American National Government
Political Science (POLS) 101-60
Spring 2017
3 Credits

General Education Competency Area: Social and Behavioral Ways of Knowing

Instructor: Tim Lynch
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Office hours: Monday 10:30am-11:30am, Thursday 12:00pm-1:00pm; meetings can also be arranged by appointment
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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 political 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. (There are no prerequisites for this course.)

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](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. Students should also keep up with current events related to topics covered in the course by watching/reading local, state, and national news. (There are no optional readings in this course.)

**Blackboard:**

The Blackboard site will have all of the important material for the course including: the syllabus, slides, notes, audio lectures, additional readings, discussion posts, practice quizzes, flashcards, quizzes, and exams. Grades will also be available through the Blackboard course page.

**Grades:**

Your course grade consists of eleven discussion posts (40%), eleven quizzes (30%) and three exams (30%).

**Discussion board:**

Since we do not meet face-to-face, the online discussion board serves as your opportunity to engage ideas and deepen your understanding of the material. For this course, the discussion board serves the dual purpose of fostering class discussion and allowing students to demonstrate critical thinking and writing skills.

**Discussion posts are graded as written assignments.** Thus, you should follow all directions carefully and adhere to high standards for expressing ideas including, but not limited to, proper spelling, grammar, and citation. All ideas must be properly cited using APA format and all resources cited in the body of the post must be included in a reference list at the end of the post. (Note: References do not count toward the word count of posts.) Information about APA citations can be found here: [https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/02/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/02/) and information on APA references can be found here: [https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/05/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/05/).
Discussion posts are due every week that does not feature an exam except weeks 5 and 15. Discussion questions with instructions will be available starting Monday at 9:00am for every week that requires a post. You are required to make an initial post (start a thread) for every discussion question by Friday at 11:59pm. You are also required to respond to at least two different threads (created by two different classmates) by Sunday at 11:59pm. (Note: You will only be able to view classmates’ posts AFTER making an initial post.)

Each week’s discussion is worth 4% of your overall grade. You will receive either full, three-quarter, half, one-quarter, or no credit based on the quality of your initial post and replies to classmates. Details regarding the grading for the discussion board are available in the “Course Introduction” tab on the Blackboard course page.

Eleven weeks require full discussion board activity. The score for your lowest week will be dropped. You will receive three bonus points (on your overall grade) for fully participating in all eleven discussions and will receive one bonus point (on your overall grade) for fully participating in ten discussions.

Quizzes:
Eleven quizzes will be conducted through the Blackboard course page. Quizzes take place during all non-exam weeks except weeks 1 and 15. Quizzes will be available on Wednesday starting at 5:00pm. Quizzes must be completed by Sunday at 11:59pm.

Quizzes will be on both the material covered in class notes and the assigned readings for the week. Each quiz will have 10 multiple-choice (hopefully not multiple guess!) questions. You will have 20 minutes to complete each quiz. Quizzes are open book and open note, but must completed individually. Students who read the text and take careful notes while reading and reviewing the class notes are best positioned to take advantage of the open-book, open-note format. You are also encouraged to complete 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 available on Blackboard.

Each quiz is worth 3% of your overall grade. The score for your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. You will receive one bonus point (on your overall grade) for completing all eleven quizzes.

Exams:
Three exams will be conducted through the Blackboard course page. Exam one will be week six, exam two will be week eleven, and exam 3 will be week 16. For exams one and two, a brief review will be available starting Monday at 9:00am. Exams one and two will be available starting Wednesday at 5:00pm. Exams one and two must be completed by Sunday at 11:59pm. The review sheet for exam three will be available Monday, May 1st at 9:00am. Exam three will be available Friday, May 5th at 5:00pm. Exam three must be completed by Tuesday, May 9th at 11:59pm.

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. You will have 75 minutes to complete each exam. **Exams are open book and open note, but must completed individually, not as part of a group.** The advice for preparing for the exams is the same as the advice for the quizzes; use the same resources, but cover multiple chapters of the text and multiple weeks from the class notes.

Each exam is worth 10% of the grade. No exam will be dropped.

**Late/Missing work:**
Students who miss discussion posts **will not** be allowed to make them up without proper documentation. Note: Students must demonstrate that they were not able to complete an initial post from the time the assignment is opened until it is due. Since discussions are interactive, any student who misses a discussion will be assigned a longer written assignment to be completed as soon as s/he is able to return to class (not the end of the semester).

Students who miss quizzes **will not** be allowed to make them up without proper documentation. Note: Students must demonstrate that they were not able to complete the quiz from the time it opened until it is due. Make-up quizzes need to be completed as soon as a student is able to return to class (not the end of the semester).

