

Los Angeles Mission College

Political Science 1: Government of the United States, Section 7846

Summer 2008 Session 1

Instructor: Som Chounlamountry, MA

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I. Mission College Catalog 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.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Understand the roles, responsibilities, and limitations of the duties of Federal, state, and local governments and the impact on individuals.
2. Differentiate initiatives, referendums and recalls in California Constitution and laws.
3. Develop skills to assess news sources and to become an informed citizen and voter.

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 instructions 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)

\$ave \$\$, Buy u\$ed Book\$ www.lamissionbookstore.com/ Select Term > Political Science.

IV. Grading, Assessments, & Calendar

Grade	Point Totals	Assessment Criteria
A	450-500 points	Indicates mastery of the relevant course standards
B	400-449 points	Indicates above average proficiency of the relevant course standards
C	350-399 points	Indicates satisfactory proficiency of the relevant course standards
D	300-349 points	Indicates partial proficiency of the relevant course standards
F	0-299 points	Indicates little or no proficiency of the relevant course standards

Assessment to Date Due	Points	%	Your Grade
MIDTERM EXAM (Thurs. Jun 19 th)	100 points	20%	
RESEARCH PAPER INTEGRATING 10 SCHOLARLY SOURCES (Thurs. July 3 rd)	100 points	20%	
FINAL EXAM (Thurs. July 10 th)	150 points	30%	
5 WEEKLY ONLINE DISCUSSIONS: Various Due Dates; See ETUDES-NG	50 points	10%	
10 Online Quizzes Check ETUDES-NG: See ETUDES-NG	100 points	20%	
Total:	500 points	100%	

EXTRA-CREDIT: To help ensure that students can obtain and maintain good grades, students are encouraged to complete Extra-Credit Assignments and Volunteer. Students can earn up to **one whole grade** improvement for the course. Students can earn the maximum points by volunteering for 10 hours. Each hour is worth a **+5 points** improvement. Volunteering and other Extra-Credit Activities can be combined but **50 Points** is the maximum. Please check the ASSIGNMENTS AREA for more details. See the Assignments Area for details.

Week & Dates	Readings & Deadline	Topics
Week 1: 6/9 Email Som chounlam@usc.edu Full Name, Class to Section #, Brief Bio, Major, Phone to Joke	WTP Chapter 1: American Political Culture WTP Chapter 2: Constitutional Democracy; WTP: Read US Constitution to Declaration of Independence WTP Chapter 3: Federalism * ONLINE DISCUSSION 1 due Thurs 6/12 by 11pm * <i>Quiz1-Quiz3 Due by Thurs 6/12 by 11pm</i> <i>The due dates for these assignments will be flexible for the</i> <i>first 2 weeks. Please ensure that you finish them ASAP.</i> Quiz1: Welcome Quiz 0304. 10 Points Quiz2: WTP Chps 1, 2 to 3: Political Culture, Constitutional Democracy, Federalism. 10 Points Quiz3: Matching the Bill of Rights. 10 Points	Welcome, Syllabus to Course Overview Types of Government Principles of US Govt Power and Authority The Political System Before the Constitution Negotiating Toward a Constitution Limited Government Self-Government National and State Sovereignty Supremacy Clause
Week 2: 6/16 June 18, 2008 Last day to drop WITHOUT a "W" Summer I.	WTP Chapter 4: Civil Liberties WTP Chapter 5: Equal Rights WTP Chapter 6: Public Opinion and Political Socialization * ONLINE DISCUSSION 2 due Thurs 6/19 by 11pm * <i>Quiz4 & Quiz5 Due by Thurs 6/19 by 11pm</i> Quiz4: Are these Scholarly Sources? 10 Points Quiz5: WTP Chaps 4, 5, to 6: Civil Liberties, Equal Rights, Opinion to Socialization. 10 Points	Freedom of Expression Freedom of Religion The Right of Privacy Rights of the Accused Rights and War on Terrorism Struggle for Equality Civil Rights Movement Equality Under Law Equality of Results Public Opinion Political Socialization Political Ideology
Week 3: 6/23 June 27, 2008 Last day to drop WITHOUT a "W"	Midterm Exam on submitted by Thursday 6/26 by 11:00pm * ONLINE DISCUSSION 3 due Thurs 6/26 by 11pm	Review all the Selected Chapters from WTP and Quizzes
Week 4: 6/30 July 03, 2008 Last day to drop WITH a "W" for Summer I.	WTP: Chapter 11: Congress WTP: Chapter 12: The Presidency WTP: Chapter 14: The Federal Judicial System * RESEARCH PAPER due Thurs 7/3 by 11pm * ONLINE DISCUSSION 4 due Thurs 7/3 by 11pm * <i>Quiz6 & Quiz7 Due by Thurs 7/3 by 11pm</i> Quiz6: WTP Chaps 11, 12 & 14: Congress, President & Judiciary. 10 Points Quiz7: Matching Significant Supreme Court Cases. 10 Points	Congress as a Career Congressional Leadership How a Bill Becomes Law Choosing the President Presidential Leadership Predicting Performance Judicial Review Judicial Activism Judicial Constraint Court Cases
Week 5: 7/7	California Chapter 1-7 California Chapter 8-15 * ONLINE DISCUSSION 5 due Thurs 7/10 by 11pm * EXTRA CREDIT ASSIGNMENTS AND VOLUNTEERING due by Thurs 7/10 by 11pm * <i>Quiz8 & Quiz10 due by Thurs 7/10 by 11pm</i> Quiz8: CA1—Chps 1-7: CA, People, History, Equality, Media, Parties, Campaigns. 10 Points Quiz9: CA2—CA Chps 8-15: Legislative, Executive, Budget, Judiciary, Laws, Cities, Counties, Future. 10 Points Quiz10: Course Evaluation. 10 Points	California History Freedom and Equality Media Influence and Interest Groups Political Parties Campaigns and Elections The California Legislature Plural Executive The Budget The Judiciary Justice and Civil Laws City Government Beyond Cities California's Future
July 11, 2008 Final Exam last day of class Summer I.	Final Exam: Friday, July 11th completed by 11:00pm	Review all the Selected Chapters from WTP and CA Book

