# POLITICAL SCIENCE 202

Introduction to American Government

Instructor: Dr Iraj Paydar

Fall Quarter 2016

**OFFICE: A200F** 

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We are delighted to have you study American Government and Politics this quarter. This class meets for lectures Monday through Friday mornings, 7:30am – 8:20am and 8:30am – 9:20am. You are required to fully participate in the discussions. There will be no makeup exams, except under exceptional circumstances. The final exam will be given only as the schedule indicates, and exceptions will be made only under special circumstances. Prior to such requests, the student must have good attendance and class participation. Please refrain from talking to your friends during the lecture. Anyone who is engaged in such behavior will be asked to leave the class. Please no electronic devices allowed during class time.

# **REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Wilson, James, American Government Institutions & Policies, Brief version, Cenage, 2016

This course entails discussion of U.S. Constitutional government in terms of theory & practice of democracy. Functions of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches of government will be covered. The course also covers political parties, interest groups, bureaucracy, and domestic and foreign policy.

# **LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

Upon completion of the course, the students will have attained knowledge and understanding of intergovernmental relations. The student will be able to discuss (orally and in writing) the following topics:

- Government and politics in a democracy; the Constitution; the meaning of Federalism
- Political participation; political beliefs in the context of American political culture
- Interest groups in politics and the political parties
- The economic system; social welfare policy; and civil liberties
- The congress, presidency, bureaucracy, judiciary, and foreign policy

# **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Students must read the required text, attend classes, participate in class discussions and take three exams. On Mondays there will be group discussions. Anyone who misses lectures, group work, or has not read the materials, will get 1 (one) point taken from his or her total points. Students are encouraged to read the material in advance. No late presentations will be accepted.

# **Grading:**

First mid-term	25%	A = 93-100	C + = 77 - 79	
Second mid-term	25%	A = 90-92	C = 73-76	
Final mid-term	25%	B+ = 87-89	C - = 70 - 72	
Participation	10%	B = 83-86	D+ = 67-69	
Written Assignment	15%		B - = 80 - 82	F = 59Below

# Specific Course Outcomes:

- Active participation in course discussions
- Group participation to analyze lecture materials and assigned chapters
- Presentation of topics with clarity
- Reading maps, charts and figures
- Understand the historical concepts terms and events
- Understand the social political economic impact of historical events that have taken place
- Follow computer assignments with analysis to be discussed in class
- Positive student interaction and respect of each other
- Students will learn activity, think critically, communicate with clarity and interact in a diverse and complex environment.

# **Topical Outline**

	Topical Outline	
Week 1	Study of American Government	Chapters 1&2
	The Constitution	Wilson
Week 2	Federalism	Chapter 3 Wilson
Week 3	Civil Liberties	Chapters 4&5
	Civil Rights	Wilson
Week 4	First Mid-Term	Chapter 6 Wilson
	Public Opinion and The Media	
Week 5	Political Parties	Chapters 7&8
	Interest Groups	Wilson
	Campaigns & Election	
Week 6	Congress	Chapters 9 & 10
	Presidency	Wilson
Week 7	Second Mid-Term	
	Bureaucracy	Chapters 11&12
	The Judiciary	Wilson
Week 8	Domestic Policy	Chapter 13 Wilson
Week 9	Foreign Policy	Chapter 14 Wilson
Week 10	Review	
Week 11	Final Exam	

Please read the attached policies of the Social Science Division.

# SUMMARY OF RULES OF CRITICAL THINKING

- 1. Engage in active information acquisition.
- 2. Be suspicious of individuals' self-reports of their own attitudes.
- 3. Don't jump to conclusions.
- 4. Beware of tautologies, or truisms.
- 5. Remember that correlation is not the same as causation.
- 6. Avoid over-simplification by considering alternative explanations.
- 7. Go beyond the obvious: discover what variables created the observed phenomenon.
- 8. Poke holes in all arguments, even your own.
- 9. Realize what your value judgments are.
- 10. Attempt to conquer your biases.
- 11. Define your terms.
- 12. Beware of prescriptive arguments.