Students who miss exams **will not** be allowed to make them up without proper documentation. Note: Students must demonstrate that they were not able to complete the exam from the time it opened until it is due. Make-up exams need to be completed as soon as a student is able to return to class (not the end of the semester).

**Feedback:**
Every effort will be made to grade discussion posts within one week of the due date for responses. (Note: This is different than the date of submission and different than the due date for initial posts.)

Quizzes and exams will be graded immediately upon submission. Quiz questions with your answers and the correct answer will be available on the Wednesday after the quiz is due. Quiz questions should be used to prepare for exams.

Feedback on practice quizzes, including the correct answer and an explanation of the question/answer will be available immediately upon submission.

**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.
Grade Scale:
The overall course grade will be graded out of 100 points with each component of the course weighted to reflect its value:

To calculate your course grade use the following weighted-average formula:
(Discussion1 x .04) + (Discussion2 x .04) + (Discussion3 x .04) + (Discussion4 x .04) +
(Discussion5 x .04) + (Discussion6 x .04) + (Discussion7 x .04) + (Discussion8 x .04) +
(Discussion9 x .04) + (Discussion10 x .04) + (Discussion11 x .04) + (Quiz1 x .03) +
(Quiz2 x .03) + (Quiz3 x .03) + (Quiz4 x .03) + (Quiz5 x .03) + (Quiz6 x .03) + (Quiz7 x .03) +
(Quiz8 x .03) + (Quiz9 x .03) + (Quiz10 x .03) + (Quiz11 x .03) + (Exam1 x .10) +
(Exam2 x .10) + (Exam3 x .10) = Overall Course Grade (remember adjust by removing the
lowest discussion and quiz scores and adding any bonus points earned)

The letter grade for the overall course grade corresponds to the following scale:

A = 90-100          A- = 88-89
B+ = 85-87          B = 80-84
B- = 78-79          C+ = 75-77
C = 70-74           C- = 68-69
D+ = 65-67          D = 60-64
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 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:
All students 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 responding to discussion posts. Personal attacks will not be tolerated in discussion responses (or anywhere else) and will result in lower grades (see the discussion assignment for more on this point).
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 should be completed by the START of the week for which they are listed.
Note: All times are Pacific.

Week 1:
No readings
Notes: Available 1/17 at 9:00am
Discussion Post 1 - (Available 1/17 at 9:00am, due Sunday 1/22 at 11:59pm)

Week 2:
Readings: Ginsberg, Chapter 1 - American Political Culture & Declaration of Independence (Appendix of Ginsberg, A1-A3)
Notes: Available 1/23 at 9:00am
Discussion Post 2 - (Available 1/23 at 9:00am, initial post due Friday 1/27 at 11:59pm, responses due Sunday 1/29 at 11:59pm)
Quiz 1 - (Available Wednesday 1/25 at 5:00pm, due Sunday 1/29 at 11:59pm)

Week 3:
Readings: Ginsberg, Chapter 2 – Founding and the Constitution; 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)
Notes: Available 1/30 at 9:00am
Discussion Post 3 - (Available 1/30 at 9:00 am, initial post due Friday 2/3 at 11:59pm, responses due Sunday 2/5 at 11:59pm)
Quiz 2 - (Available Wednesday 2/1 at 5:00pm, due Sunday 2/5 at 11:59pm)

Week 4:
Readings: Ginsberg, Chapter 3 – Federalism; U.S. Constitution: Articles IV and VI (Ginsberg, A12-A13)
Notes: Available 2/6 at 9:00am
Discussion Post 4 - (Available 2/6 at 9:00 am, initial post due Friday 2/10 at 11:59pm, responses due Sunday 2/12 at 11:59pm)
Quiz 3 - (Available Wednesday 2/8 at 5:00pm, due Sunday 2/12 at 11:59pm)
Week 5:
Readings: Ginsberg, Chapter 4 – Civil Liberties; U.S. Constitution: Amendments I-X and XIV (Ginsberg, A14-A16)
Notes: Available 2/13 at 9:00am
Quiz 4 - (Available Wednesday 2/15 at 5:00pm, due Sunday 2/19 at 11:59pm)

Week 6:
Review for Exam 1: Available 2/20 at 9:00am
Exam 1 – (Available Wednesday 2/22 at 5:00pm, due Sunday 2/26 at 11:59pm)
Material Covered: Weeks 1-5 (Chapters 1, 2, 3, & 4 from the Ginsberg text; Declaration of Independence; U.S. Constitution (the Articles, Amendments I-X, and Amendment XIV); Federalist 10 & 51)

