

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

Political Science 100: Introduction to American Government

Fall Semester 2008, Section 7452

Class Times: Monday & Wednesday 12:30 to 1:45 PM in SPA-209

Instructor: **Som Chounlamountry, MA**

Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 11:15 AM to 12:30 PM

& By Appointment in SPA-335

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I. Course Description

This course is an analytical study of politics and political institutions in the United States and the state of California. It investigates human behavior within the framework of those political institutions and further understanding of the roles of the mass media and of the economy in American politics. It deals with how the U.S. Constitution and the government meet democracy's challenge in a world of change. The latter part of the course will focus on California, paying particular attention to political, economic, cultural and demographic trends.

This course satisfies the general education requirement and the California teaching credential requirement. (CAN GOVT 2)

II. Course Objectives

Content Knowledge — Upon completion of this course the student will have an understanding of, or be able to apply, the following principles and concepts:

1. The influence of representative government on our daily lives, and of the citizens with their respective values upon the policies and institutions of government.
2. The basic constitutional principles of separation of powers and check and balance between the three branches of government.
3. A respect for The Bill of Rights and the evolution of American Civil Rights.
4. An understanding of the interaction and relationships between federal, state, and local governments as they operate in different national and cultural contexts.
5. An understanding of basic political processes and institutions at all levels in a way that empowers them with a critical thinking ability to gain access in a democracy.

Exit Skills — Upon completion of this course the student have the following skills:

1. To be able to critically analyze state, local and national news.
2. To be able to explain and discuss how federal, state and local government interrelate and impact the lives of its citizens.
3. To critically analyze issues to be voted on in a ballot.
4. To be able to comfortably work in, or run, and election campaign.
5. To have the knowledge of how to influence legislation, and write legislators.
6. To know how your rights as a citizen, and the protections afforded by the Bill of Rights, along with the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts.

III. Required Texts

1. **Required:** Patterson, T. E.; *We the People: A Concise Introduction to American Politics*, 7th Edition McGraw-Hill. (ISBN 0-07-3403865)
2. **Required:** Field, M.; *California Government and Politics Today*, 11th edition, AB Longman. (ISBN: 0-321-12962-8)

IV. Assessments and Grading

Grade	Point Totals	Assessment Criteria
A	540-600 points	Indicates mastery of the relevant course standards
B	480-539 points	Indicates above average proficiency of the relevant course standards
C	420-479 points	Indicates satisfactory proficiency of the relevant course standards
D	360-419 points	Indicates partial proficiency of the relevant course standards
F	0-359 points	Indicates little or no proficiency of the relevant course standards

Assessment & Date Due	Due Date	Points	Your Grade
Quizzes	Various	150 points	
Midterm Exam	Wed. Oct. 15 th	150 points	
Research Paper	Fri. Nov 21 st	100 points	
Attendance and Participation	Various	50 points	
Final Exam	Wed., Dec.17th from 12:30-2:30 PM	150 points	
Extra-Credit: Political Scrapbook	Various	+50 point	

Research Paper Integrating At Least 10 Scholarly Articles: Each student will write a 7 to 10 page research paper based on scholarly sources on a current topic of American politics to be assigned by the instructor. All papers must be double-spaced, and paginated, 12 fonts (Times New Roman), have standard margin, and use MLA or APA citations.

PROFESSOR SOM'S WAY: COMPONENTS—which will give you up to 90 points prior to submitting this portion. Copy and paste the text of your FINAL DRAFT of your Research Paper followed by the ALL PREVIOUS COMPONENTS. Please ensure you have cited and documented your scholarly sources and have a bibliography. The Final Draft will be graded on a scale of 10 possible points. Please ensure that you completed the previous components if you chose this option. The method ensures that the student will maximize their points. For example, an A grade Final Draft and all the components will equal 99 or 100 Points (90 for the components + 9 or 10 for the A grade on the Final Draft). C grade Final Draft and all the components will equal 97 Points. **Taking the sting out of writing research papers!**

Exams: The midterm and final examinations will consist of objective questions and short essays covering reading and lecture materials. The essay portions of the exams must be accompanied by an outline which will also be graded. For all exams, students will be allowed one HANDWRITTEN 8½ by 11 inch page (both sides) for notes. Cheat, copying from other students, and talking during the exam will be grounds for dismissal and result in a “0” failing grade.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be administered using Beachboard. Quizzes will be timed and, depending on the quiz, may allow multiple attempts. They will include questions from the readings and exercises designed to help students become familiar with government. Please have reliable internet access. Quizzes are scored automatically, but in some occasions, the teaching staff may review and verify the answers. Please have electronic or paper evidence that you completed the activities.

