

# Political Science 1

## *Syllabus and Welcome Letter*

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**THE MOST VITAL PART OF THIS CLASS:  
READ THIS SYLLABUS AND OUTLINE THE CHAPTERS AS YOU READ!!!**

### **Student Contact Information**

My communication with the class will be primarily through announcements posted on the Blackboard Message Board. However, if you need to contact me, please feel free to send me an email directly. Also, be sure to ENTER YOUR CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS WHEN YOU COMPLETE ALL ASSIGNMENTS AND EMAILS.

All work must be posted to BB before the due dates. Do not email homework or exams to me directly. In order to receive credit, your work must be posted on Blackboard (BB).

There are **no face-to-face meetings** (i.e., Mandatory Meetings) in this distance education class. You will receive all information for the class electronically. This page is the "course welcome page" and the class syllabus for online distance education students only.

**ONLINE students, after the semester begins, you must check the announcement page (see below) every other day. Anything less and you will be jeopardizing your grade and status in the class!**

**As is the case with many on-campus courses, Political Science 1 requires that the student be highly disciplined and motivated. This course offers considerable flexibility for the completion of assignments, yet like students taking American Government at the SADDLEBACK campus, on-line students must meet certain deadlines in order to complete the course successfully. DO NOT email assignments/ exams/ reports to my email. All work must be posted to Blackboard in order to receive credit. Late work will not be accepted!! No exceptions!!!**

### **PREREQUISITES:**

None. However, a desire to learn and think critically is beneficial.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

1. To examine and analyze the origins and historical development of the American Political Experience
2. To recognize the forces that contributed to the particular development of diversity, values, institutions and ideas of the United States, both nationally and internationally.
3. To understand and describe critically major political, economic, intellectual and cultural themes within America
4. To understand and recognize the contributions of ethnic and gender groups.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Political Science 1 is a broad-based survey of major American Government topics, historical events and themes will be discussed from a multi-dimensional perspective using relevant examples from a variety of primary and secondary sources. Political Science 1 is a general education, transferable class that fulfills the Government requirement for all A.A. and A.S. Degrees. This course also meets the requirements for the California Teaching Credential.

General education does not mean remedial. Politics is relevant and alive. This is a first and second year college class which parallels US Government classes at both public and private universities. The study of Politics is vital to understanding many of the social, political, economic and ethnic issues of today.

### **COURSE LENGTH:**

This class will be an **8-week class**. That means that we will move through a semester's worth of material in a VERY SHORT TIME. Be sure to check the Assignment Deadlines and the Class Announcements pages daily. There will be assignments due every week.

### **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

- Be able to use the major analytic and theoretical frameworks in several subfields of political science in order to effectively describe, explain, and predict political phenomena;
- Be able to structure and evaluate normative political arguments;
- Be able to effectively use evidence to analyze empirical political statements;
- Develop a greater appreciation of the values and factual assumptions that underlie one's own political ideology;
- Value active and engaged citizenship; and
- Broaden and deepen their knowledge of political institutions and of the forces that drive political movements, public policy, and public law.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Narges Rabii

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** msnarges@hotmail.com

**PHONE:** (714) 628-4940 **FAX:** (714) 532-4481

### **OFFICE HOURS:**

Since this is a distance education course, my office hours will be by arrangement. I am available by email during the semester from Monday through Friday only. I usually will make every attempt to answer your emails within 48 hours (EXCEPT ON WEEKENDS)

Please list your name and class information **on every email**.

### **CLASS ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**All class announcements will be posted on Blackboard Course Management system message board pages. The blackboard site for SADDLEBACK is: <http://socccd.blackboard.com>**

### **TYPES OF ASSIGNMENTS:**

- **Discussion.** Discussion assignments will use the Blackboard message board. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the Discussion Threads for all posts. You are required to post weekly. (see "online assignments" above)
- **Assignments.** Analytical review of articles, video clips etc. See "Course Information" for guidelines on writing with a critical and analytical voice.
- **Assignments turned-in or postmarked late will receive NO credit!** Make every attempt to turn in your assignments early, I recommend that you turn in your assignments

one full day before they are due. This will ensure that you don't miss the important deadlines. NO LATE WORK IS ALLOWED!!!

