

American Institutions
Brenda Riddick

Political Science 101-91
CSUDH - Spring 2016

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE TIMES: **CSU-DHTV Broadcast**

Units: **3**

CONTACT POINTS:

Office Hours: **Monday 1:00- 2:00PM or by SKPE appointment**

Office Location: **SBS 3C341**

Email: **briddick@csudh.edu (only)**

Phone: **310.243.2321**

Poli Sci Dept.: **SBS 3G325, ph. 310.243.3435**

REQUIRED TEXT: Barbour & Wright, Keeping the Republic, 5th Edition (Brief).

Thousand Oaks: Sage CQPress, 2013 (**ISBN 13: ISBN 9781452220154**)

REQUIRED COMPUTER SOFTWARE/HARDWARE CAPABILITIES: CSUDH, like most universities, does not use Apple products. Therefore, we cannot open documents that are in the pages format. Before you turn in a paper into this course's Blackboard (Bb) site, you must save your assignment as a .doc, .docx or an .rtf and then upload it using the link on the Assignments page of the Bb website. This is an issue all MAC users will face in a Windows environment.

COMPUTER LITERACY SKILL EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE COURSE:

Students must be familiar with Microsoft Word and Windows. If a student is a Mac user, the documents s/he electronically submits must be saved in a format that can be opened and read by non-Apple products (.doc, .docx, or .rtf). Basic computer "literacy" is defined for the course as the student's ability to use the computer to accomplish the following:

- To access the Internet and to locate the CSUDH.edu site and the Bb site for this course in order to download information, take quizzes and exams, to view grades, and upload Word documents into Bb and TurnItIn if applicable;
- To use a word processing program to complete assignments and an understanding of common file formats;
- To use the CSUDH e-mail system to communicate with instructors and other students.

DISTANCE EDUCATION COURSE: This is a Distance Education Class where communication between the professor and student occurs primarily via academic technology. It is to the student's advantage to observe the class "live" on Mondays 3:00 to 4:30PM during the semester. The lectures are uploaded to YouTube and are available at <http://www.youtube.com/user/CSUDHTV> for reviewing after the live broadcast.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Disabled Student Services (<http://www4.csudh.edu/dss>) can be contacted at (310) 243-3660 or the Director, Patricia Wells, emailed at pwells@csudh.edu.

Office: Welch Hall (WH), D-180

Faculty reserves the right to modify the course syllabus as necessary.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

POL-101 seeks to familiarize undergraduate students to the field of government, politics and policy through improved skills in evaluating, analyzing, and discussing the process and content of American government, politics, and policy and to develop the basic skills of an active, participating citizen in the American governmental system.

This is an introductory course in how politics works in the United States and how it affects you. We will begin by looking at how the United States was established. Next, we will examine various forms of politics – who gets involved, how, and what power they have. Next, we will examine the national government – the president, the congress, the courts, and the bureaucracy. At the end, we will see how all these elements are involved in the making of public policy. Throughout, we will consider how democratic our political system is, and discuss current political issues.

You will learn by discussion and doing more than just simply by lecture, so it is important that you view the class “live” and participate. Learning by discussion works best if we have a variety of viewpoints and experiences to share and students are willing to share their thoughts and keep an open mind to the perspectives of others.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The aim of this course is threefold--

1. To help you learn the fundamentals of American government, politics, and policy.
2. To improve your skills in evaluating, analyzing, and discussing the processes and content of American government, politics, and policy.
3. To help you develop the basic skills of an active, participating citizen in the American governmental system.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon completion of this course students should have a broad-spectrum of knowledge related to the field of American government, politics and policy including the ability to:

1. Identify the nature and dynamics of American government, politics and ideologies in our democratic society
2. Understand the tensions inherent in democratic tradition, specifically among the values of freedom, order and equality; between competing visions of democracy; and the impact of globalization
3. Identify prevailing political positions on controversial and emerging political issues and politics.

These learning outcomes will be met by:

- Completing weekly pre-broadcast quizzes, a mid-term and final exam demonstrating critical analysis of basic concepts of American government, including the characterization of politics and power, and the economic, social, and ideological context of the U.S. system.
- Identifying and describing the system functions of participating institutions generally and the following specifically: public opinions, mass media, organized interests, political parties, the presidency, congress, the bureaucracy and the courts through discussion and/or critical analysis written assignments.
- Developing one’s own well-supported arguments orally and/or in writing as assessed in critical analysis “quick write” journal assignments
- Comparing and contrasting controversial issues/decisions (thought provokers) for discussion during the broadcast, online, exploratory writing and the completion of a critical analysis paper.