Attendance and Class Participation: Students are to attend each class having read the required selections, with questions and discussion points already in mind for each class session. The teaching staff will design classroom and BeachBoard activities throughout the semester to evaluate the quality of student participation. All BeachBoard and Class Participation Activities will equal 50 Participation Points.

Class Participation Rubric: This grid can help improve the quality to class participation and on Beachboard.

	Quality	Relevance	Contribution	Bigger Picture	Response
Excellent 100%	Appropriate comments: thoughtful, reflective, and respectful of other student's postings	Clear reference to assignment or prior posting being discussed	Further the discussion with questions, or statements that encourage others to respond	Clearly connects the text or reference points from previous readings, activities, and discussions	Appropriate comments: thoughtful, reflective, and respectful of other student's comments
Fair 75%	Appropriate comments and responds respectfully to other student's comments	Some reference but taken out of context, the reader would not understand.	Participates, but does not encourage others to respond to the comments	Vague or possible connection to reference points from previous readings, activities, and discussions.	Appropriate comments and responds respectfully to other student's comments
Poor 50%	Responds, but with minimum effort or detail. (i.e. "I agree with the statement")	Comments do not clearly reflect the assignment	Comments do not further any discussions	Mentions the videos, text or previous activity without logical link to topic	Responds, but with minimum effort. (i.e. "I agree with Bob")

V. Extra-Credit

Extra-Credit Political Scrapbook +50 Points: Students will create a POLITICAL SCRAPBOOK in which they will respond to statements and discussion questions and complete activities. The responses will be compiled to compose a political scrapbook which will be graded. You must complete all assigned work or it will not count. It may not replace missing assignments. Each section will help you prepare for class discussion and exams. You will need to take a simple quiz to keep track of your progress, but please keep copies of your work for periodic checks. Many students have found these activities extremely useful and rewarding. I have spent hundreds of hours developing and refining it, so please enjoy and give your feedback. Note: you are already doing some of the assignments for class; just do a little bit more and compile it all together for extra-credit.

VI. Class Policy

Late Assignments, Early Exams and Exam Make-ups: Late assignments will result in a lower score, unless otherwise noted one grade level per school day for that assignment. Early exams are not allowed except under conditions of a make-up exam. Make-up assignments will be available only in cases of demonstrated medical emergencies, religious holidays, or university business. Typically a make-up exam will be taken at the end of the semester and may have a different format than the original.

Plagiarism and Cheating Policy: As university students, you are a member of an academic community that strives to maintain the highest standards of academic quality. Students engaging in cheating or plagiarizing, will receive zero (0) points for that assignment or exam. Further disciplinary action may be taken, including failing the class and/or reporting to the university.

Policy on Withdrawals: You are responsible for withdrawing from courses in which you enrolled. University policy on withdrawals applies. Please refer to current California State University, Long Beach Catalog of Undergraduate and Graduate Studies for more detailed guidelines.

Policy on reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities: Students with disabilities who need reasonable modifications, special assistance, or accommodations in this course should promptly direct their request to the course instructor. If a student with a disability feels that modifications, special assistance, or accommodations offered are inappropriate or insufficient, s/he should seek the assistance of the Director of Disabled Student Services (562) 985-5401 on campus located at Brotman Hall, Room 270.

VII. Beachboard and Email Etiquette

Beachboard: Students are required to access the Beachboard site for this course and the e-mail account registered to it. Due to budget restrictions, we are compelled to distribute almost all course documents electronically.

Email Etiquette: Your real name will be identified as "Sender."

Use the Subject Line: All email in this course must be addressed as if it were a business letter, including on the subject line the student's Full Name, Class Number and Topic of the correspondence. The content must be formatted as a business letter, including a Real Name Signature and Phone Number. Emails not fulfilling these requirements will be considered spam or spyware and may not be opened by the instructor. Again, be sure that your real name appears as the sender, not the email address. Barring technical difficulties, I will usually respond within 24 hours, except for the weekends. Please follow up with another email if there is no response.

VIII. Class Schedule and Assignments

Readings must be done before Lecture. Assignments and Quizzes due by Friday 11pm.

