

POLSC& 202

American Government

Fall 2008

Item number 5576 OAS 5577 OAC Online

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On campus hours: 10:30-11:20 M/W. A100A

Required Texts: Essentials of American Government by O'Connor and Sabato  
0205553362Pub: Longman, 2008

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. You must check in with this class online every day, Monday through Friday, throughout the quarter. There will be changes in readings and assignments throughout the course. I have found that it is impossible not to change a course slightly to suit the needs of that particular quarter or that particular set of students. You are responsible for checking announcements and for participating in discussion EVERY WEEK. If you fail to do so, your grade will suffer both in participation points and in your overall work. Participating in discussions will help you to succeed in the rest of the course.

Essays: Papers are due on the dates set in the calendar below. Be aware that the calendar may change. I reserve the right to change due dates, etc. Please take the time to get the phone number of another student in class, or call or e-mail me when you miss to make sure that you are consistently meeting the demands of the class.

All papers must be typed with standard margins and font. Please use the title of the essay on the top of your paper to identify your essay. Each essay must also include the **name of the author on each page**. Hand in all relevant papers at the time the essay is due. Each essay is 2-3 full pages in length, typed and double spaced. Please do not submit longer papers. Short papers will also not be accepted. **The instructor will not read short essays or long essays.**

Essays are to be typed in 10 or 12 point, Times New Roman or a comparable font. If the formatting does not work or you cannot transmit in Word for any reason, do not worry. Just get the paper to me. I can fix the formatting or just ignore it. Focus on writing a strong essay and submitting it on time in full. Please submit papers in Word. If you do not have Word or you cannot submit in Word, please copy your paper into an email. I will try to download your work with my word processing program. If they are incompatible, you need to copy the paper into an email. If you need help with this function, please send me an email and I will send you directions.

Plagiarism: **Plagiarism will not be tolerated.** Any student caught plagiarizing will receive a failing grade and their paper will be turned over to the appropriate authorities. The college subscribes to plagiarism web sites. Students may not use papers written for other courses. Each paper should be unique for this course. Any student who is unclear on plagiarism or the

instructors and division policies regarding plagiarism should consult the student handbook, Social Science Division policies and the writing lab web site at Bellevue Community College.

Grading:

Weekly discussions 15 %  
Simulation participation 5%

Simulation response paper 10%  
Paper 1 10 %  
Paper 2 10 %  
Paper 3 10 %  
Midterm 20%  
Final 20 %

Calendar

Week	Assignments			
<b>Week 1</b>  <b>September 22-26</b>	Introduction  <u>Quarter Starts</u> First day of online classes  Day of Exploration. Please take this time to explore the cite. You will need several hours to do this fully		<b>First Day to Check in to Discussion Cite.</b>  <b>Discussion 1 Begins</b>  Topic: Foundations of the Union	<i>Note: Topics, lectures, discussions and Readings are complementary. They will rarely repeat themes. You are responsible for all aspects of the course on exams, essays and discussions.</i>
<b>Week 2</b>  <b>September 29-October 3</b>	Readings:  Chapter 2, 3  Topic: Structures			<b>Weekly Discussion 1 Closes at Noon</b>
<b>Week 3</b>  <b>October 6-10</b>	This week we launch into current elections			<b>Weekly Discussion 3 Closes at Noon</b>

	<p><b>Weekly Discussion 2 Closes at Noon !</b></p> <p>Readings: Chapters 11, 12</p> <p><b>Essay #1 Due 8am</b></p>				
<p><b>Week 4</b></p> <p><b>October 13-17</b></p>	<p><i>Readings:</i> Chapter 10</p> <p>Topic: The Media</p>				<p><b>Weekly Discussion 4 Closes at Noon!</b></p>
<p><b>Week 5</b></p> <p><b>October 20-24</b></p>	<p><i>Readings:</i> Chapter 6, 7</p> <p>Topic: Rights? What Rights?</p>		<p><b>Essay #2 Due 8am</b></p>		<p><b>Weekly Discussion 5 Closes at Noon</b></p>
<p><b>Week 6</b></p> <p><b>October 27-31</b></p>	<p><i>Readings:</i> Chapter 7, 8</p> <p>Topic: Back to the Basics</p>		<p><b>Midterm</b></p>		<p><b>Weekly Discussion 6 Closes at Noon</b></p>
<p><b>Week 7</b></p> <p><b>November 1-7</b></p>	<p><i>Readings:</i> Chapter 9</p> <p>Topic: Law</p>				<p><b>Weekly Discussion 7 Closes at Noon</b></p>
<p><b>Week 8</b></p> <p><b>November 10-14</b></p>	<p><i>Readings:</i> Chapter 4, 5</p> <p>Topic: The Quest for Liberty</p>				
<p><b>Week 9</b></p> <p><b>November 17-21</b></p>					

