

## LOS ANGELES MISSION COLLEGE

**Political Science 1: The Government of the United States, 0438**

**Fall 2007, UC:CSU, 3 Units**

**Instructor: Mr. Som Chounlamountry, MA**

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### COURSE SYLLABUS (24 Aug 2007)

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 has been approved for credit transfer to the University of California and the California State University systems.

This class is completely online and there are no class meetings. Students are expected to submit assignments and take quizzes and exams online. Please have reliable access to a computer with internet access and updated internet browsers. Please contact the instructor directly with your phone number if you need assistance. Always communicate!

1. **Required:** Patterson, T. E.; *We the People: A Concise Introduction to American Politics*, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition (ISBN 0-07-3403865) or 6<sup>th</sup> edition (ISBN 0-07-319774-2) or 5<sup>th</sup> edition (ISBN:0-07-28 1733-X). The chapter breakdown of the topics is the same.
2. **Required:** Field, M.; *California Government and Politics Today*, 11<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> edition (ISBN: 0-321-12962-8)

### 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, an 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.

### ETUDES-NG and ONLINE COMPONENTS

#### 1. Where do I go to log on to this course?

<http://etudes-ng.fhda.edu/portal>

#### 2. What is my Username?

Lowercase and with no spaces:

use the first 2 letters of your first name

and the first 2 letters of your last name

and the last 5 digits of your student id #

Example: Donna Smith, student id # 12-345-6789

Username: dosm56789

#### Step 3. What is my password?

- use two numbers for your birth month

- and use two numbers for the birth day

Example: if your birth date was January 3: 0103

#### Step 4. Write your Username and Password below.

Username: Password:

\* You will be entering **MY WORKPLACE**

Update your info **ACCOUNT > MODIFY DETAILS**

\*\* Select the **LAMC POL 001 SC F07** tab for our class

**\*E-mail your me at [chounlam@usc.edu](mailto:chounlam@usc.edu) once you have successfully logged in to the course website.**

## GRADING

GRADING SCALE out of 500 points*
A = 450 Points and above
B = 400 to 449 Points
C = 350 to 399 Points
D = 300 to 349 Points
F = 299 Points and Below

POINT DISTRIBUTION
Online Midterm (2 Hours) = 100 Points
Online Final (2 Hours) = 120 Points
Research Paper (all components) = 100 Points
Political Scrapbook (all components) = 90 Points
9 Online Quizzes (30 minutes each) = 90 Points

To help ensure that students can obtain and maintain good grades, students are encouraged to volunteer for extra-credit. **SERVICE LEARNING (Volunteering for the Community)**. Students can earn up to **one whole grade** improvement for the course. Please refer to the section at the end of the syllabus for more details. Students can earn the maximum points by volunteering for **10 hours**. Each hour is worth a **+5 points** improvement. Maximum for EXTRA-CREDIT is 50 Points.

## EXAM & CLASS POLICIES

### Policy on Late Work

All assignments are due in class. Please keep an electronic copy of all your work. Late assignments will be penalized. If an assignment is not turned in by its deadline, 10% will be deducted for each week it is late for non-medical excuses.

### Plagiarism and Cheating Policy

As a college student, you are a member of an academic community that strives to maintain the highest standards of academic quality. When you joined this community, you willingly accepted that you would earn your grade based on your own work. Your faculty and fellow students shall expect no less from you than full honesty in your academic work and in your contribution to our academic environment.

### Contacting Me

Your primary means for contacting me will be through email [chounlam@usc.edu](mailto:chounlam@usc.edu). Please identify yourself by the name under which you are enrolled and the class section number. For example: In the Subject line of your email write: LAMC PS1 and Section Number & Your Full Name. In the Body of the message include your Name and email address and Phone Number. Barring technical difficulties, I will usually respond within 24 hours. Please follow up with another email if there is no response. **Additionally, please update your email ETUDES-NG > MY WORKSPACE > ACCOUNT > MODIFY DETAILS, otherwise replies will be delayed and you may not get class emails. Instead of using the Private Message System, which requires login into the system, please email me questions directly.**

## ONLINE QUIZZES AND ONLINE EXAMS

It is important to have reliable access to the internet and to be able to log on to ETUDES-NG. 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. The graded quizzes are entitled Welcome Quiz, Quiz1, Quiz2, Quiz3, Quiz4, Quiz5, Quiz 6, Quiz 7 and Quiz8. Depending on the quiz, you may be able to take it multiple times, but the last scores will be recorded. Note: the quiz will randomize the multiple choices for some of the questions. 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.

