

## **Los Angeles Mission College**

### **Political Science 1: Government of the United States**

Late Start (March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008) Spring Semester 2008, Section 0304

#### **Instructor: Som Chounlamountry**

Email: [chounlam@usc.edu](mailto:chounlam@usc.edu) | Online Office Hours: Tuesday 5-6 pm.

## **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, 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.

## **III. Required Texts**

1. **Required:** Patterson, T. E.; *We the People: A Concise Introduction to American Politics*, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition McGraw-Hill. (ISBN 0-07-3403865) or 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> Edition.
2. **Required:** Field, M.; *California Government and Politics Today*, 11<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> edition, AB Longman. (ISBN: 0-321-12962-8)

#### IV. Grading, Assessments, & Calendar

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 to Date Due	Points	%	Your Grade
SELF INTRODUCTIONS ACTIVITIES (Fri. March 14 <sup>th</sup> )	10 Points	2%	
POLITICAL SCRAPBOOK: INTRO - SECTION 2 (Fri. April 4 <sup>th</sup> )	40 points	7%	
MIDTERM EXAM (Fri. April 11 <sup>th</sup> in class)	100 points	17%	
PAPER 1-3: TOPIC PROPOSAL & OUTLINE, PRELIMINARY RESEARCH & DETAILED OUTLINE (Fri April 18 <sup>th</sup> )	65 points	11%	
POLITICAL SCRAPBOOK: SECTION 3-6 (Fri. May 9 <sup>th</sup> )	60 points	10%	
PAPER 4-5: FIRST DRAFT & FINAL DRAFT (Fri. May 16 <sup>th</sup> )	35 points	7%	
FINAL EXAM (Tue. May 27 <sup>th</sup> )	140 points	23%	
5 Online Discussions: Various Due Dates; See ETUDES-NG	50 points	8%	
10 Online Quizzes Check ETUDES-NG: See ETUDES-NG	100 points	17%	

