

MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT, POL 111, SYLLABUS
Fall 2019

COURSE TITLE : POL 111, American Government, CRN 3339

CREDIT HOURS: 3

COURSE PREREQUISITES: English 101 placement.

COURSE MEETING TIME: This is a distance learning course, and you are required to log on regularly at your convenience to complete class assignments by their due dates.

INSTRUCTOR/ph.#/e-mail: Dr. Rebecca M. Loew/ 860-343-5813/ **There is internal email built into the course. Please use only that email.**

OFFICE LOCATION: Snow Hall, Rm. 508

TEXT: *The Irony of Democracy*, Thomas R. Dye, Harmon Zeigler - late, Louis Schubert, Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 17th ed., 2015. **ISBN**: 9781285870281

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will develop your powers to think critically. It will help give you an educated perspective on the importance of politics in the 21st century. You will understand and apply the basic frameworks of our government and seek to understand the rationale, motive, and economic reasoning behind the major decision making processes. We will reexamine traditional teachings about American government, and critically reexamine the economic system, the social system, and the communications system within our nation. As a result, you will learn to critically analyze the role of the media, for example, in the decision making process in order to better participate in the political process on the local, regional, and national levels.

SCOPE OF COURSE: This course examines the patterns of politics in the nation, Constitution, Congress, and Presidency. Topics of study include political ideologies, interest group pluralism, citizen alienation, institutional power, democracy's requirements, and others. Learning objectives include becoming politically informed, engaging in political discussions, and analyzing the government's responsiveness to citizens' needs.

PARTICIPATION POLICY: You are required to log on and perform tasks and assignments online per the course outline in the syllabus. Discussions and responses to classmates **must be submitted by midnight (11:59 p.m.)** on their due dates. Tests are due according to the course outline. **Credit will not be given for late submissions.**

CLASS CANCELLATION POLICY: Not applicable

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- Identify core principles of a democratic society.
- Examine some current issues in which the principle is disputed, such as affirmative action in education and employment.
- Identify the key beliefs of the Founders of the U.S.
- Examine the Founding Father's limitations in terms of democracy's ideals.

- Describe early Constitutional effects on women and slaves
- Describe how elites and the masses are politically different.
- Explain why the masses can foster democratic outcomes.
- Apply the “equal protection of the law” principle to a significant present day controversy.
- Develop a working definition of politics and apply it to current issues such as affirmative action.
- Identify main beliefs of different political ideologies and apply ideology to family socialization.
- Identify the critical role of minority groups in elections.
- Identify the major political forces in lawmaking.
- Explain the operational functions of legislative politics.
- Describe the caucuses in the identity politics of Congress.
- Describe the traits of presidential leadership in lawmaking.
- Specify requirements of presidential leadership in democratic foreign policy making implementation.
- Compare and contrast president’s leadership in civil rights and in military interventionism.

METHODS OF EVALUATION:

Competence/Assessment

Competence will be demonstrated in each chapter:

- **Examinations**
- **Discussion Board participation**

Course Requirements and Evaluation Methods

Discussions (8 discussion assignments; 20 points each)	160 points
<u>Exams (2 exams; 45 points each)</u>	<u>90 points</u>
TOTAL	250 points

Discussions

You will be asked by the instructor to answer questions relating to assigned chapter on the discussion board. You also need to respond to at least TWO classmates' posts. Each discussion assignment is worth 20 points. .

You will be graded on how completely you answer the assigned discussion questions and by the quality of your response to other students’ postings. ***Refer to the grading rubric for a specific explication of how points are assigned to discussion responses.*** Your use of critical thinking skills, the research you conduct on the discussion board questions, and your application of the readings will be assessed. Be sure to note all due dates. *No late postings will be accepted.*

The exams will draw from material in the text and readings, discussions, and instructor comments for the calendar period covered by the exam. You will have 2 hours to complete each exam. Tests will be available:

- beginning at 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, October 13 for **Exam 1** and due midnight 10/16.
- beginning at 11:59 p.m on Wednesday, October 30 for the **Final Exam** and due midnight Sunday, 11/3.

