

**Political Science 101  
Introduction to Political Science  
Fall Quarter 2007**

**Prof. Tim Jones  
Telephone:  
Email: [tijones@bcc.ctc.edu](mailto:tijones@bcc.ctc.edu)**

---

**GETTING STARTED**

Go to <http://vista.bcc.ctc.edu> and follow the “How to Start Online Classes” directions on the first day of the quarter.

**COMMUNICATING WITH ME**

For matters of concern to the entire class, please communicate with me via the discussion board. For private or confidential matters, please write to me using the WebCT Email. In an emergency, if WebCT is not available, you may contact me at [tijones@bcc.ctc.edu](mailto:tijones@bcc.ctc.edu), but you should know that I do not check this email everyday. If you do contact me via my BCC email, please identify yourself by full name and by course and section. You may also leave a message for me on my office phone (425-564-2110, #4), but this should be the communication method of last resort given that I am not on the main BCC campus often and check my voice mail even less frequently than I check my email. In short, your best bet to get a hold of me is WebCT Email!

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Welcome to Political Science 101. This is an introductory course that is designed for students who are new to the study of politics. The goal is to provide students with a broad introduction to the field of political science.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

By the end of the quarter you should have a basic familiarity with most of the major themes that you are likely to encounter in more advanced political science courses as well as the motivation to become a more informed and engaged citizen.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:**

Shively, Phillip - Power & Choice: An Introduction to Political Science, 10th Edition (McGraw Hill)

**SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS:**

There will be supplemental readings assigned throughout the quarter. Unless otherwise noted all supplemental readings are required, which means that you can and probably will be tested on them. Pay attention to the announcements page in order to find out what the supplemental readings for the week are. You should be able to find all supplemental readings on-line.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Students must participate in class discussions, submit written assignments and take all examinations as scheduled. This course requires access to VISTA and basic Internet proficiency. All course activities occur online.

## **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 being respectful of each other and avoiding inflammatory, derogatory and insulting words, phrases and labels.

## **GRADING CRITERIA**

• Op-ed Assignment	10 percent
• 3 Reflection Papers (4 points each)	12 percent
• Homework (TBA)	15 percent
• Participation (Discussions)	15 percent
• 3 Exams (16 percent each)	48 percent
	-----
	100 percent total

## **GRADING SCALE:**

*A = 95-100% (4.0); A- = 90-94.9% (3.7):* Superior work; exams and assignments contain strong thesis and logical arguments; includes analysis, supporting facts and relevant information; well organized and well presented; no major factual, grammatical or spelling mistakes; exam answers include information from readings, current events, and discussions; assignments are turned in on time and all questions are answered; participation is regular and well informed.

*B+ 87-89.9% (3.3); B 84-86.9% (3.0); B- 80-83.9% (2.7):* Above average work; exams and assignments contain thesis but might lack focus and organization; includes some analysis; generally well presented and organized; minimal factual, spelling, and grammatical errors; information is strong but missing some points; arguments could use more support; minimal deductions for late assignments and/or unanswered questions; participation is regular but sometimes uninformed.

*C+ 77-79.9% (2.3); C 74-76.9% (2.0); C- 70-73.9% (1.7):* Average work; exams and assignments contain no thesis or thesis is weak; some pertinent information is included, but could use more evidence and stronger organization; understanding of course content is shown but contains little analysis; noticeable grammatical and spelling mistakes; assignments turned in late and may be missing some answers; participation is inconsistent.

*D+ 67-69.9% (1.3); D 64-66.9% (1.0):* Poor work; exams and assignments lack coherent argument and are poorly written; numerous grammatical and spelling errors that interfere with readability; important information is missing and/or incorrect; regular and substantial deductions for late assignments and unanswered questions; little participation.

*F Below 64% (0.0):* Failure; lacking correct information; lack of effort is shown.

## **OP-ED**

You will be expected to write one opinion-editorial this quarter. It must be typed, double-spaced, and between 500 and 750 words in length. The final draft of your op-ed is due to me on Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.

## **REFLECTION PAPERS**

Each student will be expected to turn in three reflection papers during the course of the quarter. These papers should be approximately two pages (double-spaced) or one page (single-spaced) in length, and should consist of

your reflections on an item in the news that pertains in some way to the material being covered in the course. These papers can be constructed as pure reflections, or as a critique of a specific article. The due dates for the papers can be found on the course schedule below. Each reflection paper will be worth 4% of your final grade for the course, for a total of 12%.

### **HOMEWORK**

The due dates and details of all homework assignments will be posted on the announcements page so make sure you check this page often. Your performance on homework constitutes 15% of your final grade.

### **CLASS PARTICIPATION**

Participation will be based on discussions carried out on the bulletin board. These discussions should pertain to the course content in some way (e.g., the textbook, supplemental readings, current events etc.). Sometimes I will suggest discussion topics for you, but more often than not you will be expected to come up with your own topics. There will be at least one discussion folder for each week of class. Make sure you post to the correct discussion folder so that your participation is not overlooked. Each student is required to post at least one independent comment/question per week, and respond to other student comments/questions at least twice per week. It will not be enough to write "I agree with so-and-so or such-and-such". You need to explain your viewpoint. Participation in class discussions is mandatory. You are expected to check in with this class online everyday, Monday through Friday. Your participation on the discussion boards is worth 15% of your final grade.