Week & Dates	Readings & Deadline	Topics
Week 5 (3/3 to 3/7) Week 6 (3/10 to 3/14)  <b>REMEMBER THIS IS A LATE START</b>  <b>Email Som</b> <a href="mailto:chounlam@usc.edu">chounlam@usc.edu</a> 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 * <b>ONLINE DISCUSSION 1 due Fri 3/7 by 11pm</b> * <b>SELF INTRODUCTION ACTIVITIES due Fri 3/7 by 11pm</b> * <i>Quiz1-Quiz3 Due by Friday 3/14 by 11pm</i> <a href="#">Quiz1: Welcome Quiz 0304. 10 Points</a> <a href="#">Quiz2: WTP Chps 1, 2 to 3: Political Culture, Constitutional Democracy, Federalism. 10 Points</a> <a href="#">Quiz3: Matching the Bill of Rights. 10 Points</a>	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 7 (3/17 to 3/21)  <b>Week 8: March 24, 2008 - March 30 Spring Break (college closed).</b>  Week 9: (3/31 to 4/4) Week 10: (4/7 to 4/11)	WTP Chapter 4: Civil Liberties WTP Chapter 5: Equal Rights WTP Chapter 6: Public Opinion and Political Socialization * <b>ONLINE DISCUSSION 2 due 3/21 by 11pm</b> * <b>POLITICAL SCRAPBOOK: INTRO - SECTION 2 due by Fri April 4<sup>th</sup> 11:00pm</b> * <i>Quiz4 &amp; Quiz5 Due by Friday 4/4 by 11pm</i> <a href="#">Quiz4: Are these Scholarly Sources? 10 Points</a> <a href="#">Quiz5: WTP Chaps 4, 5, to 6: Civil Liberties, Equal Rights, Opinion to Socialization. 10 Points</a>	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
	<b>Midterm Exam on submitted by Friday April 11 by 11:00pm</b>	<b>Review all the Selected Chapters from WTP and Quizzes</b>
Week 11: (4/14 to 4/18) Week 12: (4/21 to 4/25) Week 13: (4/28 to 5/2)	WTP: Chapter 11: Congress WTP: Chapter 12: The Presidency WTP: Chapter 14: The Federal Judicial System * <b>ONLINE DISCUSSION 3 due 4/18 by 11pm</b> * <b>PAPER 1-3: TOPIC PROPOSAL &amp; OUTLINE, PRELIMINARY RESEARCH &amp; DETAILED OUTLINE due Fri 4/18 by 11pm</b> * <b>ONLINE DISCUSSION 4 due Fri 4/25 by 11pm</b> * <i>Quiz6 &amp; Quiz7 Due by Fri 5/2 by 11pm</i> <a href="#">Quiz6: WTP Chaps 11, 12 &amp; 14: Congress, President &amp; Judiciary. 10 Points</a> <a href="#">Quiz7: Matching Significant Supreme Court Cases. 10 Points</a>	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 14: (5/5 to 5/9) <b>May 05, 2008</b> <b>Last day to DROP classes, with a "W" (in person, Internet or by telephone).</b> Week 15: (5/12 to 5/16) Week 16: (5/19 to 5/23) <b>May 25, 2008</b> <b>SPRING CLASSES END (semester length).</b>	California Chapter 1-7 California Chapter 8-15 * <b>POLITICAL SCRAPBOOK: SECTION 3-6 due Fri 5/9 by 11pm</b> * <b>PAPER 4-5: FIRST DRAFT &amp; FINAL DRAFT due Fri. 5/16 11pm</b> * <b>ONLINE DISCUSSION 5 due Fri 5/16 by 11pm</b> * <i>Quiz8 &amp; Quiz10 due by Monday 5/19 by 11pm</i> <a href="#">Quiz8: CA1—Chps 1-7: CA, People, History, Equality, Media, Parties, Campaigns. 10 Points</a> <a href="#">Quiz9: CA2—CA Chps 8-15: Legislative, Executive, Budget, Judiciary, Laws, Cities, Counties, Future. 10 Points</a> <a href="#">Quiz10: Course Evaluation. 10 Points</a>	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
	* <b>SUBMIT ALL ONLINE DISCUSSIONS AS <i>ONLINE DISCUSSIONS</i> due Mon 5/19 by 11pm</b> * <b>EXTRA CREDIT ASSIGNMENTS AND VOLUNTEERING due by Mon 5/19 by 11pm</b>	
	<b>Final Exam: Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> completed by 11:00pm</b>	<b>Review all the Selected Chapters from WTP and CA Book</b>

## 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 TEST CENTER. 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 7 to 10 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 DSPtoS 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. Research Paper Topics

Topics	<p><b>Required Article. (Read these first!) You must include the required article as part of your research.</b></p> <p><b>Go to <a href="http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/">http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/</a> username: mission password: la818</b></p>
<b>Abortion</b>	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, <a href="http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre2006092200">http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre2006092200</a> .
<b>Alternative Fuels</b>	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/cqresrre2005022500">http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre2005022500</a> .
<b>Campaign Finance Reform</b>	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/cqresrre2000033100">http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre2000033100</a> .
<b>Civil Liberties and the War on Terror</b>	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/cqresrre2003102400">http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre2003102400</a> .
<b>Climate Change</b>	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/cqresrre2006012700">http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre2006012700</a> .
<b>Death Penalty</b>	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/cqresrre2005092301">http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre2005092301</a> .
<b>Electoral College</b>	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, <a href="http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre2000120800">http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre2000120800</a> .
<b>Future of the Supreme Court</b>	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/cqresrre2005012800">http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre2005012800</a> .
<b>Human Cloning</b>	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/cqresrre2004102200">http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre2004102200</a> .
<b>Medical Marijuana</b>	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/cqresrre2005021100">http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre2005021100</a> .
<b>Minimum Wage and Poverty</b>	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/cqresrre2005121600">http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre2005121600</a> .
<b>Right to Die and Assisted Suicide</b>	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/cqresrre2005051301">http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre2005051301</a> .
<b>Stem Cell Research</b>	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/cqresrre2006090100">http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre2006090100</a> .
<b>Universal Health Care</b>	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/cqresrre2002061400">http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre2002061400</a> .
<b>US Energy Policy</b>	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/cqresrre1999030500">http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre1999030500</a> .
<b>Voting and Participation</b>	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/cqresrre2006091500">http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre2006091500</a> .

