American National Government
Political Science (POLS) 101-01
Fall 2015
3 Credits

General Education Competency Area: Social and Behavioral Ways of Knowing

Instructor: Tim Lynch
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Office hours: Monday 1:00pm-2:00pm; Tuesday 11:00am-12:00pm; Thursday 12:00pm-1:00pm;
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Classroom: Sacajawea Hall 112
Meeting times: Monday & Wednesday 9:00am-10:15am

Introduction:
I am always excited to be involved with an American National Government course! I hope you are too! If not, I hope you are by the end of the semester. This course offers a unique opportunity for you (and me) to consider the world in which you (and I) live and the political institutions that influence your (and my) life. Here we will do much more than identify the three branches of government; we will explore how the shared and conflicting values of the American people define the enduring controversy over the proper role of government. Through this lens, we will analyze the continuing development of national institutions as well as the evolution of the relationship between different levels of government to understand the value tradeoffs that are made in establishing institutions and the consequences of these arrangements for policy outcomes.

General Education Learning Outcomes:
Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to demonstrate the following competencies:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the theoretical and conceptual frameworks of political science.
2. Develop an understanding of self and the world by examining the dynamic interaction of individuals, groups, and societies as they shape and are shaped by history, culture, institutions, and ideas.
3. Utilize Social Science approaches, such as research methods, inquiry, or problem-solving, to examine the variety of perspectives about human experience.
4. Evaluate how reasoning, history, or culture informs and guides individual, civic, or global decisions.
5. Understand and appreciate similarities and differences among and between individuals, cultures, or societies across space and time.
Course Specific Objectives:
By the end of this course you will be able to:
- Describe how shared and conflicting values impact the creation of political institutions.
- Explain why contests over constitutional rules are so intense.
- Describe the evolution of federal-state relations in the U.S. and explain how groups use the federal system strategically.
- Explain how political institutions affect political behavior.
- Describe the evolution of the powers of national institutions (Congress, the president, the bureaucracy, and the federal courts) and explain the consequences of this evolution for values.

Text and readings:
Required:

There are a number of versions of this text, make sure to get the 10th core edition. The text is available for purchase at the college bookstore and through a number of online retailers. It is also available in e-book format from the publisher at: http://books.wwnorton.com/books/webad-detail-editions.aspx?id=4294986076.

All readings from the text are denoted “Ginsberg” in the course schedule. In addition to the text, a number of articles are required reading. These articles are listed in the course schedule and will be available through the Blackboard course page. Finally, students should keep up with current events related to topics covered in the course by watching/reading local, state, and national news.

Blackboard:
The Blackboard site will have a number of important materials for the course including: the syllabus, additional readings, assignments, and study resources (including flashcards and practice quizzes). Grades will also be made available on the Blackboard course page.

Grades:
Your grade for this course is determined by three exams (40%), seven quizzes (10%), five writing assignments (40%), and class participation (10%).

Exams:
Three exams will be conducted in class on September 30, 2015, November 4, 2015, and December 16, 2015. Exams are NOT cumulative. Each exam will cover the material from one section of the course (see course schedule for details). Exams will have 50-60 multiple-choice (hopefully not multiple guess!) questions and several short answer/essay questions. A number of essay questions will be available one week prior to the exam; of the essay questions available in advance some will be selected for the exam. Students will have 75 minutes to complete each exam (even the final).
Students who read the text, take careful notes while reading, and take careful notes in class are best positioned to succeed on the exams. Students are also encouraged to complete the practice quizzes at the end of each chapter in the text (answers can be found on pages A77-A78 in the appendix of the Ginsberg text) and access the flashcards and practice quizzes on Blackboard.

Exams are worth 40% of the grade. Your two highest exams will count towards 15% of the overall grade and your lowest exam will count towards 10% of the overall grade. No exam will be dropped.

**Quizzes:**
Seven quizzes will be conducted throughout the semester. Quizzes will take place in class and will not be announced in advance. Each quiz will have 5-10 multiple-choice questions. Quizzes will be on both the material covered in class notes and the assigned readings. Students will have 10 minutes to complete each quiz. **Quizzes are open book and open note (not open phone, tablet, or laptop), but must completed individually.** Students who read the text, take careful notes while reading, and take careful notes while reviewing the class notes are best positioned to take advantage of the open-book, open-note format.