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REQUIREMENTS: The student's responsibilities in this course include the following—

1. Viewing the class and taking good, coherent, accurate, serviceable notes; and
2. Familiarity with Blackboard (Bb) and all of the assigned material, and
3. Writing and completion of all exams and assignments; and
4. Completing all assigned pre-quizzes by the due date in preparation for the live broadcast; and
5. Demonstrate sound English usage (grammar, spelling, sentence structure, etc.). Your written work must be typed, double spaced, and 12 point Times New Roman font.
6. Mental preparedness for the subject and for viewing the class. The student is expected to clearly express the concepts under consideration during pre-quizzes, live broadcast discussions, written assignments and examinations.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY, PLAGIARISM, & CHEATING: Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. As presented in the current University Catalog, academic dishonesty encompasses forms of cheating and plagiarism, including fabrication (“intentional invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise”), facilitating academic dishonesty (“knowingly helping or attempting to help another provide to violate a provision of the institutional code of academic integrity”), plagiarism (“deliberated adoption or reproduction of ideas or words or statements of another person as one’s own without acknowledgement”).

The catalog goes on to say: “Thus all academic work submitted by a student as his or her own should be in his or her own unique style, words, and form. When a student submits work [or part of work] that purports to be his/her original work, but actually is not, the student has committed plagiarism.” The student is encouraged to consult the full current catalog statement on academic integrity at: <http://www.csudh.edu/catalog/2011-2013>

Students are hereby notified that in this course all papers will be submitted to TurnItIn.com to look for instances of plagiarism (direct copying of text from books, on-line resources, etc. without proper citation, submitting papers from other courses). In all cases of cheating and plagiarism, the severest of penalties allowed by university policy (up to and including expulsion) may be pursued.

GRADING: This course is a basic skills requirement of the CSU General Education Program. Grades for this course shall be based on a point system of 220 points, organized as follows:

| Grade Components | Max Points |
|--|-------------------|
| Pre-quizzes | 98 |
| Critical Analysis Paper | 10 |
| Journal ‘Quick Writes’ (9 @ 3 points each) | 27 |

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|--|------------|
| Class Participation – You must read and adhere to the section on Participation as the instructor will strictly enforce this method for applying the points. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you email a question during live broadcast with a coherent, thoughtful question or comment related to the topic discussed you will earn 1 point each week OR• If you call-in during live broadcast with a coherent, thoughtful question or comment related to the topic discussed you will earn 2 points each week OR• If you are cannot watch the “live broadcast” you may email a question no later than 24 hours after the live broadcast to earn 1 point each week | 12 |
| Mid-term Exam | 40 |
| Final Examination | 40 |
| TOTAL | 227 |

Grading Criteria

| Grade | Grade Point Ranges |
|-------|-----------------------------------|
| A | A 216-227, A- 204-215 |
| B | B+ 193-203, B 187-192, B- 170-186 |
| C | C+ 159-169, C 147-158, C- 136-146 |
| D | D+ 125-135, D 114-124 |
| F | Below 114 |

CLASS PARTICIPATION: Active participation is an integral part in the process of demonstrating understanding of the concepts presented in each lecture. Students are encouraged to interact with the instructor during lectures in one of three ways:

1. Students who submit questions and comments to the instructor via email (askdhtvlive@gmail.com) during the live broadcasts will receive 1.0 participation points.
2. Students who call in via the toll-free phone number provided (800.339.1193) to interact with the instructor based on prompts provided during the live lecture will broadcast of each lecture will receive 2.0 participation points.
3. Students who cannot watch live broadcast of a lecture may submit a question to the instructor for 1.0 points via email (briddick@csudh.edu). Each week, beginning 2/8/2016 one of these questions may be selected as a “question of the day” and used during each live broadcast.

LATE WORK: Any work turned in late in this course will receive a 50% reduction in maximum points earned. It is to the student’s advantage to adhere to the due “date” schedule” below which will also appear on Bb. If a

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Modified on 5/12/2016

student is sick, hospitalized, or has an “emergency,” s/he is required to provide the professor at least 3-days advance notice that they will miss a pre-quiz or the mid-term exam deadline in order to make alternate arrangements for the student to make up what was missed. **The final exam cannot be made-up.**

EXTRA CREDIT: There is extra credit to be obtained in this course. At the start of each broadcast I will share the Extra Credit question and you will have an opportunity to earn 1 point for each correct response. Your response must be submitted through Bb using the link provided in the Extra Credit section by 7:00PM on the Sunday after the broadcast from which it was offered.

NOTE: The instructor reserves the right to modify the course syllabus (including assignments or grade components which may alter the total number of points available at the end of the semester).

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