Week & Activities	Reading & Duties	Lecture Topics *May be adjusted
Week 1: 9/1 No Class Monday 9/1 Labor Day	1. Post Self-Introduction in BeachBoard Discussion Forum. 10 Participation Points. 2. Email Professor. Then take 10 Participation Points Quiz. schounla@csulb.edu Full Name, Class & Section #, email, Phone, SMS Mobile Number, Major, Brief Biography, & Clean Joke	Welcome Syllabus Course Overview Introductions MAKE NAME SIGNS
Week 2: 9/8 Political Scrapbook Section 1 Quiz. +10 points extra-credit.	WTP Chapter 1: American Political Culture WTP: Read Declaration of Independence	Types of Government Principles of US Gov't Power and Authority The Political System INTERNET AND POLITICS
Week 3: 9/15 Quiz1: Matching the Bill of Rights and the Other Amendments. 25 Points	WTP Chapter 2: Constitutional Democracy WTP: Read US Constitution & Declaration of Independence WTP Chapter 3: Federalism	Before the Constitution Negotiating Toward a Constitution Limited Government Self-Government National and State Sovereignty Supremacy Clause CREATE 28th AMENDMENT
Week 4: 9/22 Quiz2: WTP Chps 1, 2 & 3: Political Culture, Constitutional Democracy, Federalism. 20 Points	WTP: Review Read US Constitution WTP Chapter 4: Civil Liberties	Bill of Rights Freedom of Expression Freedom of Religion The Right of Privacy Rights of the Accused Rights and War on Terrorism VIDEO ON TERRORISM
Week 5: 9/29 Political Scrapbook Section 2 Quiz. +10 points extra-credit.	WTP Chapter 5: Equal Rights	Struggle for Equality Civil Rights Movement Equality Under Law Equality of Results DREAM DEFERRED
Week 6: 10/6 Quiz3: WTP Chaps 4, 5, & 6: Civil Liberties, Equal Rights, Opinion & Socialization. 20 Points	WTP Chapter 6: Public Opinion and Political Socialization Fri: PRINT 3 copies http://www.theadvocates.org/quiz/quiz-pdf.pdf	Public Opinion Political Socialization Political Ideology Midterm Review POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY QUIZ http://www.theadvocates.org/quiz/quiz-pdf.pdf
Week 7: 10/13 Midterm Exam 150 points Bring Bluebook and Scantron 882-E	Mon: Midterm Review Wed: Midterm Exam Bring Bluebook and Scantron 882-E	Review Sheet Available in BeachBoard

Readings must be done before Lecture. Assignments and Quizzes due by Friday 11pm.

Week 8: 10/20 Quiz 4: Resume Quiz. 25 Points	WTP: Chapter 12: The Presidency	Choosing the President Presidential Leadership Predicting Performance James David Barber Typology INTERNET & CANDIDATES
Week 9: 10/27 Political Scrapbook Section 3 Quiz. +10 points extra-credit. Post 2008 Election Winner Predictions in Discussion Forum for 10 Participation Points.	WTP: Chapter 11: Congress Bring Printout of YOUR BALLOT Go to http://www.smartvoter.org/ and enter your address Wed: PROF. SOM'S VOTING CLINIC	Congress as a Career Congressional Leadership How a Bill Becomes Law VOTING CLINIC
Week 10: 11/3 TUES. NOV 4: 2008 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION Quiz5: Matching Significant Supreme Court Cases. 20 Points	Select paper topic. Mon 03 Nov: Research Day Please go to CSULB Library Wed 05 Nov: VOTING RESULTS Wed 05 Nov: Bring List of 20 Scholarly Sources	Research Paper Steps: 1. Select Topics & Read First Assigned Article 3. Create simply outline 4. Research: Compile 20 Scholarly Articles CREATING DETAILED OUTLINES
Week 11: 11/10 Political Scrapbook Section 4 Quiz. +10 points extra-credit. Post First Draft in Discussion Forum for 20 Participation Points.	Monday: Bring Copy of Detailed Outline & Scholarly Sources to Class Wednesday: Bring Copy of First Draft to Class to be reviewed by classmates.	5. Create Detail Outline integrating at least ten (10) Scholarly Articles 6. Write First Draft 7. Revise Final Draft and Submit to Beachboard by Friday 11pm 21 November. EDITING PAPERS
Week 12: 11/17 Quiz6: WTP Chaps 11, 12 & 14: Congress, President & Judiciary. 20 Points	WTP: Chapter 14: The Federal Judicial System Submit Research Paper and All Components into Beachboard by 11pm by Fri 21 November 2008	Judicial Review Judicial Activism Judicial Constraint Court Cases VIDEO ON JUDICIARY
Week 13: 11/24 NO CLASS FRIDAY: THANKSGIVING BREAK	California Chapter 1-3 California Chapter 4-7	CA History Freedom and Equality Media Influence and Interest Groups Political Parties Campaigns and Elections The California
Week 14: 12/1 Quiz7: CA Field All Chapters Quiz. 20 Points.	California Chapter 8-11 California Chapter 12-15	Legislature Plural Executive The Budget The Judiciary Justice and Civil Laws City Government Beyond Cities California's Future CLASS EVALUATIONS
Week 15: 12/8 Political Scrapbook Section 5 Quiz. +10 points extra-credit.	Review Selected Chapters of Patterson's WTP and All of Field's California	Review Sessions
Final Exam 150 Points: Bring Bluebook and Scantron 882-E	Final Exam (Wednesday, Dec.17th from 12:30 to 2:30 PM) Bring Bluebook and Scantron 882-E	Review Sheet Also Available on BeachBoard