The scores for the lowest two quizzes will be dropped from the overall grade. However, students will receive one bonus point, on their overall grade, for completing all seven quizzes.

**Writing Assignments:**
Five writing assignments will be submitted throughout the semester. (Assignments are due September 16, 2015, October 14, 2015, October 28, 2015, November 16, 2015, and December 9, 2015.) All assignments must be typewritten in 12-point Times New Roman font, be double-spaced, and feature standard margins (1” top and bottom; 1” left and right). The length and format of assignments will vary, but assignments will typically run 2-3 pages (500-750). Details regarding the format and length of each assignment will be indicated on the assignment sheet. **All assignments must be submitted as .pdfs through Blackboard by 12:00pm (noon) on the appropriate due date.**

Students must follow all directions carefully and adhere to high standards for expressing ideas including, but not limited to proper grammar, spelling, and citation. All ideas must be properly cited using APA format and a reference list must be included for all sources cited in the assignment. Information about APA citations can be found here: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/02/ and information on references can be found here: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/05/. The grading rubric for each assignment will be distributed along with the assignment and will be available through the Blackboard course page after it is distributed. Assignments will be distributed in class two weeks before they are due and will be available through the Blackboard course page after they are distributed.

Your lowest assignment score will be dropped from the overall grade. You will receive one bonus point, on your overall grade, for completing all five assignments.
Participation:
Students should attend all class meetings. Attendance will be taken at all class meetings. Attending class will not guarantee full credit for participation. To earn full credit for participation students must attend and actively contribute to the class discussion.

Late/Missing work:
Students who miss quizzes or exams will not be allowed to make them up without proper documentation. Make-up quizzes and exams need to be completed as soon as a student is able to return to class (not the end of the semester). Students who miss deadlines for writing assignments will not be allowed to make them up without proper documentation. Students who experience an emergency that prevents the submission of a writing assignment need to submit the assignment as soon as they are able to return to class (not the end of the semester).

Feedback:
Exams, quizzes, and assignments will typically be graded within a week of submission. If I am unable to return assignments within this timeframe, I will inform the class.

Academic Misconduct:
Any student who cheats on a quiz or exam, plagiarizes, or commits any other act of academic dishonesty will receive an F for the course and will be referred to the appropriate college authorities. If you have questions on the proper use of resources or sources, ask before proceeding to ensure that you do not run afoul of guidelines.

Overall Grade:
The course will be graded on the following 100-point scale:

- A = 92-100
- A- = 90-91
- B+ = 87-89
- B = 82-86
- B- = 80-81
- C+ = 77-79
- C = 72-76
- C- = 70-71
- D+ = 67-69
- D = 60-66
- F = 59-below

Correspondence and Courtesy
Correspondence:
You should only contact me at: trlynch@lcsc.edu or call my office: (208) 792-2615. Email is the preferred method of contact. (College policy requires that all email communication take place through your LCMail account.) You can expect a response to emails within 24 hours for emails sent during the work week and 48 hours for emails sent between Friday at 4:00pm and Monday at 9:00am. Similarly, phone calls will be returned within 24 hours during the week and all calls made after 4:00pm Friday will be returned the following Monday.

I prefer to be called Tim. I have a Ph.D., but see no need for titles. While I don’t mind you calling me by my first name, I do insist that all emails be addressed “Dear Tim,...” and follow all spelling/grammar conventions. If I can’t tell why you are contacting me, I may ask you to write
again. Carefully consider all emails/calls before you make them. The more specific you are with your questions, the quicker they can be addressed.

**Decorum:**
Every student, guest, and the instructor deserve to be treated with respect at all times. Conflict is inherent in politics and I expect students to disagree on some (perhaps many) topics. However, disagreements need not lead to incivility. This is particularly important in class discussions. Personal attacks will not be tolerated and will result in lower participation grades.

Respect also means paying attention when others (me, guests, or your classmates) are speaking. This means you should not be using phones, tablets, or laptops for anything other than class related purposes during class meetings. As an incentive to stay focused, every member of the class who attends at least 85% of the time will receive **three bonus points** on their overall grade if there are no incidents involving improper use of technology during the course. However, for every incident that occurs a half point will be taken away from the entire class. Thus, it is up to you to work with your classmates to ensure that everyone gets the full three points.

