

# Cuyamaca College - Spring 2019 - POSC 121-5756 - Introduction to US Government and Politics - Online

*About POSC 121 - Spring 2019*

## Meeting Times

Online

No Room

## Course Website

<https://gcccd.instructure.com/courses/23205>

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Office Hours: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 8:00am to 9:15am,  
Room F-515

Online Office Hours: By Appointment

## Course Description

Analysis of the evolution of the structures and functions of the U.S. and California political systems from the time of the nation's founding to the current day in what is now the United States. Emphasis is on the continuity and uniqueness of the American political experience and how that experience has derived from other political cultures. This will be examined in the context of the larger cultural, economic, and sociological forces shaping the U.S. political system. Attention will be given to significant events affecting the evolution of the U.S. political system since its founding. The development and evolution of the U.S. Constitution and policy making role of traditional political institutions such as the presidency, the Congress, and the judiciary will be explored. The impact of other political forces such as mass movements, the media, the bureaucracy, interest groups, and ethnic and social groups will be examined. Topics will be illustrated through reference to actual political events occurring as the course progresses.

## Course Prerequisites

None

## Important Academic Year 2018-2019 Dates

<https://www.cuyamaca.edu/current-students/academic-calendars/default.aspx>

Last Day to Drop without "W"

February 8, 2019

Last Day to Drop

April 26, 2019

*CC Political Science Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)*

PLO #1

Discuss major theories and concepts of political science.

PLO #2

Analyze political issues and formulate solutions.

PLO #3

Participate knowledgeably as a U.S. citizen in civic-oriented environments.

PLO #4

Demonstrate an understanding of U.S. and world politics.

PLO #5

Comprehend enduring political thoughts and ideas throughout history.

*POSC 121 Course Objectives*

CO #1:

Identify and analyze the ideals, goals, and processes of government and politics in the United States, including those found in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Federalist papers.

CO #2:

Define democracy and compare and contrast the differences between the democratic theory and reality of the democratic experience in the United States.

CO #3:

Identify and critically analyze the historical origins and continuing evolution of the U.S. and California Constitutions with a special focus on citizen's rights, liberties, and responsibilities.

CO #4:

Use various theories of political power to define and critically analyze the institutions and functions of the United States government.

CO #5

Describe and analyze how changes in public opinion, interest group pressures, and the media have influenced citizen's relationship to the political system.

CO #6

Describe and evaluate the U.S. federal system including the evolution of the relation of states and regions of the United States to each other and to the federal government, with a special focus on California.

CO #7

Identify and describe the structures and functions of political parties, elections and voting in shaping the outcomes of the political process.

## CO #8

Identify key economic, social, and foreign policy issues and analyze how the political system resolves the competing tensions that such policy issues raise.

### *POSC 121 Student Learning Outcomes*

#### SLO #1:

Identify the processes of American and California government from origins to contemporary times. Recognize the role of citizens' rights, liberties, and responsibilities on the local, state, and national level.

#### SLO #2:

Describe, analyze, and evaluate how political power is wielded in a federalist national system (as well as on the state and local level) through political parties, media platforms, interest groups, lobbying, elections, and voting.

### *CC Course Policies*

#### Class Attendance

I believe attendance is important because showing up and being present is integral to our life. As a university-level student, it is important that you attend course because it strengthens your connection with your peers, the professor and understanding of the materials.

#### Cell Phones

Please put your cell phone in "airplane" mode for the duration of class. The use of cell phones is discouraged during class time because it can be distracting to you, your classmates, and myself.

#### Laptops and Tablets

Laptop computers and tablets are only to be used for following lecture slides, note-taking, or in-class assignments.

#### Social Media

Students who are engaging in online chatting or social networking (ex. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, SnapChat, etc.) during class may be asked to post a course-related question on their social media account and share the responses they receive with the class.

#### Tutoring for Centers for Writing, Reading, ESL, STEM

Tutoring is an excellent resource that you should consider utilizing for our course, as well as other courses you are enrolled in.

<https://www.cuyamaca.edu/academics/support/tutoring/default.aspx>

#### Missing Class

Missing class because of a valid excuse, such as a doctor-excused illness, a family emergency, or a documented conflict with another college-sanctioned activity, is permitted. If you know you will have such a valid excuse, please email me as soon as practicable.