IX. Research Paper Topics

Topics	<p>Required Article. (Read these first!) You must include the required article as part of your research.</p> <p>CQ Researcher (Access via BEACHBOARD LIBRARY tab Go to <u>http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/</u> username: mission password: la818)</p>
Abortion	Jost, K., to Koch, K. (2006, September 22). Abortion showdowns. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 16, 769-792. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2006092200 .
Alternative Fuels	Cooper, M. H. (2005, February 25). Alternative fuels. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 15, 173-196. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2005022500 .
Campaign Finance Reform	Cooper, M. H. (2000, March 31). Campaign finance reform. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 10, 257-280. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2000033100 .
Civil Liberties and the War on Terror	Jost, K. (2003, October 24). Civil liberties debates. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 13, 893-916. Retrieved January 29, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2003102400 .
Climate Change	Clemmitt, M. (2006, January 27). Climate change. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 16, 73-96. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2006012700 .
Death Penalty	Jost, K. (2005, September 23). Death penalty controversies. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 15, 785-808. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2005092301 .
Electoral College	Jost, K., to Giroux, G. (2000, December 8). Electoral College. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 10, 977-1008. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2000120800 .
Future of the Supreme Court	Jost, K. (2005, January 28). Supreme Court's future. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 15, 77-100. Retrieved January 29, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2005012800 .
Human Cloning	Hansen, B. (2004, October 22). Cloning debate. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 14, 877-900. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2004102200 .
Medical Marijuana	Marshall, P. (2005, February 11). Marijuana laws. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 15, 125-148. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2005021100 .
Minimum Wage and Poverty	Katel, P. (2005, December 16). Minimum wage. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 15, 1053-1076. Retrieved January 29, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2005121600 .
Right to Die and Assisted Suicide	Jost, K. (2005, May 13). Right to die. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 15, 421-444. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2005051301 .
Stem Cell Research	Clemmitt, M. (2006, September 1). Stem cell research. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 16, 697-720. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2006090100 .
Universal Health Care	Epstein, K. (2002, June 14). Covering the uninsured. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 12, 521-544. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2002061400 .
US Energy Policy	Cooper, M. H. (1999, March 5). The politics of energy. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 9, 185-208. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre1999030500 .
Voting and Participation	Katel, P. (2006, September 15). Voting controversies. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 16, 745-768. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2006091500 .

