented in our textbook?

- The **essay** should be your own work. You may not write papers in groups or pairs. It must be at least **four pages**, typed, double-spaced, using one side of the paper, in a 12 point font with NORMAL margins.

- Please use **MLA** citation formats in your **essay**. For assistance with MLA style, you are encouraged to visit the Writing Center on Main Campus, on the second floor of Holt Center. You are required to use at least five solid sources in researching your paper (national polls, major media outlet election reports, &c.). Remember to use online resources with caution. No Wikipedia or other encyclopedia resources will count toward the minimum five. For an unofficial (and thereby not necessarily always reliable) guide to using MLA style, do a Google search online. One version that may be helpful to you is located at <http://www.studyguide.org/MLAdocumentation.htm>.
- **Essays MUST be turned in in class, at the beginning of class, on the due date scheduled, and MAY NOT be rescheduled.** If you have a time conflict, arrange with me to turn your paper in early. **Late papers will not be accepted. Do not email me your papers unless I specifically ask you to do so. Do not hand in CDs or thumb drives. Do not leave papers at the Mountain House or Division offices (or in my box) unless I specifically ask you to do so. No rewrites. No re-scores.**
- **Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated.** If you copy another person's work, whether it's a student essay, a unique turn of phrase borrowed from a source without appropriate citation, or whole sentences/paragraphs/pages taken from the textbook without quotation or full citations, you are guilty of plagiarism. Plagiarism and cheating will result in a "zero" for the assignment or exam at issue, and possibly more. If you have questions as to what constitutes plagiarism, ask me. You can also learn more at the Writing Center in Holt Center on Main Campus.
- Once I have graded an assignment or exam, I will return it to you in class. Normal grading turnaround time is about 2 weeks, though it may take less/more time depending on our calendar and other circumstances. If you do not come to class on the day(s) I pass an assignment back, you must make arrangements to pick it up from me. Originals will be destroyed if you do not pick them up from me within two weeks of grading. I will not keep copies, nor will I store the originals for you. Final exams will not be returned unless you make arrangements with me beforehand.

Special Accommodations

- If you have a **disability** that is accommodated by college policy and procedure, you may be eligible for extra time during exams.
- In order to qualify, you must get approval to obtain services from the **Disability Support Programs and Services** office on main campus. For information on how to document your disability and obtain clearance for services, call the DSPS office or visit their web site at <http://www.deltacollege.edu/dept/dsps/howdoqualify.html>.
- Please understand that if you expect to utilize extra time allowances for an exam, you should plan to take the exam at the DSPS office on main campus (sometimes our Mountain House office staff has time to proctor extra-time exams, but they are not always available). You must also provide me with official

DSPS documentation AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, and well in advance of the exam in question (at least ten days), so that I can plan to have your test prompts delivered to the DSPS office on time. You will be required to take the exam on the regular exam date, or as close to it as possible. Once you have arranged with me to use your extra time option, you must then either get in touch with Lorene at the Mountain House admin. office or call DSPS to book your exam appointment.

Other Obligations

- Please be courteous, pleasant, and generally group-adaptable when dealing with classmates and the instructor. :) In other words, play nice.
- Disruptions, inappropriate behavior, eating, drinking, smoking, sleeping, whispering, chatting, talking, manipulation games, playing on your cell phone or other device, and flash photography are strictly prohibited. If you have cell phones, pagers, or anything else electronic that could be construed as noisy or annoying, please turn it off or set it to silent mode before class. Don't plan on text messaging or putting on makeup during class either. Repeated disruptions will result in your removal from the class (perhaps permanently).
- Also, realize that according to Delta College policy, **unenrolled persons are absolutely prohibited from attending classes or otherwise being present in the classroom.** This means no children and no guests. Thank you.
- **Stay tuned for more details. I reserve the right to clarify or change sections of this syllabus - including my course policies - to better serve the needs of the class as a whole.**

Grades:

Grades are based on one midterm, your essay, a comprehensive final exam, and class attendance/participation. I'm providing this point information so that you may track your progress as we go along.

Here's the basic point breakdown:

- 1 midterm: 80 points
- Essay: 80 points
- Final Exam: 110 points
- Participation: 30 points
- Total: 300 points

Overall letter grades are determined by the usual 0-100% scheme. 90-100%=A, 80-90%=B, 70-80%=C, 60-70%=D, and below 60%=F.

Tentative Schedule:

This is a list of topics, by class meeting, and the assignments to be discussed during each period. This is tentative. We may extend discussions, contract them, or add additional reading materials as we go along. **CA readings will be assigned later, and will include readings related to California ballot initiatives which you'll need to read for an in-class discussion activity.***

- Week 1 - August 17 - Class Intro.
- Week 2 - August 24 - Dilemmas of Democracy: Freedom, Order, and Equality
 - Majoritarian or Pluralist Democracy (**Janda, Chapter 1**)
- Week 3 - August 31 - The United States Constitution, Continued (**Janda, Chapter 2, and Hobbes, Locke, and *Federalist Papers* on website - required**)
- Week 4 - September 7 - Federalism (**Janda, Chapter 3**)
- Week 5 - September 14 - Public Opinion, Political Socialization, and the Media (**Janda, Chapter 4; LBJ's "Daisy" campaign commercial from 1964, courtesy of PBS.org and The 30 Second Candidate on website; Hillary Clinton "3am" campaign commercial from 2008**)
- Week 6 - September 21 - Participation & Voting (**Janda, Chapter 5**)
- Week 7 - September 28 - Political Parties, Nominations, Elections, & Campaigns...and the Majoritarian Ideal (**Janda, Chapter 6**)
- Week 8 - October 5 - Interest Groups (**Janda, Chapter 7; Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America* excerpt on website - required**)
 - Congress (**Janda, Chapter 8**)
- Week 9 - October 12 - The Presidency (**Janda, Chapter 9**)
- Week 10 - October 19 - The Bureaucracy (**Janda, Chapter 10**) and **REVIEW** for Midterm
- Week 11 - October 26 - **MIDTERM EXAM**
- Week 12 - November 2 - The Courts (**Janda, Chapter 11; Benjamin Cardozo, *The Nature of the Judicial Process* excerpt on website - required**)
- Week 13 - November 9 - Election Review
- Week 14 - November 16 - Order and Civil Liberties, continued (**Janda, Chapter 12; Ballot proposition readings on website - required**)

- Week 15 - November 23 - Equality and Civil Rights (**Janda, Chapter 13; *Bollinger Cases and Parents Involved in Community Schools v. Seattle School Dist. No. 1* section on website - required**)

- Week 16 - November 30 - Policymaking (**Janda, Chapter 14**)

- California as a microcosm...and more; State Constitution; CA State Government Structures* (**Korey Supplement**)

- **PAPER DUE**

- Week 17 - December 7 - California issues, campaigns, and elections; Local Government; California wrap-up* (**Korey Supplement**)

- **REVIEW for final exam**

- **Week 18 - Final Exam - Tuesday, December 14, 6-7:50pm. *This is a half-hour earlier than our usual meeting time!***