## Late Assignments

Assignments have an open date, due date, and close date. Assignments submitted after the due date will be considered "late" and deducted 5% for each day the assignment is late.

Open Date is when an assignment is available.

Due Date is when an assignment should be submitted.

Between Due Date and Close Date an assignment can be submitted, but will be considered "late" and deducted points.

Close Date is when an assignment can no longer be submitted for evaluation by the professor. The close date is typically 7 days after the Due Date.

## Disabled Student Programs and Services

The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Cuyamaca College is committed to make our courses accessible to all students, including students with limited mobility, impaired hearing or vision, and learning disabilities. If you believe you have a special need or a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact DSPS by visiting DSPS in the One Stop Center in Room A-113 or call 619-660-4239 or visit <https://www.cuyamaca.edu/services/dsps/default.aspx>

## Sexual Harassment

The sexual harassment of students, including the crime of sexual violence, is a form of sex discrimination and interferes with students' right to receive an education free from discrimination and, in the case of sexual violence, is a crime.

<https://www.cuyamaca.edu/campus-life/student-affairs/title-ix-information.aspx>

## Student Conduct and Academic Honesty Policy

You are responsible for your personal, academic, and professional conduct. Additionally, academic honesty is of critical importance at all institutions of higher education. Visit the following links for more information.

<https://www.cuyamaca.edu/campus-life/student-affairs/conduct.aspx>

<https://www.grossmont.edu/campus-life/student-affairs/academic-integrity.aspx>

## Course Drop

Dropping a course is a difficult choice to make and I am here to consult with you about the decision.

If you are absent from class for 2 consecutive periods without a valid excuse, you will be dropped from the course.

However, while I have the ability to drop you from a course, I strongly prefer that you take the action to drop yourself from the course if needed.

The Last Day to Drop without a "W" is Friday, February 8, 2019

The Last Day to Drop Semester Length Classes with a "W" is Friday, April 26, 2019

<https://www.cuyamaca.edu/current-students/academic-calendars/2019sp-calendar.aspx>

## Changes to the Syllabus

The schedule in this syllabus is largely settled; however, I reserve the right to make changes to the schedule or to other aspects of the course discussed in the syllabus. Any such changes will be announced in class and an updated syllabus noting version number

will be uploaded to the course website. Each student is responsible for being aware of such changes.

#### Extra Credit

No extra credit will be offered in this course.

#### Readings

##### Required

American Government in Black and White- Diversity and Democracy- Paula McClain, Steven Tauber- 9780190298791- Amazon.com- Books

##### Recommended for PPP Analysts Roles

Policy (Regulatory, Legislative, Judicial) Analyst: Kraft, M. E., & Furlong, S. R. (2013). Public policy : politics, analysis, and alternatives (4th ed.). Los Angeles: SAGE Publications.

GIS Analyst: Law, M., & Collins, A. (2016). Getting to know ArcGIS Pro. (1st Edition) Esri Press.

Data Analyst: Hamilton, L. C. (2012). Statistics with Stata: version 12. Cengage Learning.

Communications Analyst: Lankow, J., et al. (2012). Infographics : the power of visual storytelling. Hoboken, N.J., John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

#### Grading

##### Grade Posting

All grading will be posted to Course Website in a timely fashion

Final Grades will be uploaded to Course Website no later than Thursday, June 6, 2019 by 12:00pm noon.

##### Grading Policy

A+: 100% to 97.0%

A: < 97.0% to 93.0%

A-: < 93.0% to 90.0%

B+: < 90.0% to 87.0%

B: < 87.0% to 83.0%

B-: < 83.0% to 80.0%

C+: < 80.0% to 77.0%

C: < 77.0% to 70.0%

D: < 70.0% to 60.0%

F: < 60.0% to 0.0%

##### Grade Dispute and Resolution

If you have a concern regarding your grade, please contact me directly via email or visit me during office hours so we can discuss your concern and resolve it.

## POSC 121 - Spring 2019 - Assignments and Assessments

### *Participation - 30%*

#### 35-36 Class Periods

We have 35/36 seventy-five minute periods of class and a final exam period of class.