If you wish to record this class please contact me. Photographs are strictly prohibited.

**Accommodation and Support:**
Accommodation:
If you need accommodations in order to meet any of the requirements of this course, please contact me as soon as possible so the proper arrangements can be made with Disability Services. Official documentation is necessary to provide accommodations. If you have any questions about the requirements or procedures for accessibility accommodations please visit: http://www.lcsc.edu/disability-services/ or contact Disability Services at (208) 792-2211.

Academic & Student Support Services:
Information on academic and student support services can be found here: http://www.lcsc.edu/trio/ or by contacting TRiO Student Support Services at (208) 792-2300.

**Course Schedule:**
All readings must be completed **PRIOR TO** the class meeting for which they are listed.

**Week 1:**
8/24: No readings
8/26: Ginsberg, Chapter 1 - American Political Culture

**Week 2:**
8/31: The Declaration of Independence (Appendix of Ginsberg, A1-A3); Allen - selection from *Our Declaration* (Blackboard)
9/2: Ginsberg, Chapter 2 – The Founding and the Constitution
Week 3:
9/7: Labor Day. No Meeting.
9/9: U.S. Constitution (Appendix of Ginsberg, A8-A13, only the Articles are required, read the Amendments if you like); Federalist 10 and 51 (Appendix of Ginsberg, A20-A24)

Week 4:
9/14: Readings: Ginsberg, Chapter 3 – Federalism; U.S. Constitution: Articles IV and VI (Ginsberg, A12-A13)
9/16: Readings: Ginsberg, Chapter 3 – Federalism (continued)
  -Assignment 1 Submitted through Blackboard by 12:00pm (noon)

Week 5:
9/21: Readings: Ginsberg, Chapter 4 – Civil Liberties; U.S. Constitution: Amendments I-X, and XIV (Ginsberg, A14-A16)
9/23: Readings: Ginsberg, Chapter 4 – Civil Liberties (continued)

Week 6:
9/28: Finish Chapter 4; Exam Review
9/30: Exam 1
  -Material Covered: Weeks 1-5 (Chapters 1, 2, 3, & 4 from text; Allen; Declaration of Independence; U.S. Constitution (the Articles and Amendments I-X, and XIV);
Federalist 10 & 51)

Week 7:
10/5: Readings: Ginsberg, Chapter 6 Public Opinion
10/7: Readings: Ginsberg, Chapter 6 Public Opinion (continued)

Week 8:
10/12: Readings: Ginsberg, Chapter 8 – Political Participation and Voting; U.S. Constitution: Amendments XV, XVII, XIX, XXIII, XIV, and XVI (Ginsberg, A16-A19)
10/14: Readings: Cooper “The Age of the Disengaged” (Blackboard); Lawless and Fox “Just Say Run” (Blackboard)
  -Assignment 2 Submitted through Blackboard by 12:00pm (noon)

Week 9:
10/19: Readings: Ginsberg, Chapter 9 – Political Parties
10/21: Readings: LaRaja and Schaffner “Want to Reduce Polarization? ” (Blackboard); Masket and Noel “Don’t Look to a Third Party” (Blackboard)

Week 10:
10/26: Readings: Ginsberg, Chapter 10 - Campaigns and Elections
10/28: Readings: Adler “Political Ads: Overpriced, Inefficient, Essential” (Blackboard)
  -Assignment 3 Submitted through Blackboard by 12:00pm (noon)
**Week 11:**
11/2: Finish Adler and Chapter 10; Exam Review
11/4: **Exam 2**
   - Material Covered: Weeks 7-10 (Chapters 6, 8, 9, & 10; Adler; Cooper; LaRaja and Schaffner; Lawless and Fox; Masket and Noel (2011); U.S. Constitution (Amendments XV, XVII, XIX, XXIII, XIV, and XVI)

**Week 12:**
11/9: Readings: Ginsberg, Chapter 12 – Congress
11/11: Readings: Liptak “Small States Find Outsize Clout Growing in Senate” (Blackboard)