Week 7:
Readings: Ginsberg, Chapter 6 Public Opinion
Notes: Available 2/27 at 9:00am
Discussion Post 5 - (Available 2/27 at 9:00am, initial post due Friday 3/3 at 11:59pm, responses due Sunday 3/5 at 11:59pm)
Quiz 5 - (Available Wednesday 3/1 at 5:00pm, due Sunday 3/5 at 11:59pm)

Week 8:
Readings: Ginsberg, Chapter 8 – Political Participation and Voting; U.S. Constitution:
Amendments XV, XVII, XIX, XXIII, XXIV, and XXVI (Ginsberg, A16-A19); Lawless and Fox “Just Say Run”
Notes: Available 3/6 at 9:00am
Discussion Post 6 - (Available 3/6 at 9:00am, initial post due Friday 3/10 at 11:59pm, responses due Sunday 3/12 at 11:59pm)
Quiz 6 - (Available Wednesday 3/8 at 5:00pm, due Sunday 3/12 at 11:59pm)

Week 9:
Readings: Ginsberg, Chapter 9 – Political Parties; Masket and Noel “Don’t Look to a Third Party”
Notes: Available 3/13 at 9:00 am
Discussion Post 7 - (Available 3/13 at 9:00am, initial post due Friday 3/17 at 11:59pm, responses due Sunday 3/19 at 11:59pm)
Quiz 7 - (Available Wednesday 3/15 at 5:00pm, due Sunday 3/19 at 11:59pm)

Week 10:
Readings: Ginsberg, Chapter 10 - Campaigns and Elections; Adler “Political Ads: Overpriced, Inefficient, Essential”
Notes: Available 3/20 at 9:00am
Discussion Post 8 - (Available 3/20 at 9:00am, initial post due Friday 3/24 at 11:59pm, responses due Sunday 3/26 at 11:59pm)
Quiz 8 - (Available Wednesday 3/22 at 5:00pm, due Sunday 3/26 at 11:59pm)
SPRING BREAK: MARCH 27 – APRIL 2

Week 11:
Review for Exam 2: Available 4/3 at 9:00am
Exam 2 – (Available Wednesday 4/5 at 5:00pm, due Sunday 4/9 at 11:59pm)
Material Covered: Weeks 7-10 (Chapters 6, 8, 9, & 10 from the Ginsberg text; Adler; Lawless and Fox; Masket and Noel; U.S. Constitution (Amendments XV, XVII, XIX, XXIII, XXIV, and XXVI)

Week 12:
Readings: Ginsberg, Chapter 12 – Congress; Liptak “Small States Find Outsize Clout Growing in Senate”
Notes: Available 4/10 at 9:00am
Discussion Post 9 - (Available 4/10 at 9:00am, initial post due Friday 4/14 at 11:59pm, responses due Sunday 4/16 at 11:59pm)
Quiz 9 - (Available Wednesday 4/12 at 5:00pm, due Sunday 4/16 at 11:59pm)

Week 13:
Notes: Available 4/17 at 9:00am
Discussion Post 10 - (Available 4/17 at 9:00am, initial post due Friday 4/21 at 11:59pm, responses due Sunday 4/23 at 11:59pm)
Quiz 10 - (Available Wednesday 4/19 at 5:00pm, due Sunday 4/23 at 11:59pm)

Week 14:
Readings: Ginsberg, Chapter 14 – Bureaucracy in a Democracy & Chapter 15 – The Federal Courts
Notes: Available 4/24 at 9:00am
Discussion Post 11 - (Available 4/24 at 9:00am, initial post due Friday 4/28 at 11:59pm, responses due Sunday 4/30 at 11:59pm)
Quiz 11 - (Available Wednesday 4/26 at 5:00pm, due Sunday 4/30 at 11:59pm)

Week 15:
Review for final exam: Available 5/1 at 9:00am

Week 16:
Exam 3 – (Available Friday 5/5 at 5:00pm, due Tuesday 5/9 at 11:59pm)
Material Covered: Weeks 12-15 (Chapters 12, 13, 14, & 15 from the Ginsberg text; 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 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 (www.lcsc.edu/media/2157659/Student-Handbook.pdf or www.lcsc.edu/student-affairs/student-rights-and-responsibilities/) for more information.

Accidents/Student Insurance
Students participating in LCSC classes normally must look to their personal health insurance policy 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 Vice President 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 Vice President for Student Affairs’ web page (www.lcsc.edu/student-affairs/student-code-of-conduct/ or www.lcsc.edu/consumer-information/).

Diversity Vision Statement
Regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, national origin, disability, veteran status, gender identity, 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) 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 Vice President for Student Affairs & Provost / Vice President for Academic Affairs June 2, 2016