#### Assessments

Reflections

Discussions

#### Grading Rubric

Reflections are evaluated based on asking a question and responding to the question with 5 or more sentences.

Discussions are evaluated based on an initial Post of 5 sentences or more. After you initial Post, you are evaluated on 3 Replies of 5 sentences or more.

A Rubric, which specifically details how the assessment is evaluated, is attached to each Assessment on the Course website.

### *Quizzes - 10%*

#### About

Learning Unit Quizzes: Each Learning Unit has a quiz associated with it. Quizzes are formative assessments, meaning you should use them to test your knowledge base.

If you do NOT attempt to complete the quiz during the designated week, you will not have access to the quiz questions or answers. This means you will not have a tool to help you prepare for the final exam.

#### Schedule

These quizzes will be available during the interval starting Monday, 12:01am and close Sunday, 11:59pm corresponding to the week when lecture occurs.

Late Up to 1 Week: Starting the following Monday, at 12:01am, the quiz will remain open for 7 days but be considered "late" and deducted 5% for each day late up to 7 days.

Close at End of Late Week: After Sunday, at 11:59pm, of the Late Week, the quiz will close and can no longer be attempted for credit.

#### Quiz-Taking Strategy

1st Attempt: I would recommend you take closed-note, closed-book so you can test your ability to recall

2nd Attempt: I would recommend you take open-note/open-book and double check you have the correct answer

3rd Attempt: I would recommend you take open-note, open-book and triple check you have the correct answer

#### Grading

You will have up to three attempts to earn the highest score possible.

## *Journal Article Analysis (JAA) - 20%*

### About

Journal articles are peer-reviewed publications that help scholars communicate ideas, theories, empirical analyses, and conclusions. The ability to critically read journal articles is a skill that is developed with practice. This skill is especially useful when you attend university. If you are contemplating attending graduate school to earn a Masters, professional, or Doctoral degree, then analyzing journal articles is an essential skill. Journal Article Analysis consists of reading journal articles and analyzing them.

### Assessments

Journal Article Analysis #1, Unguided

Journal Article Analysis #1, Guided

Journal Article Analysis #2, Guided

Journal Article Analysis #3, Guided

### Grading Rubric

Your Journal Article Analyses are evaluated on thoroughness and consulting with the Writing Center.

A Rubric, which specifically details how the assessment is evaluated, is attached to each Assessment on the Course website.

## *Simulation (SIM) - 10%*

### About

Simulations of real-world institutions, processes, and behaviors help you apply what you are learning

### Assessments

Day 1 Network Drawing and Explanation

Day 2 Worksheet

Day 3 Worksheet

### Grading Rubric

A Rubric, which specifically details how the assessment is evaluated, is attached to each Assessment on the Course website.

## *Public Policy Project (PPP) - 20%*

### About

The Public Policy Project encourages you to identify a public problem to focus on. After discussion with your peers, you are responsible for selecting the causes, effects, and solutions to the public problem you selected. After that, you will explore four different analyst roles: Data Analyst, Geographic Information Systems Analyst, Policy Analyst, or Communications Analyst.

## Assessments

Discussion of Public Problems, Causes, and Effects  
Your Public Problem  
PowerPoint Presentation  
Pair-Share-Think

## Grading Rubric

A Rubric, which specifically details how the assessment is evaluated, is attached to each Assessment on the Course website.

*Final Exam - 10%*

## About

Final Exams allow me to more objectively assess and you to further display your command of the course materials and achievement of Course Learning Outcomes.

## Assessments

### 120 Question Examination

The Final Exam is scheduled during the designated Final Exam date/time/location. You should anticipate needing the entire final exam period to complete the exam.

The Final Exam is proctored in-class. You are not allowed to take the final exam outside of class or during another time, unless you scheduled otherwise with the professor in advance.

Laptop/Tablet Requirement: Exam will be conducted on Course Website and completed using your laptop/tablet. Therefore, you will need to bring your laptop/tablet.

Paper in Lieu of Laptop/Tablet: If you do not have access to a laptop/tablet, a paper copy of the exam can be provided. Please notify the Instructor via email 7 days before the Final Exam that you will need a paper copy.