### **EXAMS**

There will be three exams in this course. These exams will test your understanding of the major concepts and issues raised in the course and will most likely consist of a combination of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions. The exams will be take-home exams and they will be posted on the website at 10:30 am. You will have one full day to take the exam and they will be due by 10:30 am the following day. You can use any resource that I have made available to you to answer the questions (e.g., the textbook, supplemental readings, etc.), but I expect you to be honest and not to plagiarize outside sources. If I catch you plagiarizing an outside source you will receive a zero. Each of the three exams in this course is worth 16% of your final grade for a total of 48%.

### **TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE**

#### Week 1 (9/24/07 – 9/28/07)

- Read Chapter 1 (Politics: Setting the Stage)
- Read Chapter 2 (Modern Ideologies and Political Philosophy)
- Play around with the technology a little bit and get used to the various features of WebCT.
- Post a biography of yourself on the bulletin board so that the class can get a sense of who you are, why you are taking this class, and what your level of interest and experience is in the area of politics.
- Begin reading the news and editorial pages of a national or international newspaper. I recommend the *New York Times*, but other newspapers are fine as long as you clear them with me first.
- Begin discussing the readings and current events. These discussions will be placed in a weekly folder.
- Pay attention to the announcements page – additional readings and activities may be assigned!

Week 2 (10/1/07 – 10/5/07)

- Read Chapter 3 (The Modern State)
- Read Chapter 4 (Policies of the State)
- Pay attention to the announcements page – additional readings and activities may be assigned!
- **1<sup>ST</sup> REFLECTION PAPER DUE (October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007)**

Week 3 (10/8/07 – 10/12/07)

- Read Chapter 5 (Economic Policy and the Political Economy of the State)
- Read Chapter 6 (Political Choices: The Problems of Justice and Efficiency)
- Pay attention to the announcements page – additional readings and activities may be assigned!
- **1<sup>st</sup> EXAM (October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007)**

Week 4 (10/15/07 – 10/19/07)

- Read Chapter 7 (Authority and Legitimacy: The state and the Citizen)
- Read Chapter 8 (Democracy and Autocracy)
- Pay attention to the announcements page – additional readings and activities may be assigned!

Week 5 (10/22/07 – 10/26/07)

- Read Chapter 9 (Constitutions and the Design of Government)
- Read Chapter 10 (Elections)
- Pay attention to the announcements page – additional readings and activities may be assigned!
- **2<sup>nd</sup> REFLECTION PAPER DUE (October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007)**

Week 6 (10/29/07 – 11/2/07)

- Read Chapter 11 (Parties: A Linking and Leading Mechanism in Politics)
- Read Chapter 12 (Structured Conflict: Interest Groups and Politics)
- Pay attention to the announcements page – additional readings and activities may be assigned!
- **2<sup>nd</sup> EXAM (November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007)**

Week 7 (11/5/07 – 11/9/07)

- Read Chapter 13 (Social Movements and Contentious Politics)
- Read Chapter 14 (National Decision-Making Institutions: Parliamentary Government)
- Pay attention to the announcements page – additional readings and activities may be assigned!

Week 8 (11/12/07 – 11/16/07)

- Read Chapter 15 (National Decision-Making Institutions: Presidential Government)
- Read Chapter 16 (Bureaucracy and the Public Sector)
- Pay attention to the announcements page – additional readings and activities may be assigned!
- **3<sup>rd</sup> REFLECTION PAPER DUE (November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007)**

Week 9 (11/19/07 – 11/21/07)

- Read Chapter 17 (Law and Courts)
- Read Chapter 18 (Global Politics: Politics Among States and Others)
- Pay attention to the announcements page – additional readings and activities may be assigned!

#### Week 10 (11/26/07 – 11/30/07)

- If all goes according to schedule, by week 10 we should be done with the textbook. You are not completely off the hook as far as reading goes, however, as there are likely to be supplemental readings this week. Also, you need to keep up with current events and continue engaging in discussion.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> EXAM (November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007)**

#### Week 11 (12/3/07 – 12/7/07)

- Pay attention to the announcements page – additional readings and activities may be assigned!
- **Op-ed Due (12/7/07)**

#### Week 12 (3/19/07 – 3/21/07)

- **You will NOT have a final for this class so enjoy the week off!**
- **THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR WHAT I HOPE WILL BE A FULFILLING QUARTER FOR ALL OF US!!!**

#### **SPECIAL NOTES:**

This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Material included is meant to provide an outline of the course and the guidelines that the instructor will adhere to in evaluation of the student's progress. However, this syllabus is not intended to be a legal contract. Questions regarding the syllabus are welcome at any time.

### **PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION Revised Fall 2007**

#### **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 behavior (e.g., towards the instructor or other classmates) are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue Community College. 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").

#### **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.

#### 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.