Syllabus – POSC 102

Political Science 102 -Introduction to U.S. & California Govt.
T, TH: 12:30-1:50 PM, P-18
Peter Bowman, Instructor
Office Hours: M, W: 11-12:20, 2-3 PM; T, TH: 9:30-10:50 AM, 2-3 PM (Or by Appointment)
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Course lecture notes for each topic are available through my faculty web site (NOT the course blackboard site) at http://daphne.palomar.edu/pbowman.

Other reading assignments may be announced and assigned during the course.

Course Description: This is the second half of a survey course recommended for those students who intend to transfer to a four year college or university. It is designed to acquaint students with selected concepts, theories and methods behind American government, the political processes as well as government, politics and the political processes in California. The course will address some of the major political institutions and their themes in a descriptive as well as conceptual and theoretic framework. Emphasis will be geared toward both theory and the real world of American and California politics. This course, when completed, helps satisfy the college's / CSU American Institutions requirement as well as part of the college social science requirement. Transfer Credit: CSU, UC.

Course Requirements: Students are required to take three exams and write three short analytical papers. Students shall also complete interactive online assignments using Blackboard.

Exams: There will be three exams given. Each will consist of largely essay questions with some multiple choice. The material will be drawn from the readings and lectures discussed in class. A complete essay answer is one that expands discussion of a topic beyond mere description and shows me analysis and your understanding of the concept at hand. While the final exam is not cumulative, you will find that the material in this class builds. It, therefore, behooves you to retain what will have been covered in previous exams. A study guide consisting of that material which is to be covered in each test shall be available through the course blackboard site (www.palomar.edu/pconline).

Make up Exams: Make up exams will be given for those students who are unable to attend the day of the exam. Students must write a 3-4 page summary on an assigned topic, to be turned in on the day of the make up. It is your responsibility to come to me and arrange a make up date for the exam. The exam date will be arranged at a mutually acceptable time for both the student and instructor. Students who take the exam on the original date are not eligible for a make-up. Also, students who need to reschedule the make-up shall have five raw points reduced from their score.
Writing Assignments: Students will complete four writing assignments, integrating conventional news sources with the internet. Students will select any current event of interest related to American, California and local politics and government. Then the student will select a print media news source (newspaper, periodical, journal etc.) and an internet specific news source on that same current event. For each source, please choose a hard news or feature news article. Please do not use op-ed pieces. For those topics that are national or international in nature, you are required to select a print publication of a national level circulation, such as the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Christian Science Monitor, Wall Street Journal or Washington Post. Certainly, you are not limited to these sources. You may use another publication if you wish, so long as it is of a national circulation and it provides detailed and comprehensive hard news/feature analysis of your selected topic. Topics of a state/local nature can be accessed using a local/regional circulation newspaper (San Diego Union-Tribune, North County Times, Riverside Press-Enterprise, Los Angeles Times, etc.). Please do not use op-ed pieces (editorials, opinion columns, etc.). Also, do not use short news clips from wire reports. Please make sure your source/article is one of a substantive and detailed information provider.

The student will then write a 3 page essay addressing the final criteria: (1) Give a brief background on the topic. What is the relevance to politics? What is the general situation or synopsis? (2) Give your own perspective and opinion on this issue, supported from the evidence provided by the sources. (3) Give an analysis comparing the information offered on the internet with that of the print media source. Which source gives more depth and detail? Is there a particular bias with one source? Which source, overall, would be a more dependable source for one to do research, with regard to selection, bias, coverage, etc.? These are just a few of the questions you can tackle when doing these assignments. Please attach a copy of both the internet source and the print source along with your essays. Each assignment is worth five (5) points each. Late papers will be docked one (1) point for every class session an assignment is not turned in after the due date. The due dates of the writing assignments are as follows: First assignment: **February 19**, Second assignment: **March 19**, Third assignment: **April 23**.

Online Assignments: Every student enrolled in the class shall each have their own Blackboard (Bb) account. Every week (Starting Every Wednesday through the following Wednesday at 3 PM, beginning February 2), students shall be required to log on to the Bb site for this class and respond to a different question(s) on the discussion board. Each weekly topic(s) shall be given by the professor and will be related to course material and other relevant topics. Student responses shall address each question in a way that uses relevant course materials, and that gives an analysis of the discussion board topic. There is no required length for each student post. However, students who post responses that consist of such short, simple statements, such as “good point”, “I agree”, or other obviously non-substantive remarks that lack serious thought shall not be accepted for credit. While the professor shall have the discretion to determine whether or not posts meet these requirements, your common-sense should be more than sufficient to distinguish between posts that are of substance and those that are not.

For every acceptable weekly post that a student completes on the discussion board, that student shall receive a check mark for credit. Missing check marks shall result in the student’s Bb discussion board portion of their grade being affected. While students are required to post a minimum of one response per week, there certainly is no maximum limit on posts. If you want to respond to other students’ posts on the weekly topic/question, please feel free to do so! Part of the purpose of this assignment is to interact with your fellow students and to further your familiarity with the course material.

Attendance: Please note that when you miss one class session, you've missed a half week's worth of material. Students are, therefore, strongly encouraged to attend every class session. If you must miss a class, you are encouraged to notify me the session before (if you know ahead of time of your impending absence). You will still be responsible for all material (reading, lecture, and handouts) that you miss. If you accumulate excessive absences you may be subject to being dropped from the course. Students are subject to earning an "F", "W" or "FW".