Each question is worth 1 point.

Questions will be multiple choice, multiple-response, true-false, matching, and fill-in-the-blank.

Questions will be drawn from lectures, books, readings, Journal Article Analysis, Simulation, and Public Policy Project.

## Preparation for Final Exam

Attending All Meeting Periods  
Completing Assigned Readings  
Attending Lectures, Taking Notes  
Attempting Learning Unit Quizzes  
Completing JAA, PPP, and SIM  
Reviewing materials throughout the semester  
Organizing a group study session

## Final Exam-Taking Strategy

Read question carefully, as well as answer choices  
Answer if you are sure or somewhat sure of the correct answer



Use the "marked question" function on Canvas to note a question you are somewhat unsure or unsure about the correct answer  
 Get through all 120 questions before the 90 minute mark  
 Use last 30 minutes of exam period to review "marked questions" and input an answer  
 There is no penalty for making an educated guess

## POSC 121 - Spring 2019 - Course Schedule

<b>W</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Learning Unit</b>	<b>Readings</b>
1	Monday, January 28, 2019	Welcome, Introductions, and Syllabus	
1	Wednesday, January 30, 2019	JAA Day 1 - Article 1 - Unguided	
2	Monday, February 4, 2019	American Government and Politics in a Racially Divided World	Chapter 1
2	Wednesday, February 6, 2019	JAA Day 2 - Article 1 - Guided	
3	Monday, February 11, 2019	The Constitution: Rights and Race Intertwined A Revolution for Independence	Chapter 2
3	Wednesday, February 13, 2019	JAA Day 3 - Article 2 Guided	
4	Monday, February 18, 2019	Holiday - Washington's Birthday	
4	Wednesday, February 20, 2019	Federalism: Balancing Power, Balancing Rights	Chapter 3
5	Monday, February 25, 2019	Civil Liberties: Freedom and Government Authority in Tension	Chapter 4
5	Wednesday, February 27, 2019	JAA Day 4 - Article 3 Guided	
6	Monday, March 4, 2019	Civil Rights: Inequality and Equality	Chapter 5
6	Wednesday, March 6, 2019	SIM Day 1	
7	Monday, March 11, 2019	Congress: Representation and Lawmaking	Chapter 6
7	Wednesday, March 13, 2019	SIM Day 2	
8	Monday, March 18, 2019	SIM Day 3	
8	Wednesday, March 20, 2019	Roundtable Discussion	

<b>W</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Learning Unit</b>	<b>Readings</b>
9	Monday, March 25, 2019	Spring Recess	
9	Wednesday, March 27, 2019	Spring Recess	
10	Monday, April 1, 2019	The Presidency: Conventional Wisdom Redefined	Chapter 7
10	Wednesday, April 3, 2019	The Bureaucracy: Career Government Employees, Accountability, and Race	Chapter 8
11	Monday, April 8, 2019	PPP Day 1	
11	Wednesday, April 10, 2019	The Judiciary: Blending Law and Politics	Chapter 9
12	Monday, April 15, 2019	PPP Day 2	
12	Wednesday, April 17, 2019	Public Opinion: Divided By Race?	Chapter 10
13	Monday, April 22, 2019	PPP Day 3	
13	Wednesday, April 24, 2019	The Media: Reinforcing Racial Stereotypes?	Chapter 11
14	Monday, April 29, 2019	PPP Day 4	
14	Wednesday, May 1, 2019	Social Movements: Civil Rights as a Movement Model	Chapter 12
15	Monday, May 6, 2019	PPP Day 5	
15	Wednesday, May 8, 2019	Interest Groups: Good Outcomes with Few Resources	Chapter 13
16	Monday, May 13, 2019	PPP Day 6	
16	Wednesday, May 15, 2019	Political Parties: Linking Voters and Governing Institutions	Chapter 14
17	Monday, May 20, 2019	Voting and Elections: From Obama to Clinton	Chapter 15
17	Wednesday, May 22, 2019	Roundtable Discussion	
18	Monday, May 27, 2019	Holiday - Memorial Day	
18	Thursday, May 30, 2019	Final Exam - 1:00pm to 3:00pm	

