Political Science 001- The Government of the United States

TRACK II-PACE

3 units (UC: CSU)

Los Angeles Harbor College
1111 Figueroa Place
Wilmington, CA 90744

Instructor: Professor Rodriguez
(310) 233-4698 Box 4739
Office Hours: Tues 4:30-5:30 and Sat 12:00-1:00
PACE OFFICE: RM-178
Email: rodrigpa@lahc.edu


Required Four (4) 100 questions scantron score sheet, #882-E ONLY. ALL PAPERS WILL BE TYPED IN APA FORMAT.

FALL 2015-PACE THEME: “The Quest For a Fact-Based Renaissance.”

Los Angeles Harbor College Mission Statement: Los Angeles Harbor College promotes access and student success through associate and transfer degrees, certificates, economic and workforce development, and basic skills instruction. Our educational programs and support services meet the needs of diverse communities as measured by campus institutional learning outcomes.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES/OBJECTIVES: “Educating for civic engagement at local, state, national and international levels”

TO ALLOW THIS COURSE TO MEET THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENT IN THE U.S. CONSTITUTION AND CALIFORNIA STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, UPON COMPLETION OF THIS COURSE THE STUDENT WILL BE ABLE TO:

1. Discuss the political philosophies of the framers of the United States Constitution.

2. Discuss the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government and how each operates under the U.S. Constitution as it has been amended and interpreted.

3. Explain the political process that operate under the U.S. Constitution as it has been amended and interpreted, including parties, interest groups, the formation of public opinion, voting and other forms of political participation, nominations, political campaigns, the Electoral College and the role of the media.

4. Identify the rights and obligations of citizens in the political and legal system established by the U.S. Constitution.
5. **Compare** the nature and general principles of the U.S. Constitution with the California constitution and their major provisions.

6. Explain the nature and process of California state and local government.

7. Describe the relationship of state and local government and the federal government today and explain the resolution of conflicts that led to that relationship.

ADDITIONALLY UPON COMPLETION OF THIS COURSE THE STUDENT WILL BE ABLE TO:

Write a 500 word minimum (five paragraphs or more) essay in class that communicates a clear argument, thesis, or claim. The essay will:

1. Provide appropriate and convincing material to support the argument, thesis, or claim.
2. Include content appropriate to the assignment written with a clear pattern of organization.
3. Use the vocabulary of political science and other language appropriate to college.
4. Have sentences that demonstrate correct spelling, punctuation, grammar, and other college writing skills.
5. Avoid plagiarism by the use of quotation marks and sentences within paragraphs that credit four sources, including information that allows them to be located and evaluated.

**Course Description:**
This is an introductory course in the principles and problems of the government at the National, State, and Local levels. The course is designed to help students understand how our institutions and nation’s political system has evolved over time. Secondly, the course invites students to critically analyze arguments and events, which continue to challenge the American system of governance. The course also attempts to provide each student with a thorough understanding of the working government, both past and present.

**Saturday Requirement:**
The PACE Program requires that ALL students attend the Saturday Program. (This class meets Saturday at 8:00am-12:00 Noon pm *Please note: Classroom for Saturday class will not be the same as during the week; Saturday classroom assignment TBA). Track II-Saturdays are as follows: SEPT 12, SEPT 26, OCT 10, (Final Exam: OCT 24)

Any Student that cannot attend must give prior notice to the instructor or Mr. King Carter, Program Director prior to the Saturday. Phone (310) 233-4523. **Note: Students who miss 3 classes will be automatically excluded from class.**

**Class Information:**
Students will receive photocopied handouts to read. Students are responsible for reading the text, taking notes of the lecture, and learning the material. Responsibility for materials covered in class is yours. Handle it as you will.

**Attendance:**
1. Class will begin on time.
2. Roll will be taken either the first or last 15 minutes of class.
3. Students are required to sign-in on a roll sheet (initials) failure to do so will result in the student being marked absent on the instructor’s roster.
4. Attendance is critically important, remember, we have a limited number of hours to cover information that is normally covered over a longer period of time.
5. Three unexcused absences may result in a student being dropped from class. Therefore, absences must be made up via specific assignments at the discretion of the instructor.
6. Failure to make up conference absences will result in a lower grade or incomplete.
7. No cell phones or any electronic device are to be on during class. If a student needs to call please step out of the class.
8. New school regulations permits the instructor to have students removed from class if they are using cell phones or texting.

Students who have established excellent attendance and participation records are likely to receive the benefit of any doubt in the assignment of grades. However, there is no excuse for missing a quiz or exam. (Any absence must be verifiable by a physician or in accordance with the school regulations. No exceptions.) There are no makeup tests. Students who do not take the test will have a zero.

**Instructional Modes:**
Class lectures, movies, discussions, brief assignments and three required written assignments.

**Grading Scale:**
Course requirements include one quiz, midterm, and final. Three-(3-page essays) are required on a special topic assigned by the instructor. **Papers not completed and turned in by the due date will automatically be deducted 5 points.**

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<th>40 pts essays will be written in class following 1st quiz, midterm, &amp; final exam</th>
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<td>First Quiz</td>
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<td>Midterm</td>
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<td>Papers</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>Etudes Online</td>
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**PAPERS DUE:** | **GRADING SCALE:** |
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<tr>
<td>1st</td>
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<td>3rd</td>
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NOTE: Each Student is responsible for turning in their Etudes Assignment and log-in time on a weekly basis.

**BLENDDED LEARNING:**
New state requirements have changed PACE Saturday classes and afternoon sessions. The new requirement affects students in the following ways:
1. Saturday classes will change from 2 hours to 4 hours of IN-CLASS TIME.
2. All students will complete 22 hours of ETUDES ONLINE ASSIGNMENTS.
3. From time to time, there may be a collaborative activity between instructors and classes.

