

POLITICAL SCIENCE 202 (ITEM #5596)
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
FALL QUARTER 2009

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course is designed to familiarize the students with the basic elements of the American system. The primary objective of the course is to provide the student with an understanding of American Government and Politics. The course focus will be:

1. To gain an understanding of the American government as a system; a series of interrelated components (Congress, Presidency, Courts, Elections, etc.) interacting to provide certain results.
2. To learn about the concept of democracy.
3. To be able to integrate this knowledge for a personal understanding of how the political process works.

INSTRUCTOR:

Aslam Khan
Office: D-200C
Office Hours: Tues& Thur 11:30 to 12:30. Also available online.
and by appt only
Telephone: 425-564-2338
Email: akhan@bellevuecollege.edu

REQUIRED TEXT:

Thomas E. Patterson, We the People: concise edition to American Politics, 8th Edition 2009 (MGraw Hill)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students must complete all reading assignments, participate in class discussion, submit written assignments and take all examinations as scheduled. Moreover, the students are expected to attend classes on a regular basis. This course requires access to VISTA and basic Internet proficiency. On campus sessions meet on the day listed. The balance of instruction occurs online as directed by the instructor.

TESTS:

There will be 5 tests in the quarter. In addition to the tests, there will be online assessment quizzes. These will be accounted for in the entire grade. The online assessments will be found under the **Assessment** heading. These will be assigned on a weekly basis.

DISCUSSIONS:

Students will post discussions in the discussion folder on a regular basis. The topic for the discussion will be posted by the instructor.

OBJECTIVES:

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. Evaluate the basic nature of Constitutional government in America.
2. Understand concepts such as separation of power and checks and balances as outlined in the constitution.
3. Recall and define problems of individual rights, popular representation and responsible leadership.
4. Identify roles of the Executive department, the Congress, and the Judicial branch.
5. Have an understanding of the public policy making process in the U.S.
6. Have the skills and knowledge necessary for analyzing American politics according to the ideals of American democracy.

GRADES:

Grades will be determined by class average for each exam taken in the class. Sixty percent of the grade will be based on in-class examinations. The other forty percent of the grade will be based on the material assigned on the VISTA on a weekly basis. The breakdown of the grading (Vista) will be explained in the class.

The grading structure will be based as follows:

A	C
A-	C-
B+	D+
B-	D
C+	F

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT:

This course involves the discussion of controversial political issues. Remember that reasonable people often disagree. The challenge and requirement of this course is to maintain civil discourse. We will achieve this by following three basic rules:

1. Use polite and civil behavior
 - Maintain calm level and tone of speech.
 - Allow others to finish their statements uninterrupted.
 - Respect others and respect yourself by focusing on evidence rather than emotion.
2. Use clearly defined terms (providing your own definitions if necessary).
3. Strictly avoid inflammatory, derogatory and insulting words, phrases and labels.

READINGS:

PART I CONSTITUTIONAL PRINCIPLES

Chapter 1. American Political Culture: Seeking the Perfect Union

Chapter 2. Constitutional Democracy: Promoting Liberty and Self Government

Chapter 3. Federalism: Forging a Nation

EXAM 1 October 6, 2009

PART II Rights and Liberties

Chapter 4 Civil Liberties: Protecting Individual Rights

Chapter 5. Equal Rights: Struggling toward Fairness

EXAM 2 October 20, 2009

PART III THE POLITICAL PROCESS

Chapter 6 Public Opinion and Political Socialization: Shaping the People's Voice

Chapter 8 Political Parties, Candidates and Campaigns: Defining the Voters' Choice

Chapter 10. The News Media: Communicating Political Images

EXAM 3 November 3, 2009

PART IV POLICY-MAKING INSTITUTIONS

Chapter 11. Congress: Balancing National Goals and Local Interests

Chapter 12 The Presidency: Leading the Nation

Chapter 14 The Federal Judicial System: Applying the Law

EXAM 4 November 17, 2009

PART V THE POLITICS OF NATIONAL POLICY

Chapter 15 Economic And Environmental Policy: Contributing to Prosperity

Chapter 17 Foreign And Defense Policy: Protecting the American Way

EXAM 5 December 3, 2009

Final meeting will be announced in class.

PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION

Revised Fall 2009

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.