**Week 13:**
11/16: Readings: Ginsberg, Chapter 13 – The Presidency; U.S. Constitution: Amendments XXII and XXV (Ginsberg, A17-A18)
   - **Assignment 4 Submitted through Blackboard by 12:00pm (noon)**

**Week 14:**
11/30: Readings: Ginsberg, Chapter 14 – Bureaucracy in a Democracy
12/2: Readings: Chapter 15 – The Federal Courts

**Week 15:**
12/7: Readings: Chapter 15 – The Federal Courts (continued)
12/9: Finish Chapter 15; Exam Review
   - **Assignment 5 Submitted through Blackboard by 12:00pm (noon)**

**Week 16:**
12/16: **Exam 3** (9:00am, Sacajawea Hall 112)
   - Material Covered: Weeks 12-15 (Chapters 12, 13, 14, & 15; Liptak; Nyhan; U.S. Constitution (Amendments XXII and XXV)}
Consumer Information
In 2008, the federal government required all post-secondary institutions offering federal financial aid programs to provide key data to both prospective and current students. To comply with this requirement, Lewis-Clark State College has developed a consumer information page, which may be accessed at http://www.lcsc.edu/consumer-information/

Disability Accommodations
Students requiring special accommodations or course adaptations due to a disability and/or a health-related issue should consult their course instructors and the LCSC Student Counseling Center immediately (RCH 111, 792-2211). Official documentation may be required in order to provide an accommodation and/or adaptation.

Student Rights and Responsibilities
Students have the responsibility for knowing their program requirements, course requirements, and other information associated with their enrollment at LCSC. Students should review the LCSC General Catalog (http://webdev.lcsc.edu/catalog and the LCSC Student Handbook (http://www.lcsc.edu/media/2157659/Student-Handbook.pdf) for more information.

Accidents/Student Insurance
Students participating in LCSC classes normally must look to their personal health insurance policy (Student Health Insurance Plan or comparable private coverage) should an accident occur. In the event of an accident, please seek medical help, if necessary, and report the incident to LCSC Security (792-2226). Fieldtrips or other special student activities may also require students to submit a signed participation waiver (forms can be obtained from the supporting Division Office).

Enrollment Verification/Attendance
Students who are not actively pursuing their classes may have to repay part or all of their financial aid awards depending upon the circumstances.

Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty, which includes cheating and plagiarism, is not tolerated at LCSC. Individual faculty members may impose their own policies and sanctions regarding academic dishonesty after offering the student an opportunity to explain his or her actions. Sanctions imposed by the faculty member are limited to grades on the assignment(s) in question and/or on the course grade. On matters of academic dishonesty, faculty members do not have the authority to dismiss a student from class indefinitely nor to disenroll a student from a program without corroboration from a Division Chair (or program ethics committee where applicable), the appropriate instructional dean, and the Vice President for Student Affairs. Students who are accused of being academically dishonest may be referred to the VP for Student Affairs for official disciplinary action.

Illegal File Sharing
Students using LCSC’s computers and/or computer network must comply with the college’s appropriate use policies and are prohibited from illegally downloading or sharing data files of any kind. Specific information about the college’s technology policies and its protocols for combating illegal file sharing may be found on the VP for Student Affairs’ web page (http://www.lcsc.edu/student-affairs/student-code-of-conduct/).

Diversity Vision Statement
Regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, national origin, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation, you will be treated and respected as a human being.

Disclosures
During this course, if you elect to discuss information with me which you consider to be sensitive or personal in nature and not to be shared with others, please state this clearly. Your confidentiality in these circumstances will be respected unless upholding that confidentiality could reasonably put you, other students, other members of the campus community, or me in danger. In those cases or when I am bound by law to report what you have told me, such as incidents involving sexual assault or other violent acts, I will submit a report to appropriate campus authorities.

Student Feedback
Students shall be provided the opportunity to formally evaluate each course in which they are enrolled. Notification of student feedback opportunity and timelines will be made through the official LCSC student email (currently LCMail) or online course learning management (currently Blackboard Learn) systems.

Student Work
Student work for this course (assignments, quizzes, exams, projects, etc.) may be copied and retained for program assessment or accreditation purposes. For more information, speak with the instructor or division chair.

Approved by VP for Student Affairs & Provost 7/07/2015