

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 202**

Introduction to American Government

Instructor: Dr Iraj Paydar

Winter Quarter 2012

**OFFICE: A100A**

Office Hours: By Appointment

10:30AM-11:30AM

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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 morning, 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.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**Schmidt, W. Steffen, American Government & Politics Today, Wadsworth, 2008 - 2009**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

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	25%	B = 83-86	D+ = 67-69
		B- = 80-82	F = 59-Below

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**

Week 1	The foundations of American Government	Ch. 1 Schmidt
Week 2	Forgoing a New Government: The Constitution	Ch. 2 Schmidt
Week 3	Federalism	Ch. 3 Schmidt
Week 4	<b>First Mid-Term</b> Civil Liberties, Civil Rights	Ch. 4 & 5 Schmidt
Week 5	Public Opinion, Political Socialization & the Media Interest Groups & Political Parties	Ch. 6 & 7 Schmidt
Week 6	Campaign & Elections Voting Behavior The Congress	Ch. 8 & 9 Schmidt
Week 7	<b>Second Mid-Term</b> The Presidency	Ch. 10 Schmidt
Week 8	The Bureaucracy & Judiciary	Ch. 11&12Schmidt
Week 9	Domestic & Economic Policy	Ch. 13 Schmidt
Week 10	Foreign Policy	Ch. 14 Schmidt
Week 11	<b>Final Exam</b>	

*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: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

TOPIC: \_\_\_\_\_

**Key:** 1 = Needs Improvement; 3 = Average; 5 = Excellent

1. <u>Nonverbal Signals</u> (eye contact, general confidence level, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5	_____
2. <u>Voice Quality</u> (very effective delivery, talking too fast, slowly, softly, loudly, monotone, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5	_____
3. <u>Preparation</u> (organized information, notes, practiced, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5	_____
4. <u>Level of Interest Presentation</u> Created (audience involvement, creativity, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5	_____
5. <u>Content of Information &amp; Analysis, Audio/Visual Display</u>	1	2	3	4	5	_____

### OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF PRESENTATION:

#### 1. Strengths:

#### 2. Weaknesses:

## SELECTED EXAMPLES OF MEDIA RESOURCES

### I. Search Engines

[www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com)

[www.hotbot.com](http://www.hotbot.com)

[www.webcrawler.com](http://www.webcrawler.com)

[www.lycos.com](http://www.lycos.com)

[www.altavista.com](http://www.altavista.com)

[www.excite.com](http://www.excite.com)

### II. Websites for political science research

[www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org)

[www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)

[www.thomas.loc.gov](http://www.thomas.loc.gov)

[www.usconstitution.net](http://www.usconstitution.net)

[www.cia.gov](http://www.cia.gov)

[www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)

[www.congress.org](http://www.congress.org)

[www.law.com](http://www.law.com)

[www.un.org](http://www.un.org)

[www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)