V. Assessment Descriptions

Online Discussions of Readings and Video: Students are required to participate in online discussions. It is required that you post an Original Posting consisting of at least an one-paragraph reaction to the questions posed in the Discussions and Private Messaging. It is suggested that you compose your response in a word processor and then cut and copy your response to the Assignment section and also the Discussion Forum. Please read other students comments and reactions. It is required each students QUOTE and comment on another student's reaction.

To receive credit, students will simply copy (CTRL+C) and paste (CTRL+V) their original response to the question and their reply of another student's posting into the REASON area of the appropriate ASSIGNMENT in the TASK, TESTS AND SURVEYS AREA. It will appear like a quiz, but will require a reason. Your REASON will be the proof that you copy and paste into the text box. The grading rubric is below. The instructor will review your submission and re-grade them.

Online Discussions of Readings and Video Rubric

	Quality	Relevance	Contribution	Bigger Picture	Quote
Excellent 100%	Appropriate comments: thoughtful, reflective, and respectful of other student's postings.	Clear reference to assignment or prior posting being discussed	Furtheres the discussion with questions, or statements that encourage others to respond.	Clearly connects the posting to text or reference points from previous readings, activities, and discussions.	Appropriate comments: thoughtful, reflective, and respectful of other student's postings.
Fair 75%	Appropriate comments and responds respectfully to other student's postings,	Some reference but taken out of context, the reader would not understand.	Participates, but does not post anything that encourages others to respond to the posting.	Vague or possible connection to reference points from previous readings, activities, and discussions.	Appropriate comments and responds respectfully to other student's postings,
Poor 50%	Responds, but with minimum effort or detail. (i.e. "I agree with the statement")	Posting is attached to the right discussion board, but does not clearly reflect the assignment.	Less than required number of postings. Does 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")

Research Paper: Each student will write a 5 to 7 page research paper based on scholarly sources on a current topic of international 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 APA citations.

Online Quizzes: All the quizzes will be AVAILABLE according to the ETUDES-NG schedule. Students may take the quizzes anytime during the AVAILABLE period. Once a student has elected to OPEN a quiz, it must be completed within 30 minutes. It is important to have reliable access to the internet and to be able to log on to ETUDES-NG. Although the quizzes are open most of the semester, it is recommended that all quizzes be completed by the due date in preparations for Exams. Practice Quizzes are available in the MODULES area.

Online Exams: Both the Midterm and the Final Exam will be given online. You will have 2 hours to finish each exam once opened. You may use your textbook and lectures notes. However you must cite the source of the information that you are using to AVOID PLAGIARISM. You ARE NOT permitted to cut or paste ANY material from other sources or this will constitute CHEATING. Review sheets are in the MODULES Area. Please practice your outlines and essays and answer them completely and thoroughly. TAKE EACH ONLY ONCE. IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS, EMAIL chounlam@usc.edu IMMEDIATELY.

VI. ETUDES-NG to Tutorials

ETUDES-NG: Students are required to access the ETUDES-NG site for this course.

<http://www.lacitycollege.edu/online/menu.htm> Tutorials Courtesy of Sarah Phinney at Porterville College.



The ETUDES-NG Portal is located at <http://etudes-ng.fhda.edu/portal>

Access to classes is determined by semester start date and/or instructor preference. Student user IDs and *initial* passwords are automatically generated.

Your unique username is:

*First two letters of your first name, plus the

*First two letters of your last name, plus the

*Last five digits of your NEW student identification number.

Your password is: * The Month and Day of your birthday, *as given in the school records*, with the format MMDD

This password information applies to students accessing Etudes for the first time. Changes you make to your account, including your password, will persist to new semesters.