<b>Week 10</b> <b>November</b> <b>24-28</b>	Simulation Begins  Readings: Chapter 13, 14				<b>Weekly Discussion 8 Closes at Noon</b>
<b>Week 11</b> <b>December</b> <b>1-5</b>	<b>Weekly Discussion 9 Closes at Noon !</b>		<b>Essay #3 Due 8am</b>		<b>Weekly Discussion 10 Closes at Noon !</b>
<b>Week 12</b> <b>December</b> <b>10-12</b>	<i>Finals</i>	<i>Finals</i>	<i>Finals</i>		

This schedule is for your convenience only. This schedule is subject to change at the instructors' discretion at any time in the quarter.

**Weekly Discussions** You are required to participate in 10 weekly discussions among your other duties in the class. You must contribute 2 SUBSTANTIVE comments to every Weekly Discussion. You will not be required to participate in discussion during finals week.

You must contribute to comments:

1. An original statement on the topic ie your answer to the question. You do not have to limit yourself to one comment but you must contribute AT LEAST one comment.
2. You must also comment on at least one other students work in a REPLY. Again, you may comment as often as you like, but you must reply to at least one other student's comments.

Try to pay particular attention to student comments that do not have any other responses. This helps to balance discussion. You cannot use something like, "I totally agree with the author". That is not enough. I hate to bring this up but, if I do not, someone will post a series of very short comments and expect a high grade. It is simply not fair to the other students if you decide to

coast. Really contribute. I am always amazed at what my students have to offer when they take the time and really commit to the class.

This is a fairly loose discussion so questions about the text or comments by the instructor or other students are totally acceptable. It is also reasonable here to include your own personal experience and thoughts on contemporary events.

Remember to be respectful of me and of the other students but this is your forum and you should enjoy yourself here. Some really lively discussions come out of this forum. Let's shoot for that.

**The Final:** The final is not cumulative in the traditional sense. I will not ask questions from the first half of the course on the final. However, some concepts are relevant to all portions of the course and you are welcome to bring those concepts in to the final. You are not required to and a perfect score does not require information directly from the first part of the course. I do award extra points for exceptional work or for creativity. Answer every question to the best of your ability. I definitely award points for humor.

### **Open Discussion, Questions and Forums Open Discussion is for your use.**

Post questions for me or for other students as well as any commentary on contemporary events you would like to contribute. If you have questions about how to use the computer, use the site or questions about an assignment or exam, please post them here as the answer may help everyone.

I will post new information under Announcements and you are required to check there on a daily basis. I will make every effort to inform you about calendar or assignment changes as quickly as I can. However, please check regularly as I reserve the right to change things as we go along. It is your responsibility to keep informed. I will do the best I can to keep you up to date. Forums will be opened as the course goes along. You may also form study groups or have live discussions on a bulletin board. Just let me know and I will open one for you.

My email is [dvaughan@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:dvaughan@bellevuecollege.edu) There is also an email on the site which I check every time I access the site. Please be very selective about what you put on individual email. My box gets flooded and that makes it very difficult to give the site all the time I would like to.

**Please ask questions in the Question forum.** They may be useful to other students and I may be able to avoid some email that way. Also, other students may know the answer and also save me from being buried in email. Please be considerate. That said, I will respond to email. If you are as considerate as students have been in the past, I will be able to respond very quickly. I have a record now of responding within 24 hours to questions during the work week.

I actually try not to respond on the weekend or this computer sucks away my life so do not expect replies on the weekend. I do sometimes reply so go ahead and send them but I probably won't get to it until Monday morning. I will respond within 2 days. I will try to answer sooner.

**IF I DO NOT RESPOND TO YOUR EMAIL WITHIN 48 HOURS DURING THE NORMAL WORK WEEK, ASSUME YOUR EMAIL DID NOT REACH ME.** I have always responded within 48 hours to date. I may respond that I need a day or so to get back to you, but I will reply. If I don't reply, it is a good bet that I did not receive the email.

Welcome to the course and Enjoy!