- **Four (4) exams.**
- You will be accessing the Blackboard web site to take your exams. You will have one hour for the 50 multiple choice question exam. Be sure to be mindful of the time. If you see a ( ! ) on a quiz or exam score that means that your work still needs to be graded and/or you have exceeded the allotted time limit for that assignment. I will not penalize your grade for going over the time as long as the length of time is within reason (i.e., ~ 5 minutes). If you see a **padlock icon** on an exam that likely means that you were kicked off the Blackboard site while attempting to complete it after the deadline.
- You will have a 48 hour window period in which to complete your exams online. Please do not wait until the last minute to log on to Blackboard to begin your exam. The exam time will stop at exactly at 11 pm (PST) on the last day of the window period and cannot be reopened. Once the exam has been opened, you must complete it.

### **GRADING:**

Library/Museum Report	100 points	
Exam #1	100 points	<b>A</b> = 100-89%
Exam #2	100 points	<b>B</b> = 88-78%
Exam #3	100 points	<b>C</b> = 77- 68%
Exam #4	100 points	<b>D</b> = 67- 55%
Discussion Board Posts	80 points	<b>F</b> = less than 54%
Assignments	50 points	

**Total Points: 630 points**

### **DROPS:**

If for any reason you should decide to drop this course, it is your responsibility to officially drop the course in the Records Office. If you do not officially drop, you may end up receiving an "F" in the course. Also, please inform me of your decision and so I can remove your name from the roster.

### **Text:**

Greenberg and Page, *The Struggle for Democracy*, Pearson-Longman Press 8<sup>th</sup> Edition

### **Computer Requirements**

The following requirements are necessary for this class:

- **Computer Specs:** Fast computer: PC running an Intel Pentium-III or Mac with a G3 or G4, with a 10x CD-ROM drive. Also, you should have a minimum of 64 Mb of system RAM (memory), though I recommend higher.
- **Web Browser:** Most recent version of Netscape Navigator, Microsoft Explorer, FireFox, or Safari for Mac (see links below).

### **BLACKBOARD RESOURCES:**

Within the "Assignments" link you will find the Learning Objectives, Chapter Outlines, Related Websites, Study Aids, Practice Quizzes and links to discussion board forums for each of the sections of the course.

## **DISCUSSION BOARD ENTRIES:**

Each week you will have a series of questions to answer. These questions are related to the upcoming exam. Be mindful of the deadlines. Be sure to use formal language in the posts and be mindful of the deadlines. Word count does matter.

When posting on the Discussion Board, please keep your comments consistent with the subject and purpose of the thread of discussion. I encourage lively discussion and debate but remember that disagreeing with an idea is different from attacking an individual. In that spirit, do not post messages that contain personal attacks against other individuals. Please do not directly quote the textbook or copy and paste data from other sources.

Your posts to the discussion are to be in your own words and reflect your own thoughts. Once again, all discussion board responses must be a minimum of **300 words** (unless otherwise noted). Any Discussion Board entry that does not follow these criteria will be deleted and you will not receive credit for the post.

## **PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY/MUSEUM REPORT**

**All students in survey courses are assigned to visit a museum, historic house or Presidential Library. The choice of museum will be up to you. The format of museum reports should follow these guidelines:**

**Describe your museum experience:** In a formal way, tell what it was like and what types of things did you see. Did any of the exhibits relate to something you have studied? Include a mention of the date of your visit and scan a receipt, attach it to your paper. You can fax it or scan it as an attachment.

Your report may include comments on the quality of presentation you encounter the guided tour and gardens. Are the exhibits explained effectively? Are personnel well-informed? Is the facility well-designed?

The report should begin with the "experience" essay, which will probably include references to various exhibit items, but you should follow this with a detailed list of descriptions of five artifacts. Your style should be formal, similar to a research paper or book review. Use formal language. This is a research paper.

**Describe five specific artifacts:** If you visit a museum, select items **from various parts of the museum**--not all from the same exhibit area! Make notes on the information in the exhibit label or catalog, which may be helpful when you write the report. "Artifacts" may not be limited to objects in a museum display case--they can be buildings, equipment, even features of the landscape on a battlefield. **You must relate and connect the artifacts to the course readings.**

Length -- at least 2500 words. This is a research paper, be sure to write a college level research paper.