### 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. Movies with a political theme (no all inclusive)

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, <i>The City of God</i>	Burke, Edmund, <i>Reflections on the French Revolution</i>
Hegel, G.W.F., <i>The Philosophy of History</i>	deTocqueville, Alexis, <i>The Old Regime and the French Revolution</i>
Marx, Karl, and Engels, Friedrich, <i>The Communist Manifesto</i>	Dostoevsky, Fyodor, <i>The Possessed</i>
Sorel, Georges, <i>Reflections on Violence</i>	Bury, J.B., <i>The Idea of Progress</i>
Berdyayev, Nicolas, <i>The Meaning of History</i>	Mairaux, Andre, <i>Man's Fate</i>
Buber, Martin, <i>The Prophetic Faith</i>	Popper, Karl, <i>The Open Society and its Enemies</i>
Luwith, Karl, <i>Meaning in History</i>	Niebuhr, Reinhold, <i>The Nature and Destiny of Man</i>
Niebuhr, Reinhold, <i>Faith and History</i>	Niebuhr, Reinhold, <i>The Irony of American History</i>
Strauss, Leo, <i>Natural Right and History</i>	Camus, Albert, <i>The Rebel</i>
Aultmann, Rudolf, <i>History and Eschatology: The Presence of Eternity</i>	Fanon, Frantz, <i>The Wretched of the Earth</i>
Arendt, Hannah, <i>On Revolution</i>	Ellul, Jacques, <i>Autopsy of Revolution</i>
Didion, Joan, <i>The Book of Common Prayer</i>	Plato, <i>The Republic</i>
Cicero, Marcus Tullius, <i>On the Commonwealth</i>	Saint Thomas Aquinas, <i>On Politics and Ethics</i> , ed. and trans. Paul Sigmund
Machiavelli, Niccolo, <i>The Discourses</i>	Hobbes, Thomas, <i>Leviathan</i>
Locke, John, <i>The Second Treatise of Government</i>	Rousseau, Jean Jacques, <i>The Social Contract</i>
Hamilton, Alexander; Jay, John; and Madison, James, <i>The Federalist</i>	Hegel, G.W.F., <i>Philosophy of Right</i>
Mill, John Stuart, <i>On Liberty</i>	Koestler, Arthur, <i>Darkness at Noon</i>
Orwell, George, <i>1984</i>	Lippman, Walter, <i>The Public Philosophy</i>
Friedman, Milton, <i>Capitalism and Freedom</i>	Berlin, Isaiah, <i>Four Essays on Liberty</i>
Rawls, John, <i>A Theory of Justice</i>	Aristotle, <i>Politics</i>
Rousseau, Jean Jacques, <i>Discourse on the Origin of Inequality</i>	Kant, Immanuel, <i>Critique of Practical Reason</i>
Paine, Thomas, <i>The Rights of Man</i>	deTocqueville, Alexis, <i>Democracy in America</i>
Kierkegaard, Søren, <i>The Present Age</i>	Mill, John Stuart, <i>The Subjection of Women</i>
Marx, Karl, <i>Capital</i>	Nietzsche, Friedrich, <i>Thus Spake Zarathustra</i>
Ortega y Gasset, Jose, <i>The Revolt of the Masses</i>	Camus, Albert, <i>The Plague</i>
Orwell, George, <i>The Road to Wigan Pier</i>	Okin, Susan Moller, <i>Women in Western Political Thought</i>
Elashtain, Jean Bethke, <i>Public Man, Private Woman: Women in Social and Political Thought</i>	Benhabib, Seyla, and Cornell, Drucilla (eds.), <i>Feminism as Critique: on the Politics of Gender</i>
Coole, Diane H., <i>Women in Political Theory: From ancient Misogyny to Contemporary Feminism</i>	Plato, <i>Apology</i>
Marcus Aurelius, <i>Meditations</i>	Saint Augustine, <i>The Political Writings of St. Augustine</i> , Ed. by H. Paolucci
Machiavelli, Niccolo, <i>The Prince</i>	Mill, John Stuart, <i>Representative Government</i>
Marx, Karl, <i>The Civil War in France</i>	Green, Thomas Hill, <i>Lectures on the Principles of Political Obligation</i>
Tolstoy, Leo, <i>Resurrection</i>	Niebuhr, Reinhold, <i>Moral Man and Immoral Society</i>
Niebuhr, Reinhold, <i>The Children of Light and the Children of Darkness</i>	Tillie, Paul, <i>Love, Power, and Justice</i>
Arendt, Hannah, <i>The Origins of Totalitarianism</i>	Arendt, Hannah, <i>The Human Condition</i>
Marquez, Gabriel Garcia, <i>The Autumn of the Patriarch</i>	Kundera, Milan, <i>The Unbearable Lightness of Being</i>
Plato, <i>The Symposium</i>	Dante Alighieri, <i>On World-Government</i>
Kant, Immanuel, <i>The Fundamental Principles of the metaphysics of Ethics</i>	Marx, Karl, <i>Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts</i>
Dostoevsky, Fyodor, <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i>	Durkheim, Emile, <i>Suicide</i>
Buber, Martin, <i>I and Thou</i>	Freud, Sigmund, <i>Civilization and Its Discontents</i>
Bergson, Henri, <i>The Two Sources of Morality and Religion</i>	Silone, Ignazio, <i>Bread and Wine</i>
Berdyayev, Nicolas, <i>Slavery and Freedom</i>	Fromm, Erich, <i>Escape from Freedom</i>
Niebuhr, Reinhold, <i>The Nature and Destiny of Man</i>	Weil, Simone, <i>The Need for Roots</i>
Marcuse, Herbert, <i>Eros and Civilization</i>	Plato, <i>Gorgias</i>

<b>Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i></b>	<b>Locke, <i>A Letter Concerning Toleration</i></b>
<b>Mill, John Stuart, <i>Utilitarianism</i></b>	<b>Dostoevsky, Fyodor, <i>Crime and Punishment</i></b>
<b>Green, Thomas Hill, <i>Lectures on the Principles of Political Obligation</i></b>	<b>Troeltsch, Ernst, <i>The Social Teaching of the Christian Churches</i></b>
<b>Buber, Martin, <i>Paths in Tuopia</i></b>	<b>Berdyaev, Nicolas, <i>The Destiny of Man</i></b>
<b>Lippman, Walter, <i>The Good Society</i></b>	<b>Eliot, T.S., <i>The Idea of a Christian Society</i></b>
<b>Schumpeter, Joseph, <i>Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy</i></b>	<b>Dewey, John, <i>Liberalism and Social Action</i></b>
<b>Niebuhr, H. Richard, <i>Christ and Culture</i></b>	<b>Voegelin, Eric, <i>The New Science of Politics</i></b>
<b>Wolff, Robert Paul, <i>The Poverty of Liberalism</i></b>	<b>MacIntyre, Alasdair, <i>After Virtue: A Study of Moral Theory</i></b>
<b>Kariel, Henry, <i>The Desperate Politics of Postmodernism</i></b>	

## Group Activities

### Day One of Class

Please 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.

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\*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.