Add and Withdrawals: If for some reason you decide to withdraw (drop) from this class, you must do so officially. This will be your responsibility. You are reminded that a "W" cannot be recorded for you
after the last date to withdraw. If you officially withdraw after this date, an "FW" will automatically be assessed on your transcript. An academic grade will be assigned by me if you do not attempt to administratively drop but stop physically showing up after the drop deadline. Please observe the appropriate "add" and "drop" deadlines in the course schedule and in this syllabus: Deadline to add the course without a permission number: **January 25**, Deadline to add the course with a permission number: **February 1**, deadline to drop the course without a "W": **February 18**, deadline to drop the course with a "W": **March 14**.

Please note that the professor reserves at all times the right to drop students for reasons such as excessive absences, absence from class on the first day, excessive absences from class after the first day and failure to notify the professor about those absences and other reasons.

Grading: Your course grade will be broken down into the following assignments and percentages:
- First Exam: 20%
- Second Exam: 20%
- Final Exam: 30%
- Writing Assignments: 15%
- Online Discussion Assignments: 10%
- Attendance: 5%
The following grade scale will be used when determining final letter grades:

90 -100: A
89 -80: B
79 -70: C
69 -60: D
59 and below: F

A mark of "Incomplete" or "F" may be given in the event of any missing work by a student.

Cheating/Plagiarism: Essentially, plagiarism is defined as any of the following:
 a. Verbatim copying without proper acknowledgement.
 b. Paraphrasing without proper acknowledgement.
 c. Putting together a "patchwork" paper from diverse sources, without proper acknowledgement of those sources.
 d. Unacknowledged appropriation of information or of someone else's ideas.

Cheating on exams is defined as any of the following:
 a. Drawing answers from anyone other than yourself.
 b. Having access to both a copy of the exam and/ or its answers prior to it being administered. (cont.)
 c. Having access to exam answers during the exam via a "cheat sheet" or any other document that was created before the exam was administered.

Any student caught engaging in any of these acts will be subject to a grade of "F" for that assignment and the course as well as being subject to expulsion from the college. A fulfilling academic and learning experience helps to be ensured when students do their own work.

Disabilities: Students with disabilities who may need academic accommodations should discuss options with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) and/ or myself during the first week of class.

Student Behavior: In order to help ensure a pleasant and enriching learning experience, certain etiquette and decorum must be observed in the classroom. Students will show respect and courtesy at all times toward all opinions and comments expressed in class. Also, students will not engage in any behavior that is distracting to the instructor or other students. This includes, but is not limited to, talking, continuous whispering, texting, sleeping, use of any electronic device, excessive and chronic tardiness, chronic entering and exiting of the classroom. When you exhibit such behavior, you show a lack of respect for me, this institution, the institution of academe, your fellow students and yourself as well. Please note that the professor reserves the right to penalize the attendance portion of the grade of any student who engages in any of the said disruptive behavior, using his own subjective judgment.
### Schedule of Topics and Reading Assignments

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week/Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 20</td>
<td>Introduction and Overview</td>
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<td>January 27</td>
<td>American Political Ideologies</td>
<td>(B) 1, (L), 17, 18</td>
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<td>February 3</td>
<td>(Continued)</td>
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<td>February 10</td>
<td>The U.S. Congress</td>
<td>(B) 10 (L) 12/App.</td>
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<td>February 17</td>
<td>(continued)</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 24</td>
<td>The Presidency</td>
<td>(B) 11 (L) 13/App., 1-4</td>
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<td>March 3</td>
<td>(Presidency, cont.)</td>
<td>(First Mid-Term Exam, March 5)</td>
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<td>March 10</td>
<td>The Executive Bureaucracy</td>
<td>(B) 12 (L) 14</td>
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<td>March 17</td>
<td>Judiciary &amp; The Courts</td>
<td>(B) 13 (L) 15</td>
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<td>March 31</td>
<td>(Judiciary, Continued)</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 7</td>
<td>Economic &amp; Domestic Policy; U.S. Foreign Policy (Political Economy Days, April 8 &amp; 9)</td>
<td>(B) 15 (L) 17, (B) 14, (L) 19,20</td>
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<td>April 14</td>
<td><strong>Start of POSC 120 - California: Introduction &amp; Political Culture</strong></td>
<td>(G) 1</td>
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<td>April 16</td>
<td><em>(Second Mid-Term Exam, April 16)</em></td>
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<td>April 21</td>
<td>Parties, Elections and Direct Democracy</td>
<td>(G) 2,3 (LAW), 14-26</td>
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<td>April 28</td>
<td><em>(Continued; CA. Public Policy &amp; State Budgetary Economics)</em></td>
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<td>May 5</td>
<td>California State Legislature</td>
<td>(G) 5,8</td>
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<td>May 12</td>
<td>The Governorship and Plural Executive</td>
<td>(G) 7 (LAW) 1-12</td>
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<td>May 21</td>
<td><strong>Final Exam – Thursday, May 21, 12 Noon</strong></td>
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**Note:** Exam dates, reading/writing assignment dates & lecture topic dates are subject to change.