ONLINE MIDTERM and ONLINE FINAL EXAMS will have objective parts, short answers and essays. The objective questions will be multiple choice, matching and true/false. The short essays will require students to type their answers directly into a text box. 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. The ETUDES-NG system will limit your responses to 4,000 characters each. Review sheets are in the MODULES Area. Please practice your essays and answer them completely and thoroughly.

## ONLINE ASSIGNMENTS, POLITICAL SCRAPBOOK AND LEARNING MODULES

ETUDES-NG has a section for Learning MODULES. Modules may include tutorial for the Website, PowerPoint Presentations and hints and previews of assignments. Our site will have Lecture Notes (outlines of the PowerPoint Presentations) and Recordings of lectures that I have given in previous classes. These items are meant to enhance the learning experience and supplement the readings. Additionally, the MODULES area will have Review Sheets for the Midterm and Final Exams.

## POLITICAL SCRAPBOOK

Each student will create a POLITICAL SCRAPBOOK (aka Political Journal) 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. Check under the Assignments area for details.

### PS1 CALENDAR OF ASSIGNMENTS 1 of 2\* *\*subject to adjustments (Check ETUDES-NG)*

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
	Readings	Political Scrapbook	Quizzes & Exam	Paper Components
<b>Week 1: Sept 3-9</b>	Holiday: Labor Day	1) REVIEW SYLLABUS 2) EMAIL ME at <a href="mailto:chounlam@usc.edu">chounlam@usc.edu</a>	<b>Welcome Quiz</b> (10 Pts) ~ .5 hour	
<b>Week 2: Sept 10-16</b>	WTP Chapter 1: American Political Culture	A. INTRODUCTION: ETUDES-NG Tutorials and Introduction (10 Pts) ~ 1 hour <b>*SAVE DRAFT</b>	RETAKES: <b>Welcome Quiz for Maximum Points</b>	P1: Topic Proposal and Outline (10 Pts) ~ .5 hour You must pick the topics from the pre-approved list in this syllabus. Please read the assigned article first. <b>*SAVE DRAFT</b>
<b>Week 3: Sept 17-23</b> <b>September 17, 2007</b> Last day to apply for a REFUND.	WTP Chapter 2: Constitutional Democracy			P2: Preliminary Research (35 Pts) ~ 6+ hour <b>*SAVE DRAFT</b>
<b>Week 4: Sept 24-30</b> <b>September 30, 2007</b> Last day do DROP classes, without a "W" (no refund).	WTP Chapter 3: Federalism	B. Section 1: Learning About Politics (15 Pts) ~ 1 hour <b>*SAVE DRAFT</b>	<b>Quiz1:</b> WTP Chaps 1, 2 & 3: American Political Culture, Constitutional Democracy, Federalism (10 Pts) ~ .5 hour	
<b>Week 5: Oct 1-7</b> <b>October 01, 2007</b> Last day to file a petition for Credit/No-Credit.	WTP: Read US Constitution & Declaration of Independence  WTP Chapter 4: Civil Liberties		<b>Quiz2:</b> Matching the Bill of Rights (10 Pts) ~ .5 hour  <b>Quiz3:</b> Are these Scholarly Sources? (10 Pts) ~ .5 hour	P3: Detailed Outline with Sources (20 Pts) ~ 4 hours  <b>SUBMIT P1-3 ASSIGNMENT (65 Pts) BY 11 PM</b>
<b>Week 6: Oct 8-14</b>	WTP Chapter 5: Equal Rights  WTP Chapter 6: Public Opinion and Political Socialization	C. Section 2: Seeing Politics / Me As a Political Scholar (15 Pts) ~ 1 hour <b>SUBMIT PS: Intro - 2 AS ASSIGNMENT (40 Pts) BY 11 PM</b>	<b>Quiz4:</b> WTP Chaps 4, 5, & 6: Civil Rights, Equal Rights, Public Opinion & Political Socialization (10 Pts) ~ .5 hour	
<b>Week 7: Oct 15-21</b>	Review for ONLINE MIDTERM: WTP Chapters & Quiz1-4		<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b> Submit by Friday Aug 3 at 11pm (100 Pts) ~ 2 hours	

**NOTE: Some assignments should be submitted together. You should Save Drafts of your work and Submit only after you have all the required sections completed. Pace yourself and plan away.**