ORAL PRESENTATION CRITIQUE				NAME:			
TODIC					DAT	E:	
TOPIC:							
Key: 1 = Needs Improveme	ent;	<b>3</b> = A	Average	;	$5 = \mathbf{E}$	xcellent	
Nonverbal Signals     (eye contact, general confidence level, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5		
2. Voice Quality (very effective delivery, talking too fast, slowly, so loudly, monotone, etc.)	1 ftly,	2	3	4	5		
3. <u>Preparation</u> (organized information, note practiced, etc.)		2	3	4	5		
4. <u>Level of Interest Presentation</u> Created (audience involvement creativity, etc.)		2	3	4	5		
5. Content of Information & Analysis, Audio/Visual Dis		2	3	4	5		

# OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF PRESENTATION:

# 1. Strengths:

# 2. Weaknesses:

# SELECTED EXAMPLES OF MEDIA RESOURCES

# I. Search Engines

www.yahoo.comwww.webrawler.comwww.altavista.comwww.hotbot.comwww.lycos.comwww.excite.com

# II. Websites for political science research

www.amnesty.orgwww.cia.govwww.law.comwww.senate.govwww.house.govwww.un.org

www.thomas.loc.gov www.congress.org www.whitehouse.gov

www.usconstitution.net

# III. Television and print resources

NBC, CBS, ABC, CNN, PBS, CNBC Christian Science Monitor, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, New York Times, The Seattle Times/PI

# IV. <u>Movies with a political theme (no all inclusive)</u>

Mr. Smith Goes to Washington Gideon's Trumpet
Beyond the Glass Ceiling
I Have a Dream
The Seduction of Joe Tyman
Missiles of October
On the Beach
Dr. Strangelove
The mouse that Roared
Hearts & Minds
The Last Emperor of China
The Red Empire

Children of Heaven

# Introduction to Political Science Suggested Reading

Saint Augustine, The City of God	Burke, Edmund, Reflections on the French Revolution
Hegel, G.W.F., The Philosophy of History	deTocqueville, Alexis, The Old Regime and the French Revolution
Marx, Karl, and Engels, Friedrich, The Communist	Dostoevsky, Fyodor, The Possessed
Manifesto	
Sorel, Georges, Reflections on Violence	Bury, J.B., The Idea of Progress
Berdyaev, Nicolas, The Meaning of History	Mairaux, Andre, Man's Fate
Buber, Martin, The Prophetic Faith	Popper, Karl, The Open Society and its Enemies
Luwith, Karl, Meaning in History	Niehbur, Reinhold, The Nature and Destiny of Man
Niehbur, Rheinhold, Faith and History	Niehbur, Reinhold, The Irony of American History
Strauss, Leo, Natural Right and History	Camus, Albert, The Rebel
Aultmann, Rudolf, History and Eschatology: The	Fanon, Frantz, The Wretched of the Earth
Presence of Eternity	, ,
Arendt, Hannah, On Revolution	Ellul, Jacdques, Autopsy of Revolution
Didion, Joan, The Book of Common Prayer	Plato, The Republic
Cicero, Marcus Tullius, On the Commonwealth	Saint Thomas Quinas, On Politics and Ethics, ed. and trans. Paul
	Sigmund
Machiavelli, Niccolo, The Discourses	Hobbes, Thomas, Leviathan
Locke, John, The Second Treatise of Government	Rousseau, jean Jacques, The Social Contract
Hamilton, Alexander; Jay, John; and Madison, James,	Hegel, G.W.F., Philosophy of Right
The Federalist	
Mill, John Stuart, On Liberty	Koestler, Arthur, Darkness at Noon
Orwell, George, 1984	Lippman, Walter, The Public Philosophy
Friedman, Milton, Capitalism and Freedom	Berlin, Isaiah, Four Essays on Liberty
Rawls, John, A Theory of Justice	Aristotle, Politics
Rousseau, Jean Jacques, Discourse on the Origin of	Kant, Immanuel, Critique of Practical Reason
Inequality	, , , , , ,
Paine, Thomas, The Rights of Man	deTocqueville, Alexis, Democracy in America
Kierkegaard, Seren, The Present Age	Mill, John Stuart, The Subjection of Women
Marz, Karl, Capital	Nietzsche, Friedrich, Thus Spake Sarathustra
Ortega y Gasset, Jose, The Revolt of the Masses	Camus, Albert, The Plague
Orwell, George, The Road to Wigan Pier	Okin, Susan Moller, Women in Western Political Thought
Elashtain, Jean Bethke, Public Man, Private Woman:	Benhabib, Seyla, and Cornell, Drucilla (eds.),
Women in Social and Political Thought	Feminism as Critique: on the Politics of Gender
Coole, Diane H., Women in Political Theory: From	Plato, Apology
ancient Misogyny to Contemporary Feminism	
Marcus Aurelius, Meditations	Saint Augustine, The Political Writings of St. Augustine, Ed. by H. Paolucci
Machiavelli, Niccolo, The Prince	Mill, John Stuart, Representative Government
Marx, Karl, The Civil War in France	Green, Thomas Hill, Lectures on the Principles of Political
<u> </u>	Obligation
Tolstoy, Leo, Resurrection	Niebuhr, Reinhold, Moral Man and Immoral Society
Niebuhr, Reinhold, The Children of Light and the	Tillieh, Paul, Love, Power, and Justice
Children of Darkness	
Arendt, Hannah, The Origins of Totalitarlanism	Arendit, Hannah, The Human Condition
Marquez, Gabriel Garcia, The Autumn of the	Kundera, Milan, The Unbearable Lightness of Being
Patricarch	
Plato, The Symposium	Dante Allghierl, On World-Government
Kant, Immanuel, The Fundamental Principles of the	Marx, Karl, Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts
etaphysic of Ethics	
Dostoevsky, Fyodor, The Brothers Karamazov	Durkheim, Emile, Suicide
Buber, Martin, I and Thou	Freud, Sigmund, Civilization and Its Discontents
Bergson, Henri, The Two Sources of Morality and Religion	Silone, Ignazio, Bread and Wine
Berdyaev, Nicolas, Slavery and Freedom	Fromm, Erich, Escape from Freedom
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Niebuhr, Reinhold, The Nature and Destiny of Man	Weil, Simone, The Need for Roots
Marcuse, Herbert, Eros and Civilization	Plato, Gorgias
Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics	Locke, A Letter Concerning Toleration
Mill, John Stuart, Utilitarianism	Dostoevsky, Fyodor, Crime and Punishment
Green, Thomas Hill, Lectures on the Principles of	Trosltsch, Ernst, The Social Teaching of the Christian Churches
Political Obligation	
Buber, Martin, Paths in Tuopia	Berdyaev, Nicolas, The Destiny of Man
Lippman, Walter, The Good Society	Eliot, T.S., The Idea of a Christian Society
Schumpeter, Joseph, Capitalism, Socialism, and	Dewey, John, Liberalism and Social Action
Democracy	
Niebuhr, H. Richard, Christ and Culture	Voegelin, Eric, The New Science of Politics
Wolff, Robert Paul, The Poverty of Liberalism	MacIntyre, Alasdair, After Virute: A Study of Moral Theory
Kariel, Henry, The Desperate Politics of Postmodernism	

