

# Course Syllabus

Edit

American Government

Political Science 202

Spring 2020

Credits 5

Instructor: Dr. Leena Shah

Tue and Thurs

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Office hours : Contact me through canvas mail and we will set up to meet on Zoom/ Team if necessary.

## Course Description

This is a course on American government and politics. The course is designed to familiarize you with the basic elements of the American system. We will look at how the three branches of government work. We will study their powers and role in American government. We will also discuss federalism, civil rights and civil liberties, the difference between the two and their impact. In addition, we will try and gain an understanding of the media and its role. We will also look at the bureaucracy, interest groups and political parties. We will briefly examine foreign policy especially in the current environment. Lastly, we will apply everything to current events. Thus, making it easier to understand how politics works in the daily context. These are the questions that shall occupy us over the course of the quarter.

## Course objectives

By the end of the quarter students should be able to

1. understand the concepts of democracy, the American presidential system and the role and influence of the interest groups
- 2.integrate this knowledge for a personal understanding of how the political process works
- 3.evaluate underlying assumptions presented by other authors
- 4.clearly define and identify the three branches of government
- 5.analyze authors and critically evaluate academic articles
- 6.discuss the role of the media
7. apply this concept to the contemporary world

## Requirements

**We the People** by Ginsburg and Lowi. The book is free and on the home page here. If you already bought the book that was previously required you can get a full refund from the store. Due to online classes we had to change it as was not very online friendly. You can access the eBook and InQuizitive adaptive learning through the link (Modules) in our Canvas course.

Click the green button that says, "Sign In, Register a Code, or Purchase Access"

Leave the box checked that says, "No, I need to register, purchase, or sign up for trial"

access.”

Enter your information, and in the “I have a registration code” section, enter this eBook code: XPJ-CEN-YLF

If you have any problems you can directly call Casey the rep at 206-403- 6010

This is a self paced class. You will be working at your own pace and completing all the requirements by the due dates in the course. Students are required to do their readings and keep abreast of current events on a day to-day basis.

This is very applicable to all our courses. I have adopted it from Professor Bayne from UNC

"1. Nobody signed up for this.

Not for the sickness, not for the social distancing, not for the sudden end of our collective lives together on campus

Not for an online class, not for teaching remotely, not for learning from home, not for mastering new technologies, not for varied access to learning materials

2. The humane option is the best option.

We are going to prioritize supporting each other as humans

We are going to prioritize simple solutions that make sense for the most

We are going to prioritize sharing resources and communicating clearly

3. We cannot just do the same thing online.

Some assignments are no longer possible

Some expectations are no longer reasonable

Some objectives are no longer valuable

4. We will foster intellectual nourishment, social connection, and personal accommodation.

Accessible asynchronous content for diverse access, time zones, and contexts

Optional synchronous discussion to learn together and combat isolation

5. We will remain flexible and adjust to the situation.

Nobody knows where this is going and what we'll need to adapt

Everybody needs support and understanding in this unprecedented moment"

I think it is very appropriate and applies to all of us.

These are unprecedented times and even though I would have preferred to have seen you face to face, unfortunately we have to keep this online. Since it is a discussion oriented class, please be kind to each other without making personal remarks. Please be respectful of each other's opinions. We can all learn from one another. Lets support each. You will work at your own pace during the week, however there are deadlines every week for assignments. Please feel free to ask questions if anything is unclear.

Discussions

We will be discussing topics online. They will be posted in the Discussion folder. Sometimes

I will post a topic and link for discussion and other times I will ask you to post. You will in about 10 lines or more respond to your thoughts on the article and then respond to 2 other student's post. This can be about 5 lines or more. The discussion will always be posted on Monday morning by 7am and due on Sunday night at 11:59 pm. Please be respectful of each other. Some topics may get controversial, you are free to express your opinions but no personal attacks will be tolerated. Our class is a safe environment to express your opinions. You can disagree with another opinion but do it in a respectful manner. In addition you will also do a discussion of each chapter every week. This will also be in the Discussion Folder. You will post 2 questions per chapter and state why you think they are necessary to talk about. You will just like the Current Event discussion respond to 2 students with the same guidelines as above.

#### Extra Credit

There are extra credit opportunities. Every week the best article (ones you post) that evokes the most discussion will get 2 points of extra credit. The last week will consist of an assignment that will be of extra credit. This will be announced closer to the date.

#### Reading and Quizzes

Every week you will do a Chapter reading and complete the quizzes listed with it in the Assignments in the Task Bar. There will also be a Power Point which I will put every week in the Announcement that goes with the chapter. You will post 2 questions after the readings in the Discussion Folder which I will open for this purpose. This will count towards participation. After every chapter reading you will take a quiz. This will be every week. There are due dates on these Quizzes. The quizzes are open however, please complete them in the week they are due. The quizzes are located in the Task bar which says quizzes or assignments.