**PS1 CALENDAR OF ASSIGNMENTS 2 of 2\***
*\*subject to adjustments (Check ETUDES-NG)*

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
	Readings	Political Scrapbook	Quizzes & Exam	Paper Components
<b>Week 8: Oct 22-28</b>	WTP: Chapter 11: Congress	D. Section 3: Political Me (15 Pts) ~ 1 hour <b>*SAVE DRAFT E.</b>		P4: First Draft (25 Pts) ~ 5+ hours <b>POST your Rough Draft in the Discussion Forum for Review.</b> <b>*SAVE DRAFT</b>
<b>Week 9: Oct 29-Nov 4</b>	WTP: Chapter 12: The Presidency	Section 4: Me As a Voter (15 Pts) ~ 1 hour <b>*SAVE DRAFT</b>	<b>Quiz5:</b> WTP Chaps 11, 12 & 14: Congress, President & Judiciary (10 Pts) ~ .5 hour <b>Quiz6:</b> Court Cases (10 Pts) ~ .5 hour	
<b>Week 10: Nov 5 – 11</b>	WTP: Chapter 14: The Federal Judicial System	F. Section 5: Me As the Policy Maker (15 Pts) ~ 1 hour		
<b>Week 11: Nov 12-18</b>	California Chapter 1-3			
<b>Week 12: Nov 19-25</b> <b>November 21, 2007</b> Last day to DROP classes, with a "W" (in person). <b>November 25, 2007</b> Last day to to DROP classes, with a "W" (Internet or S.T.E.P.).	California Chapter 4-7	G. Section 6: My Declaration (15 Pts) ~ 1 hour <b>SUBMIT PS: 3-6 AS ASSIGNMENT (60 Pts) BY 11 PM</b>	<b>Quiz7:</b> CA1—Chaps 1-7: CA, People, History, Equality, Media, Parties, Campaigns (10 Pts) ~ .5 hour	<b>November 22, 2007</b> Thanksgiving holiday (college closed).
<b>Week 13: Nov 26-Dec 2</b>	California Chapter 8-11		<b>Course Evaluation Survey</b>	P5: Final Draft (10 Pts) ~ 2+ hours <b>SUBMIT P4-5 ASSIGNMENT (35 Pts) BY 11 PM</b>
<b>Week 14: Dec 3-9</b>	California Chapter 12-15		<b>Quiz8:</b> CA2—CA Chaps 8-15: Legislative, Executive, Budget, Judiciary, Laws, Cities, Counties, Future (10 Pts) ~ .5 hour	
<b>Week 15: Dec 10-16</b>				<b>FINAL EXAM (110 Pts)</b> <b>FRIDAY 14 DEC. by 11pm</b> ~ 2 hours

**NOTE: Some assignments should be submitted together. You should Save Drafts of your work and Submit only after you have all the required sections completed. Pace yourself and plan away.**

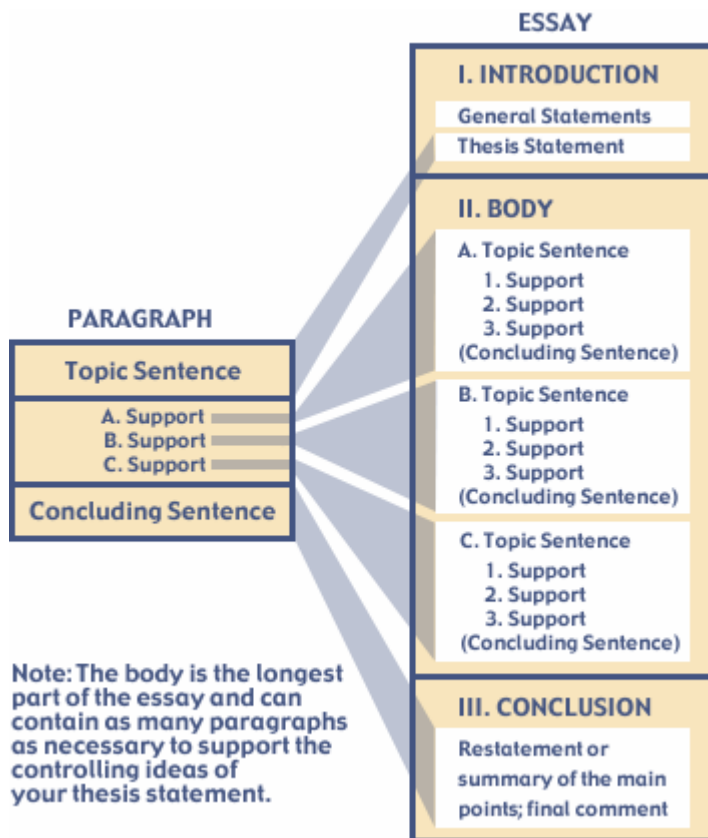
NOTE: ETUDES-NG has a **Schedule** which will remind you of some **Assignments**. Please use the **Calendar by Month** function to view the due dates or check in the **Assignments Area**. You may go ahead of class. **\*Penalty for late work.**

## THE RESEARCH PAPER

**WHY DO A RESEARCH PAPER?** If you plan to continue your education beyond an AA or BA degree, you cannot avoid having to do papers like this. The object of a research paper is to learn how to do independent research. You learn how to use sources to find information and how to organize that information for presentation to others. This is a skill you need in many jobs in business, industry, law and many more.