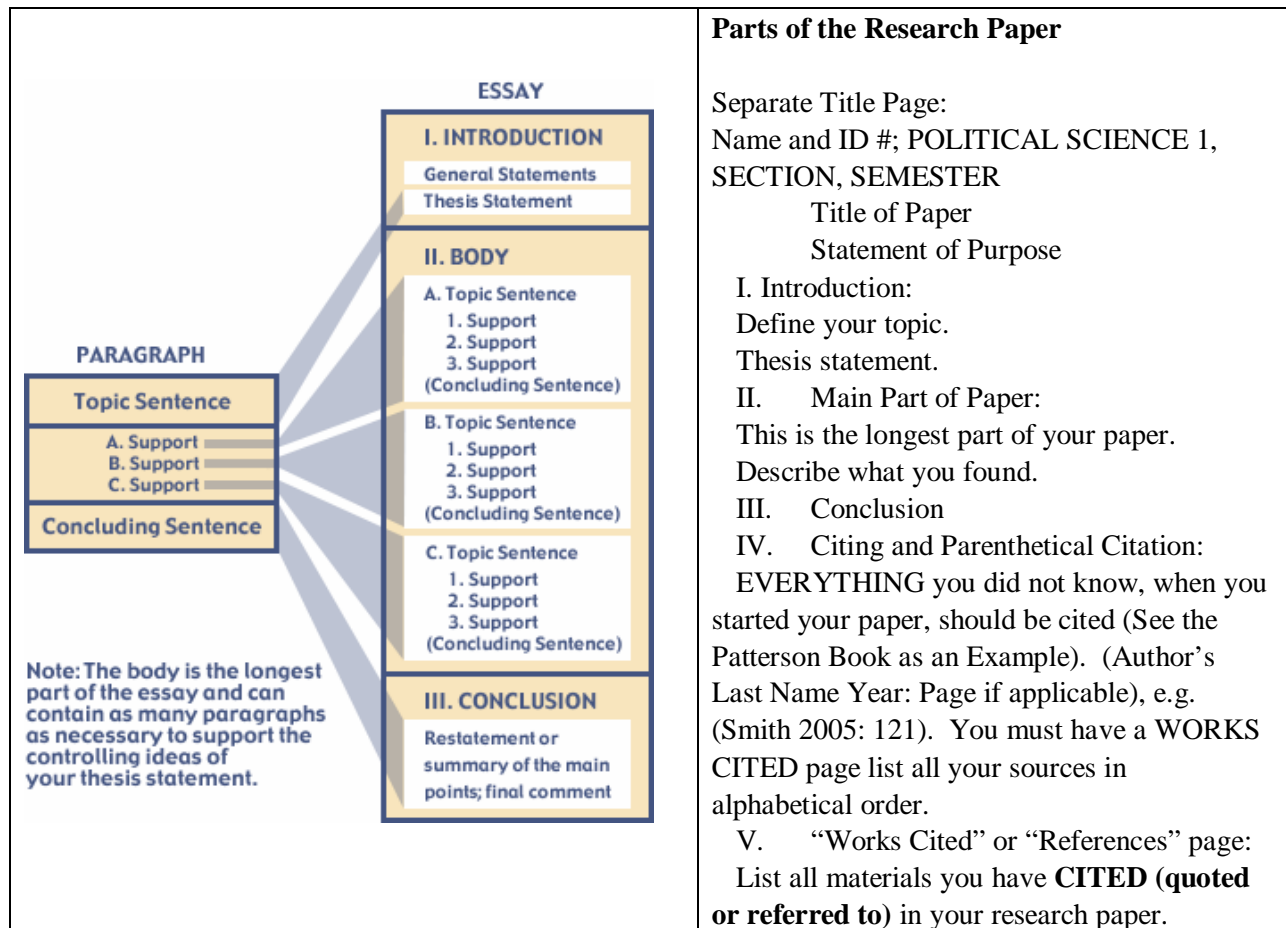
X. Research Paper Requirement

1. 7 to 10 pages of typed, double-spaced, paginated, 12 fonts (Times New Roman), standard margin and proofread paper on select topics.
2. Your paper shall be graded based on substance and form. Please refer to the grading rubric and guidelines.
3. Your research should focus on scholarly journal articles. (These articles cite other authors and must have a WORKS CITED or REFERENCE PAGE). Check the Discussion Area for Research Tips and Passwords to Journal Databases.

YOU MUST GET AT LEAST TEN (10) SCHOLARLY SOURCES FROM THE FOLLOWING SOURCES:

1. JSTOR 2. Opposing Viewpoints 3. CQ Researcher (Access via BEACHBOARD LIBRARY tab)

4. I accept any type of styles — MLA, APA, Chicago, etc. — Please be consistent with a single style throughout your paper.
5. **Every component of the research paper: topic selection and outline (10 pts), preliminary research (35 pts), detailed outline with sources (20 pts), first draft (25 pts), and final paper (10 pts) must be submitted online. Late Submissions will be penalized 10% for each week they are late.**



Scholarly articles are generally written by people who are experts on a subject. These articles **always have bibliographies or footnotes** that back up the research and point you toward other useful information on a particular topic. Sometimes they are in journals that are "**scholarly**," "**peer reviewed**," or "**refereed**," which means a panel of experts has approved many of the articles before they are published in the journal. These articles are often written with a specific audience in mind, for example: students, specialists, or researchers in a certain field.