

Political Science 102 OAS/C

American Government

Spring 2008

Item number 5614-5615

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Please try first to reach me by email. I can arrange to meet you online for a chat or to call you if necessary. On campus office hours 9:30-10:20 M/W.

Required Texts: Essentials of American Government with MyPoliSci Lab
Oconnor
0205575374

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 1-3 full pages in length, typed and double spaced. This is about 900-1200 words. 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 %

NOTE ON SIMULATIONS: I run simulations in my on-campus courses. You are welcome to join in those simulations. We will run a short simulation in the ‘virtual world’ here as well. If, however, you want to join the on-campus simulations, you are welcome. It is a good way to join in the larger group and touch base with the concepts. Please email me if you would like to join in!

Calendar

| Week | Assignments | | | | |
|------------------|---------------|---|---|-----------------|--|
| <i>Week 1</i> | <i>Monday</i> | <i>Tuesday</i> | <i>Wednesday</i> | <i>Thursday</i> | <i>Friday</i> |
| <i>April 1-4</i> | No class | Introduction <u>Quarter Starts</u> First day of online | First Day to Check in to Discussion Cite. Discussion | | Note: <i>Topics, lectures, discussions and Readings are complementary. They will rarely repeat themes. You are responsible for</i> |

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| | | classes Day of Exploration. Please take this time to explore the cite. You will need several hours to do this fully. | 1 Begins | | <i>all aspects of the course on exams, essays and discussions.</i> |
| Week 2 April 7-11 | Monday Weekly Topic: <i>Foundations of Democracy</i> Readings: <i>Chapters 2,3</i> | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday Weekly Discussion 1 Closes at Noon ! |
| Week 3 April 14-18 | Monday Weekly Discussion 2 Closes at Noon ! Essay #1 Due 8am Weekly Topic: <i>Structure of Government: The Basics</i> Readings: <i>Chapters 6,7</i> | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday Weekly Discussion 3 Closes at Noon ! |
| Week 4 April | Monday Weekly Topic: | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday Weekly Discussion 4 |

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| 21-25 | <i>Balancing Government</i> <i>Readings: Chapter 8,9</i> | | | | Closes at Noon! |
| Week 5 April 28- May 2 | <i>Monday</i> <i>Weekly Topic: Foundations of Rights</i> <i>Readings: Chapter 4</i> | <i>Tuesday</i> | <i>Wednesday</i> Essay #2 Due 8am | <i>Thursday</i> | <i>Friday</i> Weekly Discussion 5 Closes at Noon ! |
| Week 6 May 5-9 | <i>Monday</i> <i>Weekly Topic: Rights Continued</i> <i>Readings: Chapter 5</i> | <i>Tuesday</i> NO CLASS | <i>Wednesday</i> Midterm | <i>Thursday</i> | <i>Friday</i> Weekly Discussion 6 Closes at Noon ! |
| Week 7 May 12-16 | <i>Monday</i> <i>Weekly Topic: The Role of Public Opinion</i> <i>Readings: Chapter 10</i> | <i>Tuesday</i> | <i>Wednesday</i> | <i>Thursday</i> | <i>Friday</i> Weekly Discussion 7 Closes at Noon ! |
| Week 8 May 19-23 | <i>Monday</i> <i>Weekly Topic: Elections: Democracy in Action</i> <i>Readings: Chapter 11, 12</i> | <i>Tuesday</i> | <i>Wednesday</i> | <i>Thursday</i> | <i>Friday</i> |
| Week | <i>Monday</i> | <i>Tuesday</i> | <i>Wednesday</i> | <i>Thursday</i> | <i>Friday</i> |

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| 9 May 26-30 | NO CLASS | <i>Weekly Topic: Domestic Policy</i> | | | Weekly Discussion 8 Closes at Noon ! |
| | | <i>Readings: Chapter 13</i> | | | |
| Week 10 June 2-6 | <i>Monday</i> Weekly Discussion 9 Closes at Noon ! <i>Weekly Topic: Foreign Policy</i> <i>Readings: Chapter 14</i> | <i>Tuesday</i> | <i>Wednesday</i> | <i>Thursday</i> | <i>Friday</i> Essay #3 Due 8am Weekly Discussion 10 Closes at Noon ! |
| Week 11 June 9-13 | <i>Monday</i> | <i>Tuesday</i> | <i>Wednesday Finals</i> | <i>Thursday Finals</i> | <i>Friday</i> Finals Quarter Ends |

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. Lets shoot for that.

Seminar Discussions:

Seminar discussions are slightly more formal and I expect you to treat them that way. You may still feel free to explore just about any avenue on the topic you want to but you will be replying to a specific question that I put forth. You are graded here on your personal answer to the question.

DO NOT fall into the common trap and respond on just your personal experience. While your experience is fascinating (I am not being funny here. I mean that) you must rely **FIRST AND FOREMOST** on the book, news reports, magazines, etc. that provide a more objective and verifiable resource. I am interested in your personal experience. Save it, though, until you are done with the question.

You need only post here **ONCE**. You may post more often if you like. You will not receive more than the maximum points for each assignment but you are welcome to continue discussion. Midterm and Final These will be open book, take home, style exams. You will be asked a series of short answer and essay questions. You are welcome to use your book. You may not use other students and I expect that you will be honorable in your test taking. Use only your own mind and the materials and discussion from the class. If you have read something relevant or watched it on the news, these are also appropriate sources but you are not required to use any outside material and none should be needed to complete the exams. Your family members, old instructors or papers and notes written by your frat or sorority mates are not acceptable sources. This is your honor at stake. Please be honest.

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@bcc.ctc.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.

Telephone and meetings. I try to avoid long distance phone calls. If you are panicking, your computer is down or you absolutely cannot attach a document, etc, contact the Political Science department and I will call as soon as I can. Please give me whatever number is necessary and times when I can reach you. Include how early I can call. I am a morning person and like to get these things out of the way as soon as possible.

Welcome to the course and Enjoy!