Due Date – See Assignments

**LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!!!**

You will schedule this assignment at your own convenience, but you may get more from it by waiting a few weeks into the course. Be certain that you know how to find the museum you have chosen, that you know what the parking and admission requirements will be, and that you have allowed sufficient time--two to three hours--for the visit. A preliminary visit to the organization's web page will help plan most of this.

## SCHEDULE: BE MINDFUL OF SCHEDULED TEST DATES

Perspectives on American Government Greenberg and Page: Chapter 1 The Constitution Greenberg and Page: Chapter 2 The Federal System Greenberg and Page: Chapter 3 Chapter 4 Elections and Political Parties	<b>Exam #1</b> <b>{Chapters 1-4}</b> Will be posted on 4/3/9 You will have until 4/5/9 at 11 pm PST to complete the exam
Greenberg and Page Chapter 5: Public Opinion Media and Public Opinion News Media Greenberg and Page: Chapter 6 Interest Groups Greenberg and Page: Chapter 7 The impact of Lobbyists Social Movements and the Era of Reform Greenberg and Page: Chapter 8	<b>Exam #2</b> <b>{Chapters 5-8}</b> Will be posted on 4/17/9 You will have until 4/19/9 at 11 pm PST to complete the exam
Political Parties and Elections Greenberg and Page: Chapter 9 Participation and Voting Greenberg and Page: Chapter 10 The Congress Greenberg and Page: Chapter 11 The Presidency Greenberg and Page: Chapter 12	<b>Exam #3</b> <b>{Chapters 9-12}</b> Will be posted on 5/1/9 You will have until 5/3/9 at 11 pm PST to complete the exam
The Bureaucracy Greenberg and Page: Chapter 13 The Courts Greenberg and Page: Chapter 14 Greenberg and Page: Chapter 15 National Economic Policies and the Future of American Politics Greenberg and Page Chapter 17 American Foreign Policy Greenberg and Page Chapter 18	<b>Final Exam</b> <b>{Chapters 13-18}</b> Will be posted on 5/15/9 You will have until 5/17/9 at 11 pm PST to complete the exam

### STAYING IN TOUCH:

If you have any questions, concerns, or issues you would like discuss you may contact me at msnarges@hotmail.com or 714-628-4940. Note: Email is the best method of communication.

### SENDING E-MAILS:

You can simply e-mail me from your personal e-mail account to the above listed account. When e-mailing me your assignments please follow the guidelines below.

- **Always include your first and last name, and the course you are enrolled in.** It is important for you to identify yourself and the class you're enrolled in since I am teaching different anthropology courses this semester.
- **Do not send attachments.** Due to the threat of viruses I will not open any attachments. Please "copy and paste" directly into the email.

### STAYING ON TOP:

I highly advise you to get started quickly and complete assignments early. I also encourage you to actively participate in the discussion forums and not wait until the end of the course to post to the discussion boards. Not only will your grade suffer from this, but posting on the last day of a section of the course defeats the purpose of the discussion board.

## **SECURITY, ACADEMIC INTEGRITY & PLAGIARISM:**

Please read the following Statement carefully:

1. I agree that I, and only I, will be the one completing and submitting class materials (homework, assignments, quizzes, tests, etc.) in my name.
2. I agree that I will not attempt to decompile, reverse engineer, examine source code, or in any other manner attempt to find the answers to quizzes or exams before submitting them.
3. I agree that I will not share or accept answers or information relating to homework assignments, quizzes, exams, or any other course materials with fellow classmates and or other parties or sources.
4. I will not share or accept class information, with anyone not in this class.
5. I will not use any aids, notes, books, or other material during the exams. I understand that I am on the honor code while completing all assignments.

I acknowledge that failure to comply with any of the above statements may result in my removal from the course and discipline action deemed appropriate by the policies and procedures set forth by the Board of Trustees of the SOCCCD.

The instructor reserves the right to require any student, for any reason, to take any test/quiz/assessment on-site where official proof of identity will be required.

### **Summary**

#### **What to do first...**

1. Read and print out this syllabus, then re-read it.
2. Read the tutorial on Blackboard, if this is your first class.
3. Buy the textbook: This will be the basis for studying for exams.
4. If you have any further questions, please feel free to email me otherwise, I look forward to meeting you in cyberspace.

Sincerely,

Professor Rabii