# **Group Activities Day One of Class**

Pl	ease formulate responses to the following questions:
1.	Develop a list of words which you associate with the word, "politics".
2.	How has politics impacted you and the community where you live?
3.	Are ethics and politics interrelated? How?
4.	In the future, would you be interested in running for political office? Why or why not?
5.	Do you need government? Why or why not?

# PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION Revised Fall 2006

## Cheating, stealing and Plagiarizing\*

"Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue Community College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue Community College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Dean of Student Services."

# **Incomplete**

If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete (I). The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an "F").

#### F Grade

Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F".

## Final Examination Schedule

The Social Science Division will adhere to the final examination schedule as stated in the BCC Schedule. Final examinations will be held at the end of each quarter at fixed times. Instructors will not give examinations in advance of the regular schedule. A student who is absent from any examination held at any time during the quarter may forfeit the right to make up the examination. If, for illness or some other circumstance beyond the student's control, the student is unable to be present at any scheduled examination and has contacted the instructor on a timely basis, the student may be permitted to take such examination at a time designated by the instructor.

#### Withdrawal From Class

College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the seventh week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). If a student has not withdrawn by the date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.

## Hardship Withdrawal

Instructors may assign the grade of "HW" (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.

# Students With Special Needs

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are required to meet with the Disability Support Services (DSS) office, room B233-G (telephone (425) 564-4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DSS office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who require accommodation in class must review the DSS accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.

Students with mobility challenges who may need assistance in case of an emergency situation or evacuation should register with Disability Support Services, or review those needs with the instructor as well.

#### Distribution of Grades

Grades will not be posted in the Social Science Division or in faculty offices, and secretaries will not give out grades. Students should access their grades through the BCC Web site.

## Return of Papers and Test

Paper and/or Scantron score sheet returns will be arranged in the following ways ONLY: by mail, if student supplies the instructor with stamped, self-addressed envelope (with appropriate postage); or by the instructor designating a time and place whereby the student may retrieve his/her papers. Unclaimed papers and/or Scantron score sheets must be kept by the instructor for a minimum of sixty (60) instructional days following the end of the quarter.

\*If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue Community College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of division Chair (D110C), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.