Each tour will take approximately 5 minutes to complete. For Tours 1- 5, you will need the Flash player plug-in to take these tours. If you don't have the Flash player, you can [download the free Flash player here](#).

- [Tour 1 - Logging In](#)
- [Tour 2 - Reading Modules and Participating in Discussions](#)
- [Tour 3 - Taking a Test](#)
- [Tour 4 - Submitting an Assignment](#)
- [Tour 5 - Sending a Private Message](#)
 - Note: This is for communicating with other students. Please email instructor at chounlam@usc.edu
- [Tour 6 - Discussion Forums Overview](#)
- [Tour 7 - Test Center Overview](#)

VII. Class Policy

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.

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. College policy on withdrawals applies. Please refer to current Catalog and Schedule of classes for more detailed guidelines. **IF YOU DO NOT MAKE PROGRESS YOU MAY BE DROPPED BY THE END OF THE SECOND WEEK ON DURING EXCLUSION WEEK.**

Policy on reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities: The Students with Disabled Student Programs and Services can be reached on (818) 364-7732. For students with disabilities the DSPS office provides special assistance areas like: registering for courses, specialized tutoring, note-taking, mobility assistance, special instruction, testing assistance, special equipment, special materials, instructor liaisons, community referrals, and job placement.

VIII. Extra-Credit Assignments & Community Service

To help ensure that students can obtain and maintain good grades, students are encouraged to complete Extra-Credit Assignments and Volunteer. Students can earn up to **one whole grade** improvement for the course. Students can earn the maximum points by volunteering for 10 hours. Each hour is worth a **+5 points** improvement. Volunteering and other Extra-Credit Activities can be combined but **50 Points** is the maximum. Please check the ASSIGNMENTS AREA for more details.

Community Service Rules:

- All volunteer work must be performed at a nonprofit community & political organization which directly represents and/or benefits local residents. For example: it could be done at schools, the local office of a Congressperson, State Senator, City-Council Person; the local chapter of the Red Cross, League of Women Voters, Anti-Defamation League, American Civil Liberties Union, Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, AARP, etc..
- **Prior authorization from me is required regarding the selection of such an organization for Service Learning credits.**
- A one page, typed, double-spaced, and proof-read essay delineating the specific experiences you encountered and how it made you feel. Submit this essay as an **Assignment** along with the supervisor's contact information.
- Please ask that the supervisor email me at chounlam@usc.edu a confirmation of your hours and their contact information.

VIII. Research Paper Topics

Topics	<p>Required Article. (Read these first!) You must include the required article as part of your research.</p> <p>Go to http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/ 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/cqresrre2006092200 .
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/cqresrre2005022500 .
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/cqresrre2000033100 .
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/cqresrre2003102400 .
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/cqresrre2006012700 .
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/cqresrre2005092301 .
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/cqresrre2000120800 .
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/cqresrre2005012800 .
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/cqresrre2004102200 .
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/cqresrre2005021100 .
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/cqresrre2005121600 .
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/cqresrre2005051301 .
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/cqresrre2006090100 .
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/cqresrre2002061400 .
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/cqresrre1999030500 .
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/cqresrre2006091500 .

IX. Research Paper Integrating 10 Scholarly Sources

PLEASE SEE THE ASSIGNMENTS AREA OF ETUDES-NG FOR MORE DETAILS

NOTE: YOU HAVE 2 OPTIONS TO

1. 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.

2. THE HIGHWAY: JUST THE FINAL DRAFT which will be graded on a 100 point scale. Simply paste the text of your Final Draft here.

	Parts of the Research Paper
<div data-bbox="191 756 816 1497"><p style="text-align: center;">ESSAY</p><div data-bbox="545 789 816 898"><p>I. INTRODUCTION</p><p>General Statements</p><p>Thesis Statement</p></div><div data-bbox="545 909 816 1335"><p>II. BODY</p><div data-bbox="581 953 792 1073"><p>A. Topic Sentence</p><p>1. Support</p><p>2. Support</p><p>3. Support</p><p>(Concluding Sentence)</p></div><div data-bbox="581 1083 792 1203"><p>B. Topic Sentence</p><p>1. Support</p><p>2. Support</p><p>3. Support</p><p>(Concluding Sentence)</p></div><div data-bbox="581 1213 792 1335"><p>C. Topic Sentence</p><p>1. Support</p><p>2. Support</p><p>3. Support</p><p>(Concluding Sentence)</p></div></div><div data-bbox="545 1346 816 1497"><p>III. CONCLUSION</p><p>Restatement or summary of the main points; final comment</p></div></div> <div data-bbox="191 1016 443 1230"><p>PARAGRAPH</p><div data-bbox="199 1052 435 1230"><p>Topic Sentence</p><p>A. Support</p><p>B. Support</p><p>C. Support</p><p>Concluding Sentence</p></div></div> <p>Note: The body is the longest part of the essay and can contain as many paragraphs as necessary to support the controlling ideas of your thesis statement.</p>	

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.