

Gabriel Kikas, Ph.D.
Henry Ford Community College
5101 Evergreen Road
Dearborn, Michigan 48128
gkikas@henryford.ucompass.com

December 10, 2010

Hello Class:

Welcome to Political Science 131 (Online). Allow me to introduce myself.

My name is Dr. Gabriel Kikas, and this will be my seventh year teaching American government and politics at Henry Ford Community College. Before I came to Henry Ford, I taught American history and politics at Holy Redeemer High School in Detroit, Michigan. As well, I worked for a summer at U.S. Senator Spencer Abraham's office in Southfield, Michigan. There, I assisted Abraham's staff in handling constituent problems and questions. I have been a book reviewer for the political science journal, *Perspectives on Political Science*. For this journal, I wrote reviews on books dealing with comparative and international politics. In 2008, I completed a master's degree in American history at Wayne State University. The subject of my master's essay was the utopian community Brook Farm. Currently, I also teach history and political science at Macomb Community College and the University of Detroit Mercy. My hobbies include reading literature (among my favorites include John Steinbeck and P.G. Wodehouse) and listening to classical music (among my favorites include Bach and Mozart) .

The Political Science 131 course textbook is entitled *American Government and Politics Today*, 2010-2011 edition by Steffen Schmidt et al. You can purchase this book at the HFCC bookstore.

Here are a few important points you should know about:

How do I know if I am ready for an online course?

For this course, you should have access to Internet, be familiar with word processing applications, and, moreover, have a "basic working knowledge of computers." To determine whether or not you are ready for an online course you can take the survey "**Is Online Learning for You?**" This survey can be found at <http://henryford.ucompass.com>. Look for the survey link.

To Find Your Web Advisor User ID/Login:

Go to www.hfcc.edu.
Click on **Current Students** link.
Click on **Web Adviser** link.
Click on **What is my user ID?** Link
Follow the prompts to find your User ID.

To Enter Web Adviser:

When you have your User ID/Login, click "Menu" to return to Web Adviser.
Enter your User ID/Login and Password.
Your password is the four-digit month and day of your birth (MMDD; e.g., April 5= 0405).
You must change your password the first time you log on the Web Adviser. Your brochure makes this very important point: You use your new password "only when you log in to **Web Adviser**. Your Ucompass

password and your Novell Network password will remain the same, the four-digit month and day of your birth.”

To Access UCompass Educator Courses:

The direct route is to enter the url within the address slot of your browser. The url is <http://henryford.ucompass.com>. You can also reach UCompass through My.HFCC website (my.hfcc.edu), click UCompass link located on the left panel. Finally, you can reach UCompass from the HFCC website (www.hfcc.edu), locate the menu “For Faculty and Staff..” Under the menu option, click on UCompass.

E-Mail Accounts:

Students using UCompass Educator have a course e-mail account within their UCompass course. Course correspondence should be conducted through this account. This will allow separation of course business from personal e-mail. This will also ensure that students receive important course communication that they cannot deny was sent or received. The e-mail address for students inside the UCompass educator course e-mail account is the students’ username@henrford.ucompass.com. Student personal e-mails should be distributed through other e-mail accounts. Active HFCC students will receive an HFCC E-Mail Account. Students can access their HFCC e-mail account through the <http://my.hfcc.edu> link.

Tech Support:

If you require assistance accessing UCompass Educator courses, please contact Instructional Technology at 313-845-9663 extension 3, 4, or 5 or via e-mail signorelli@hfcc.edu, kolin@hfcc.edu, or ybeaty@hfcc.edu. On-campus assistance is also available in the Student-Center at the Tech Buddy Desk or within the Instructional Technology, Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Instructional Technology is located on the lower level of the Learning Technology Center (same building as Campus Safety). Room A-004.

I will respond to e-mail and other course questions ASAP Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. The best way to reach me is by e-mail.

Once again, welcome to Political Science 131. Please accept my best wishes for a happy and safe semester.

Sincerely,

Gabriel Kikas, Ph.D.

gkikas@henryford.ucompass.com