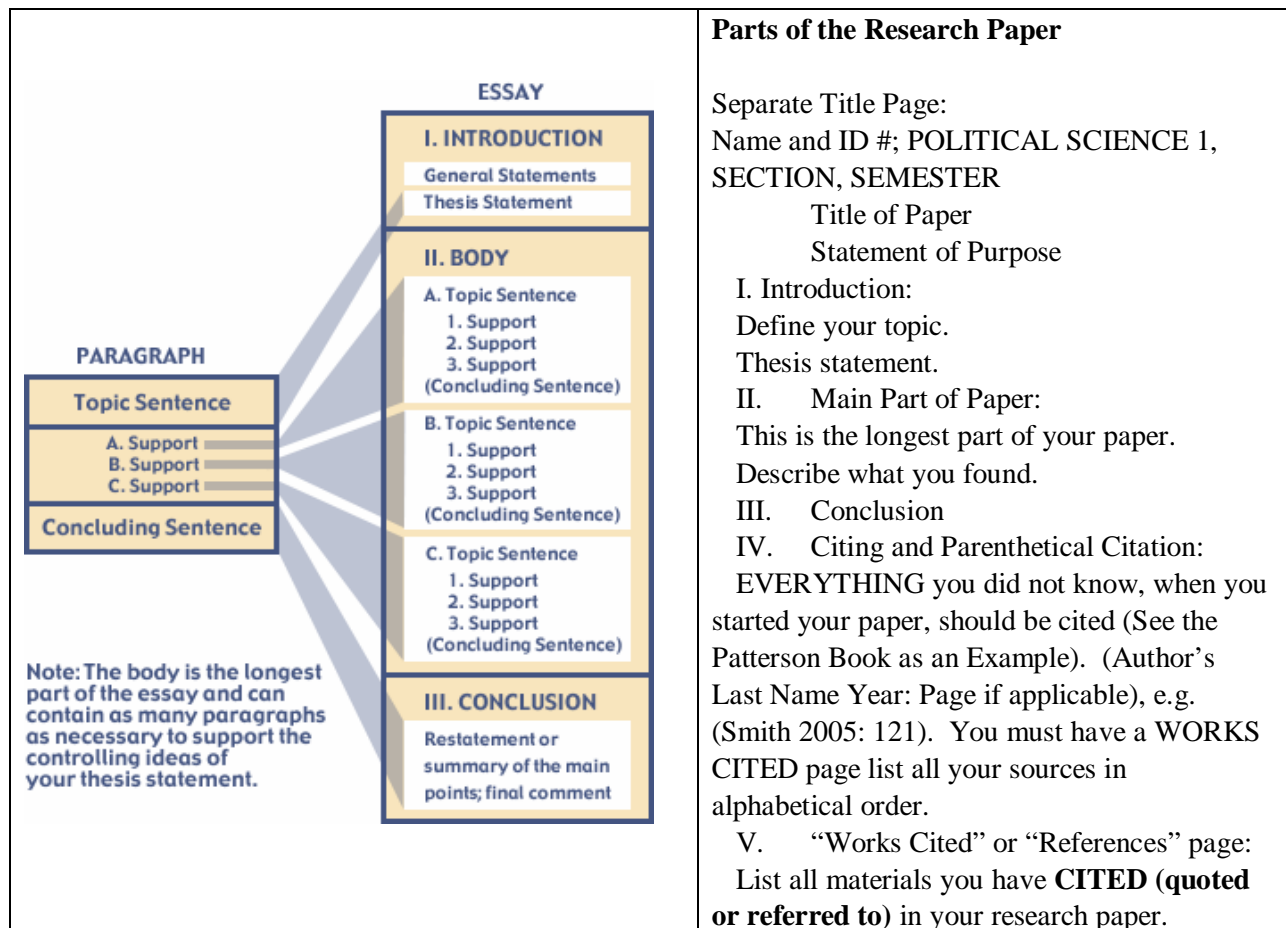
## IX. Research Paper Requirement

1. 5 to 7 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. EBSCOhost 2. Opposing Viewpoints 3. CQ Researcher** (The ETUDES-NG has the Library 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. 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.