Grading System:

Grades will be calculated as follows:

232- 250 points	A
225- 231 points	A-
220- 224 points	B+
207- 219 points	B
200- 206 points	B-
195- 199 points	C+
182- 194 points	C
175- 181 points	C-
170- 174 points	D+
157- 169 points	D
150- 156 points	D-
149≤points	F

Mobile Policy Statement

- You should **not** be using the web-browser on your device to access Blackboard Learn. Mobile device browsers are not full-fledged browsers and are missing many of the vital components necessary for Blackboard use. Instead, you should download the Blackboard mobile app or use your desktop / laptop.
- If you opt to use the Blackboard Mobile app, it's important to understand that the app does **not** provide the full functionality of Blackboard Learn. Your computer or laptop with supported browser and java settings needs to be the primary online tool for your course. *Technical support is not available for problems that occur on the mobile app.*
- While mobile devices provide convenient access to check in and read information about your courses, the Academic Deans Council of the Connecticut Community Colleges has stated that mobile devices “**should NOT be used to perform work such as taking tests, quizzes, completing assignments, or submitting substantive discussion posts.**”
- The Blackboard mobile app is available for download for Android/Google, iOS, Microsoft, Palm devices. The log-in procedure for all community college students is as follows:
 - Search for the school named “**Connecticut Community Colleges**”
 - Your username is just the number part of your NetID
 - Your password is the same as myCommNet
- For more information on mobile devices, please visit:
https://cscu.edusupportcenter.com/sims/helpcenter/common/layout/SelfhelpArticleView.seam?inst_name=cscu&article_id=1912-1463992

Additional Syllabus Information and College Policies:

For information about the college's policies and procedures regarding academic honesty, accessibility/disability services, non-discrimination, attendance, audio-recording in the classroom, grade appeals, plagiarism, religious accommodations, weather/emergency closings, and more, please go to the following website: www.mxcc.edu/catalog/syllabus-policies/



TAP COMPETENCY

Social Phenomena Knowledge/Understanding: Students will develop an increased understanding of the influences that shape a person's or group's attitudes, beliefs, emotions, symbols, and actions, and how these systems of influence are created, maintained, and altered by individual, familial, group, situational or cultural means.

1. Explain social, organization, political, economic, historical, or cultural elements that influence and are influenced by individuals and groups.
2. Summarize different theories and research methods used to investigate social phenomena.
3. Explain ethical issues pertaining to social contexts and phenomena.
4. Explain issues of diversity within and across cultures.
5. Apply concepts or theories of social phenomena to real world situations, (e.g., service learning, group work, clubs, organizations, civic engagement, conflict resolution, and internships).

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT COURSE OUTLINE

Discussions Due	Topic	Assignments
Wed., October 2	Chapter 1: The Irony of Democracy Chapter 2: The Elite Consensus of the Founding Fathers: U.S. Political	Introductions, Chapters 1 & 2
Sunday, October 6	Chapter 3: Elites in America Chapter 4: Masses in the United States	Chapter 3 & 4
Wed., October 9	Chapter 5: Elite –Mass Communication Chapter 6: Elections, Parties, and Democracy	Chapter 5 & 6
Sun., October 13	Chapter 7: Elites and Organized Interests	Chapter 7 Study for Exam 1
Wed., October 16	EXAM (Available beginning 11:59 pm on 10/13)	Exam #1 (Ch. 1-7) Due midnight, 10/16
Sunday, October 20	Chapter 8: Congress: The Legislative Elite Chapter 9: The Presidency	Chapters 8 & 9
Wed., October 23	Chapter 10: Courts: Elites in Black Robes Chapter 11: The Bureaucratic Elite	Chapters 10 & 11
Sun., October 27	Chapter 12: Federalism: State and Community Elites Chapter 13: Civil Rights: Diversifying the Elite	Chapters 12 & 13
Wed., October 30	Chapter 14: The United States as Global Elite	Chapter 14
SUNDAY November 3	Final Exam (Available 11:59 pm, 10/30)	<u>Final Exam (Chapters 7-14) Due midnight, 11/3</u>