#### Readings

Week 1 Personal Introduction (until Monday the 13th April)

Week 2 Chapter 1 and 2 (Will be read week of (13th April)

Week 3 Chapter 3

Week 4 Chapter 4

Week 5 Chapter 6

Week 6 Chapter 7

Week 7 Chapter 9

Week 8 Chapter 10

Week 9 Chapter 12

Week 10 Chapter 13

Assignments : There are two other assignments besides the online discussions and quizzes.

### Citizenship Quiz

First you will take the citizenship test (50 questions) yourself. This is the website for taking the test. (Copy and paste)

[http://www.800citizen.org/us\\_citizenship\\_test/citizenship\\_practice\\_test/](http://www.800citizen.org/us_citizenship_test/citizenship_practice_test/)

The 2nd part of the assignment will entail taking any 10 citizenship questions from these 50 questions and interview 5 students from your other classes. If you cannot find 5 students you can use your family members. Make sure you write the names of the students that you interviewed. You will discuss your findings with other students on the discussion board. You will post what your questions were and what responses you got from other students. This will be due on the 30th of April by 11:59 pm. Remember you are being graded on completion, online discussion and the interview. So do not worry about getting the questions wrong. Its just an exercise to test your knowledge.

Geography quiz/interview. You will take the quiz yourself. I will list 15 countries and will mark them on this blank map. In addition you will ask 5 students from your other classes to mark the same countries on a map. You will then post online how you and how the students you interviewed fared. . The same guidelines as the citizenship quiz apply. Make sure you write the names of the students you interviewed on the maps. Again this assignment is just for you to see where you stand on your knowledge. You will be graded for completion. <http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=blank+map+of+the+world&id=3D72BED7A49FF6DC2450C4664049C5A3F352D64E&FORM=IQFRBA> (Links to an external site.) This will due on June 4th.

### Grades

The grades will be broken up as follows:

Quizzes                    72 points

Discussions 11 points

Citizenship Quiz    7.5 points

Geography Quiz    7.5 points

Completion of all assignments 2 points

Total 100 points

Grades will be assigned on a percentage basis

95 and above (4.0)

A- 90-94(3.7)

B+ 87-89 (3.3)

B 84-86 (3.0)

B- 80-83 (2.7)

C+ 77-79 (2.3)

C 74-76 (2.0)

C- 71-73 (1.7)  
D+ 67-70 1.3)  
D 64-66 (1.0)  
F Below 64 (0.0)

## PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION Spring 2017

### Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing\*

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as ones own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Dean of Student Services.

### Incomplete

If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete. The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade.

### F Grade

Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F."

### Final Examination Schedule

The Social Science Division will adhere to the final examination schedule as stated in the BC Schedule. Final examinations will be held at the end of each quarter at fixed times. Instructors will not give examinations in advance of the regular schedule. A student who is absent from any examination held at any time during the quarter may forfeit the right to make up the examination. If, for illness or some other circumstance beyond the student's control, the student is unable to be present at any scheduled examination and has contacted the instructor on a timely basis, the student may be permitted to take such examination at a time designated by the instructor.

### Withdrawal From Class

College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the seventh week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.

### Hardship Withdrawal

Instructors may assign the grade of (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades

are assigned in cases of hardship.

#### Students Who Require Disability Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are encouraged to meet with the Disability Resource Centre (DRC) office located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who require accommodation in class should review the DRC accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.

Students with mobility challenges who may need assistance in case of an emergency situation or evacuation should register with Disability Resource Centre, and review those needs with the instructor as well.

#### Distribution of Grades

Grades will not be posted in the Social Science Division or in faculty offices, and secretaries will not give out grades. Students should access their grades through the BC Web site.

#### Return of Papers and Tests

Paper and/or Scantron score sheet returns will be arranged in the following ways ONLY:Â by mail, if student supplies the instructor with stamped, self-addressed envelope (with appropriate postage); or by the instructor designating a time and place whereby the student may retrieve his/her papers. Unclaimed papers and/or Scantron score sheets must be kept by the instructor for a minimum of sixty (60) instructional days following the end of the quarter.

\*If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (D110), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process. Instructors may assign the grade of (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.

Reasonable Accommodations for Reasons of Faith and Conscience: Students who will be absent from course activities due to reasons of faith or conscience may seek reasonable accommodations so that grades are not impacted. Such requests must be made within the first two weeks of the course to the office of the Associate Vice President of Student Affairs (see Bellevue College Policy 2950). In the event you feel you are being discriminated against based on faith or conscious, you may refer to the procedures outlined in the college's Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation Policy (1440P)