### Research Paper Requirement

1. 5 to 7 pages of typed, double-spaced, paginated, 12 fonts (Times New Roman), standard margin and proofread paper on topics to be decided by the first week of class.
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. EBSCOhost 2. Opposing Viewpoints 3. CQ Researcher** (ETUDES-NG has the Passwords)
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.**
6. **Late Submissions will be penalized 10% for each week they are late.**



### Parts of the Research Paper

#### Separate Title Page:

Name and ID #: POLITICAL SCIENCE 1,  
SECTION, SEMESTER

Title of Paper

Statement of Purpose

#### Introduction:

Define your topic.

Thesis statement.

#### II. Main Part of Paper:

This is the longest part of your paper.

Describe what you found.

Add numbers for footnotes.

#### III. Conclusions

#### IV. Citing and Parenthetical Citation:

EVERYTHING you did not know, when you started your paper, should be cited (See the Patterson Book as an Example).

(Author's Last Name Year: Page if applicable), e.g. (Smith 2005: 121). You must have a WORKS CITED page list all your sources in alphabetical order.

#### V. "Works Cited" or "References" page:

List all materials you have used in your research paper. Most of your works cited should come from journal articles.

**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.



## POSSIBLE PAPER TOPICS

These topics have been pre-approved. Include the Required Article in your paper. \*Other topics must be approved by instructor\*

Topics	Required Article. You must include the required article as part of your research. Go to <a href="http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/">http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/</a> username: mission password: la818
Abortion	Jost, K., & Koch, K. (2006, September 22). Abortion showdowns. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 16, 769-792. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, <a href="http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2006092200">http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2006092200</a> .
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, <a href="http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2005022500">http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2005022500</a> .
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, <a href="http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2000033100">http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2000033100</a> .
Checks and Balances	Jost, K. (2006, February 24). Presidential power. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 16, 169-192. Retrieved January 29, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, <a href="http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2006022400">http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2006022400</a> .
Civil Rights 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, <a href="http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2003102400">http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2003102400</a> .
Climate Change	Clemmitt, M. (2006, January 27). Climate change. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 16, 73-96. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, <a href="http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2006012700">http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2006012700</a> .
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, <a href="http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2005092301">http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2005092301</a> .
Electoral College	Jost, K., & Giroux, G. (2000, December 8). Electoral College. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 10, 977-1008. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, <a href="http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2000120800">http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2000120800</a> .
Free-Press Dispute	Jost, K. (2005, April 8). Free-press disputes. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 15, 293-316. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, <a href="http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2005040800">http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2005040800</a> .
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, <a href="http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2005012800">http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2005012800</a> .
Human Cloning	Hansen, B. (2004, October 22). Cloning debate. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 14, 877-900. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, <a href="http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2004102200">http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2004102200</a> .
Medical Marijuana	Marshall, P. (2005, February 11). Marijuana laws. <i>CQ Researcher</i> , 15, 125-148. Retrieved January 30, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, <a href="http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2005021100">http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2005021100</a> .
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, <a href="http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2005121600">http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2005121600</a> .
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, <a href="http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2005051301">http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2005051301</a> .
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, <a href="http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2006090100">http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2006090100</a> .
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, <a href="http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2002061400">http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2002061400</a> .
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, <a href="http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre1999030500">http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre1999030500</a> .
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, <a href="http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2006091500">http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresre2006091500</a> .

## EXTRA-CREDIT COMMUNITY SERVICE & VOLUNTEERING

Service Learning is an innovative teaching methodology that integrates community service with academic study to enrich learning, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities. Since President Bill Clinton signed The National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993, significant gains had been made through the employment of Service Learning, which enabled students to learn and develop through active participation in a thoughtfully organized service that is conducted in and meets the needs of communities. Since Service Learning programs integrate academic and professional skill development while providing services to the community, it is becoming one of the strongest trends in higher education. This class seeks to create a partnership between community non-profit agencies and the college. At the same time, this program will help you comprehend the relevance of course materials to the working world and thereby improve your academic and real world performance and future success.

### Rules:

- Up to ten percent (one for each hour volunteered) will be added to overall semester grade. Therefore the maximum extra-credit work can increase your grades from **C** to **B**, or **B** to **A**, etc.
- All volunteer work must be performed at a nonprofit community 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](mailto:chounlam@usc.edu) a confirmation of your hours and their contact information.