

American Government 202 Online
Spring Quarter 2011
Instructor: Dr. Leena Shah
Credits 5
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Office hrs by appointment

Course Description

This is a course on American Government and politics. This course is designed to familiarize you with the basics of American government. We will look at how the three branches of government work. We will study their powers and role in American government. We will also discuss federalism, civil rights and civil liberties, the difference between the two and their impact. In addition we will try and gain understanding of the media and its role. We will also look at the bureaucracy, interest groups and political parties. We will briefly examine foreign and domestic policies especially in the current environment. Lastly we will apply everything to current events. Thus making it easier to understand how politics works in the daily context.

Course Objectives

By the end of the quarter students should be able to

1. Clearly define and identify the three branches of government
2. Analyze the concept of democracy and the role and influence of the interest groups
3. Integrate the knowledge for a personal understanding of how the political process works
4. Evaluate underlying assumptions presented by other authors
5. Discuss the role of the media
6. Apply this concept to the contemporary world.

Requirements

Textbook

American Democracy Now by Harrison and Harris(2nd ed)

A good knowledge of computers is required. All the work is to be done online and therefore it is necessary that you have access to a computer and know how to work the computer.

Students are required to do the readings and do all their homework assignments through Connect. You will be given a code in your book which will enable you to log in to the Connect site. If your book purchase is delayed then you can for three weeks use the Connect site for free. The link to Connect is http://connect.mcgraw-hill.com/class/l_shah_spring_2011_obs_1

I will be posting announcements from time to time therefore it is important that you check the **Announcement page every single day**. In addition I may make changes to the schedule so it is essential you keep yourself updated and not fall behind.

Homework Quiz

Every week you will complete a chapter quiz. These quizzes are on Connect and when you log in to that site you will see the chapter homework. Each one is due at the end of the week on Friday 10pm. **No late assignments will be accepted.** These quizzes are 50 percent of your grade.

Written Critiques

There will be 2 written critiques which will be emailed to me on Blackboard Vista. Please do not email them on my college email. I get a lot of junk mail and sometimes your mail might get misplaced. So both these assignments will be turned in as an attachment through the email on Vista. The first written assignment will be on "Waiting for Superman". This is a movie that you can rent from the video store. You will examine how the movie impacts politics. The first page will be a synopsis of the film. The rest of the critique will be a critical analysis and what you think about the education system as compared with other countries. Lastly what recommendations would you make to the director and the government on education? This paper should be **double spaced, in word format regular font 12pt, and 3 pages long.** Due on the 29th April. It is worth 5 points.

The 2nd paper will be a critical analysis of an article. I will post the link of the article as we get closer. This will be due on May 27th. This will also be 5 points worth, double space, regular font 12pts and 3 pages long and in MLA style. The first page will be a summary of the article and then the rest will be an analysis. Make sure to cite other authors who have written on the same subject.

All papers to be sent as an attachment to the Vista email. No other way will be Accepted.

Class Discussions

Under the discussion folder once a week I will post an article for discussion. You will read and summarize the article in about one paragraph and then respond to two other students' responses. It is not sufficient to say I agree. You will respond in about 7 to 8 lines minimum about why you agree or disagree with the other classmates' arguments. What recommendations could you make to the author of the article? The article will be posted by me on Monday morning and then you will have up to Friday night 10pm to complete the discussion. I will close the board on Friday night after which you will not be able to access them. These discussions will be worth 20 points for 10 weeks. We will not have any discussions in the 1st week of classes. The discussions will begin from the 2nd week onwards.

Final Exam

There will be a final take home essay exam. I will post it in the **announcement page** and you will have 24 hrs to complete it and send it as an attachment in **word to my Vista email**. This will cover the entire course. Since it is a take home you can consult your book for the appropriate answers. This will be worth 20 points. There will be 4 essay questions of 5points each. I like details and therefore will expect good solid logical answers with plenty of details. It will be posted on the 9th June and you will return it to me via Vista the next day. I will post it at 9am on 9th June and you will return it to me by 9am on 10th June.

How to get in touch with me

You can email me through the Vista site. I will try and respond promptly. I will however not check my email on weekends. So be patient. Please do not send me email on the college email address as I get a lot of junk mail and may miss your mail.

Grades will be assigned on a percentage basis

- A 95 and above (4.0)
- A- 90-94(3.7)
- B+ 87-89 (3.3)
- B 84-86 (3.0)
- B- 80-83 (2.7)
- C+ 77-79 (2.3)
- C 74-76 (2.0)
- C- 71-73 (1.7)
- D+ 67-70 1.3)
- D 64-66 (1.0)
- F Below 64 (0.0)

Total Points

Homework from the connect site	50 points
2 critiques	10 points
Class discussions	20 points
Final	20 points
Total	100 points

Readings and homework (Reading the book and taking the quizzes on Connect)

Week 1 Read chapter 1 and then go to the Connect site and take the quiz. You will be limited to 35 minutes. After you have completed the quiz, you can see how you did by going to Learning smart on Connect. This will give you an idea of what your weaknesses and strengths are.

Week 2 Read chapter 2 and take the quiz again.

Week 3 Now you should be ready to read more chapters. This week you will read chapters 3 and 4. Again take the quiz.

Week 4 Read chapters 5 and 6 and take the quiz

Week 5 Read chapters 7 and 8 and take the quiz

Week 6 Read chapters 9 and 10 and take the quiz

Week 7 Read chapters 11 and 12 and take the quiz

Week 9 Read chapters 14 and 15 and take the quiz

Week 10 Read chapter 16 and take the quiz

Week 11 Read chapter 17 and take the quiz

Final will be posted on June 9th and you will have 24 hrs to complete and return it.

Please see below the policies of the Social Science Division

PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION

Fall 2010

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 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 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 BC 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 that 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 Who Require Disability Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are encouraged to meet with the Disability Resource Centre (DRC) office located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who require accommodation in class should review the DRC 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 Resource Centre, and 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 BC Web site.

Return of Papers and Tests

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 College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (D110), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.*