

Ford Community College
WINTER 2011

Division: Social Science Division

Course Number and Title: Political Science 131 (ONLINE)

Credit Hours: Three Credit Hours (3)

Total Contact Hours: 47

Prerequisite: None

Co-requisite: None

Instructor: Dr. Gabriel Kikas

Office: L-108

Communication: Telephone: (313) 845-9600; E-Mail: gkikas@henryford.ucompass.com

Required Text: American Government and Politics Today Brief Edition-2010-2011, by Schmidt, Shelley, Bardes

Purpose of the Course:

This course serves as a basic introduction to American government and politics. This course will examine the three branches of government and, moreover, what role they play in the political process. Students will learn to define concepts such as government, politics, and separation of powers. Students will be able to utilize these various concepts in “understanding ... the foundations and operations of American social/political institutions and culture in the context of a diverse global community.” Finally, this course is designed to help students build vocabulary and sharpen useful study skills.

Major Course Objectives:

1. Compare federal, unitary, and confederal systems of government.
2. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances.
3. Identify and explain the institutions of government and the Constitutional framework: The Legislative, Executive and Judicial Branches of Government.
4. Define the roles of the President.
5. Discuss the expansion of Presidential power.
6. Explain the operations of Congress.
7. Demonstrate an understanding of the federal courts.
8. Explain the election process. Describe how American Democracy is based on citizen participation and the election process.
9. Identify the role of political parties in the political process.
10. Discuss the impact of interest groups on the government.
11. Identify basic human rights and civil rights.
12. Explain civil rights and civil liberties from a historical perspective and analyze how civil rights and civil liberties impact American society today.
13. Discuss the role of the United Nations in the global environment.
14. Describe the Public Policy Process. Describe how policy is developed and implemented.

15. Discuss extra-constitutional institutions and their impact on American society.

Rules:

The class is to follow these guidelines and rules:

1. Students should be attentive regarding the **Announcement** page. It is here where the instructor will announce all reading assignments, tests, and projects due during the duration of the semester. If students have any questions, please e-mail the instructor at gkikas@henryford.ucompass.com.
2. Students are expected to complete all weekly assignments and activities contained within the packets found for this course. Please note: **I will accept late assignments UP TO ONE WEEK AFTER THE DUE DATE. I will take points off for being late. It is in your best interest to submit your assignments promptly.**
3. The instructor will be available for questions and feedback **SEVEN DAYS A WEEK**. Every day at 4:00 p.m., the instructor will check his e-mail at gkikas@henryford.ucompass.com. The instructor will reply to your questions will respond to students' e-mail within 24 hours.
4. There will be a mid-term exam and a final exam. Students who do not take the final exam at the scheduled time without prior approval will receive an "E" grade for the final exam.
5. Refunds on Tuition and fees (except registration fees) may be obtained on all classes of fifteen-week duration. Students can be officially dropped according to the following schedule: 100% 1st week of class; 50% 2nd week of class. No tuition refunds are given after the end of the second week of classes and no exceptions are made for students who enter the course late. Courses other than fifteen-week duration have differing refund schedules. Details may be obtained in the Office of the Registrar. Students receiving financial aid have additional refund options available to them. They should review the brochure Financial Aid Information Guide and Consumer Information Supplement, available in the Financial Aid Office.
6. The final day to drop the course is **TBA**.
7. Students are not allowed to plagiarize any assignment or to cheat on any of the scheduled exams. Doing so can result in an "E" grade.
8. There are important things you should know about Online Conduct Policy. First of all, HFCC students are expected to show respect for order, law, the personal rights of others, and the educational mission of the College, as well as to maintain standards of personal integrity. Second, Students working online will be held to the same behavioral standards as students in traditional classrooms. Please be aware that the instructor will be observing your threaded discussions with each other, and he will review those discussions, commenting where appropriate with the goal of helping you to better understand the course content. Specifically, you should adhere to the following guidelines:
 - a. Personal correspondence should be conducted elsewhere.
 - b. Treat and respect others as you would like to be treated.

- c. “Flaming,” an angry series of words or comments used to personally attack others who may disagree with you, is not permitted.
 - d. Take time to review the tone, language, word choice, spelling, and grammar of any written correspondence prior to sending it. You will be judged by the quality of your work.
 - e. HFCC’s computer use policy is in effect. It can be found at <http://www2.hfcc.edu/resources/policy.htm>.
 - f. Students are responsible for completing their own online course work.
9. A few words about Academic Dishonesty. HFCC considers academic dishonesty to be a serious offense. It is the policy of the College that determination and appropriate action in respect to academic dishonesty by a student shall be a matter of individual judgment by the instructor. The instructor may administer a penalty up and including failure in the particular course. It is the professional obligation of the faculty to enforce academic integrity in their courses. Academic dishonesty is any activity intended to improve a student’s grade fraudulently. It includes, but is not limited to, the following:
- a. Unauthorized acquisition of tests or alteration of grades (such as the stealing of tests, test keys, or grade books from faculty offices and elsewhere, or the purchasing of tests or grade books); Unauthorized use of notes, books, or other prohibited materials used during an examination;
 - b. Open cheating on an examination (such as copying from another student’s paper);
 - c. Permitting another person to take a test in the student’s place or receiving unauthorized assistance with any work for which academic credit is received;
 - d. Revision of graded work in an attempt to receive additional credit fraudulently;
 - e. Plagiarism (using another’s person work without acknowledgement);
 - f. Any other conduct intended to obtain academic credit fraudulently or dishonestly. If an instructor fails a student in a course for academic dishonesty, the instructor must immediately notify in writing the student and the registrar of the infraction, retaining copies of both notifications
10. A final word about academic dishonesty. The registrar maintains a record of all such violations. If a student fails two classes as a result of academic dishonesty, he or she is dismissed from the College for two academic years. In addition, a notation of the reason for academic dismissal is place on the student’s academic transcript. The notation may be expunged at the discretion of the appropriate vice president if the student petitions for its removal after at least two years have elapsed since the disciplinary action. If a student believes that the accusation is false, he or she may appeal through the Student Complaint Procedure. If the appeal reaches the Student Complaint Board, the Board may consider only whether the charge is justified. The Board my not set aside or change the penalty given by the instructor unless the charge of academic dishonesty is set aside.

Evaluation of Course:

This course will cover a textbook about a chapter per week. There are three parts that students will be asked to fulfill during the semester. These parts are designed to nurture students' critical thinking skills. **The total number of points for this course is 530.** They are:

1. There ARE TWO TESTS. The first test will be at mid-term. The first test will cover chapters 1-7. The second test will cover chapters 8-14. The second test will be at the end of the semester. Each test is worth 100 points.
2. Students will submit two to three small assignments for each week over the duration of the semester. They are Critical Thinking Questions (10 points each), Election Journal Entries(5 points each), and Discussion Board questions (10 points each). You may submit Critical Thinking Assignments and Journal Entries through the Weekly Chapter Packets, the Assignments link or the GRADES/PROGRESS link. You are to submit Discussion Board assignments through the DISCUSSION BOARD link ONLY. If you do NOT submit these assignments correctly, I will NOT grade these assignments. The instructor will provide information regarding these assignments. Please consult the **Announcement Board** before going to the chapter packets. The students will also find information about assignments in chapter packets provided by the instructor. You are allowed to hand in late assignments up to one week after that assignment is due. After that week, I will no longer accept that assignment.
3. Total number of points: 530.

530 490 A

489 449 B

448 408 C

407 367 D

366 0 E

This syllabus is subject to change. Best wishes for a happy and safe semester.