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS (A-C):**
A. Students are only allowed to enroll in 2 PACE classes per 8-week quarter! These classes MUST NOT HAVE time conflicts, either during the week or on Saturdays! This means that a student enrolling
in a Wednesday evening 8:00 p.m. class SHOULD NOT ENROLL in a Tuesday or Thursday evening 8:00 p.m. class: There will be Saturday time conflict as BOTH classes will be scheduled to meet on Saturdays at 1:00 p.m.! IT IS THE STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY TO MANAGE THESE SITUATIONS! And, in the event of such a conflict, the student should withdraw from one class and seek to add another (DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE 2ND OR 3RD WEEK TO ADD ANOTHER CLASS). By that time, ALL CLASSES ARE USUALLY CLOSED and THE STUDENT WILL HAVE MISSED A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF CLASS INSTRUCTION!

B. Failure to properly add classes within the allotted time period will result in students being unable to attend classes after the “census roster” period (after second week of classes). “In-Lieu-of-Grade” cards are discouraged by the District office and the campus administration. Students should process add slips as soon as possible. Failure to do so and later, expecting credit for a class, will result in the denial of a grade for work accomplished!

C. Information related to PACE OFFICE hours and other PACE-related up-to-the-date information can be found at: [http://teacherweb.com/CA/LosAngelesHarborCollege/KingECarter/apt1.aspx](http://teacherweb.com/CA/LosAngelesHarborCollege/KingECarter/apt1.aspx)

All papers are due one week before the final. Students can determine their grade at any time by adding up their points assigned to their quizzes and papers and dividing those points by the total possible points.

Examinations: Both texts (Schmidt/Van Vechten) will be included on the quiz’s, midterm, and final.

All examinations including the final will be given in a three-way format: Multiple Choice, True or False, and Matching. Students will have advance notice of midterm and final exams; however, quizzes may not be announced. Students are to take exams and quizzes on the dates designated, no make-up exam will be allowed. There is no extra credit for this class. Please don’t ask for it.

**Class Conduct- Word of Warning:**
No texting or cell phones are allowed to go off during class session. Either turn them off or do not bring them to class. Students are expected to treat each other and the opinions of others with respect. I also request that you refrain from distracting behavior, such as noisily reading newspapers, doing other class homework, eating, or chewing gum in class. Acts like these may be annoyances both for the instructor and your fellow students.

**Student will be held to customary Standards of Academic Honesty: cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and will be dealt with as severely as Harbor Community College policy allows.**

**United States Government**
Course outline and schedule of assignments (by approximate week)

**SEPT 1, 2015**

**Class Goals**
Introduction to class schedule – Expectations, procedures, and class assignments.
Reading assignment – Chapters 1 & 2-Schmidt
Introduction to the study of American government.
Chapter 2-Forging a New Government: The Constitution
Van Vechten: Chptr 1 & 2-Introduction/Critical Junctures
SEPT 8, 2015  
Reading assignment – Chapter 3-Schmidt  
American Federalism and the role of local, state, and national government in our political system.  
Van Vechten: Chptr 3 & 7-Direct Democracy/Other Governments/Federalism

SEPT 12, 2015  
Reading assignment-Chapters 4 & 5 Schmidt  
Saturday  
Chapter 4-Civil Liberties  
Chapter 5-Civil Rights

SEPT 15, 2015  
Reading assignment - Chapters 6 & 7-Schmidt  
Quiz #1 Chptr 1-5  
1st Paper Due  
Chapter 6-Public Opinion, Political Socialization, and Due the Media  
Chapter 7-Interest Groups and Political Parties  
Political parties and elections: structure and transformation of parties; the nomination, campaign, and election process; voting behavior.  
Van Vechten: Chptr 9 & 10-Political Parties, Elections, & Campaigns//Interest Groups

SEPT 22, 2015  
Reading assignment – Chapters 8-Schmidt  
Chapter 8-Campaigns, Elections, and Voting Behavior.

SEPT 26, 2015  
Reading assignment – Chapter 9-Schmidt  
Saturday  
Congress: its work, organization, and impact.  
Van Vechten: Chptr 4-The State Legislature

SEPT 29, 2015  
Reading assignment – Chapters 10-Presidency MIDTERM  
Chptr 6-10  
2nd Paper Due  
The Presidency and bureaucracy: the institution and power of the Presidency and bureaucratic power.  
Van Vechten: Chptr 5-The Executive Branch  
#2 pencil required and scantron for Midterm

OCT 6, 2015  
Chapter 11-The Bureaucracy-Schmidt

OCT 10, 2015  
Chapter 12-The Judiciary  
Saturday  
Van Vechten: Chptr 6-The Court System

OCT 13, 2015  
3rd Paper Due  
Reading Assignment – Chapter 13-Domestic and Economic Policy  
Van Vechten: Chapter 8, California Budget Process  
Chapter 14-Foreign Policy-Schmidt  
Domestic, foreign, and defense policy. Economic, social, and domestic policy.

OCT 20, 2015  
REVIEW FOR FINAL-STUDY GROUPS ARE ENCOURAGED

OCT 24, 2015  
FINAL EXAMINATION-GOOD LUCK!
All work must be completed by OCT 22, 2015 in order to receive a grade. Students are responsible to notify the registration office if you drop the course. Thank you.

Special Services (SP&S): LAHC offers resources for students with disabilities. This includes help with test taking, note taking, and health issues. SP&S PHONE NUMBER IS (310) 233-4620. Any student enrolled with the Special Services please see me. Thank you.

NOTE: THE PROFESSOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO AMEND ASSIGNMENTS AND DEADLINES

In order to save money on textbooks, students may search the following websites:
SwoopThat.com
Amazon.com
Half.com
BN.com