

**Course Syllabus ~ Political Science 1/American Government & Institutions**  
***Last updated 1/22/2019***

**Semester/Instructor:** Spring, 2019 with Kaliopi Pappas, J.D.

**When:** MW 7:16-8:49am

**Final Exam:** Last class meeting (Wednesday, 5/22)

**Where:** Room A304

**Course Registration Number:** 54625

**Instructor Email:** [kpappas@deltacollege.edu](mailto:kpappas@deltacollege.edu)

**Required Texts:**

- 1) Kenneth Janda, Jeffrey Berry, Jerry Goldman, and Kevin Hula. 2014. The Challenge of Democracy, Brief Edition, 9th edition. Mason: Cengage Learning.
- 2) Required course web supplements (and copy of this syllabus) are located at the course website, located at <http://civ.strangegirl.com/polisci/> . Remember, course readings are required IN ADDITION to textbook readings.

**Basic Course Objectives:**

- 1) To gain basic knowledge of how American government is structured, and why it was designed that way.
- 2) To understand how the American political process actually works, why it works that way, and how political realities match up with the intentions of those who created the American political system.
- 3) To learn about the various participants in the American political system, including the major societal institutions that interact with/within it.
- 4) To separate the theory and reality of the political system, while understanding the historical context.
- 5) To understand and appreciate the rights and privileges granted by the United States Constitution.
- 6) To gain a basic understanding of California state government, how it is structured, and how it functions.

Course catalog description and program learning outcomes can be found on the District's webpage at <http://www.deltacollege.edu/div/slo/index>.

**Student Obligations:**

- **In-class discussion is expected! :D You must have regular, weekly access to the course website.**
- Read this syllabus carefully, as it is the administrative backbone of the course. You are responsible for knowing and understanding the information presented here. That being said, you should also understand that I may change or adjust

course rules, procedures, assignments, and/or schedule as we go along. If you have questions, ask me!

- As a Delta student, you should familiarize yourself with your rights and responsibilities. They are located in your Student Handbook and at <http://www.deltacollege.edu/dept/ar/catalog/current/1931.htm>

### ***Important Enrollment Dates***

- Refund Date: 1/28/19
- Last Drop No Penalty Date: 2/3/19
- Last Drop With W Date: 3/14/19
- In accordance with Title 5; Section 55024, and AP 5075, students who remain enrolled in a full-term course after the final drop date for the term must be assigned a grade for the course. It is the student's responsibility to drop/withdraw from courses.

### ***Enrollment Information***

- If you are currently on the waiting list, sign in next to your name on the roll sheet I'll add you as space is available (shouldn't be a problem!).
- If you are NOT registered for the class and NOT currently on the official waiting list, talk to me after the first class. You will need to add yourself to the waiting list before I can add you.

**Remember to CHECK YOUR ENROLLMENT now and periodically over the course of the semester, as it's your responsibility to make sure you are appropriately enrolled. It's also your responsibility to drop yourself if you need to, for ANY reason. If you are in ANY doubt over the status of your enrollment, CHECK! If there's a problem, contact me and I'll try to help.**

### ***Attendance***

- You must attend class regularly, take notes, and participate in discussions and activities. Participation, and by extension attendance, will affect your grade (See excused absence policy below).
- Please be on time, and plan to stay the whole class period. If you leave early without clearance from me, you may not get credit for the day's attendance!
- **To verify your attendance, be sure to sign your enrollment name/initials clearly on the attendance sheet at each class meeting.** This is important!

If you miss **any** of the **first three** class meetings for any reason, you may be dropped. Regarding attendance, Board Policy 5075 states:

*"A student who fails to attend any of the first three class sessions at the beginning of a term may be dropped from that class unless the student has advised and obtained an absence approval from the faculty member.*

After the first three class sessions, faculty may drop students for excess absenteeism providing the withdrawal deadline for the semester/term has not passed. Excess absenteeism is defined as “one more time than the class meets per week.” ”

**DO NOT simply stop coming to class; I will not automatically assume you aren’t coming back.**

### ***Excused Absences***

- Jury duty and official Delta field trips are the only board-sanctioned excused absence types. In both cases, you must provide me with written documentation well in advance so I’ll know why you’re not in class.
- Other absences may be excused at my discretion on a case-by-case basis.

### ***No Late Work/No Make-ups Policy***

- All students must turn in all assignments and take all exams ON TIME. I cannot give credit for assignments or exams which have not been completed and turned in to me.
- **I don’t generally accept late work, nor do I schedule makeup exams.**
- **Exceptions:** I will reschedule *exams only* in cases involving excused absences (see above) with written documentation provided well in advance. Excused absences will generally not affect your ability to turn in your paper assignment early, so there will be no paper extensions.
- In cases involving extreme illness (you or an immediate family member), death of an immediate family member, or something similarly sudden and severe, I reserve the right to schedule make-ups or accept late work at my discretion and with no guarantees.
- Whether your situation involves an “officially excused” absence or not, get in touch with me RIGHT AWAY to discuss your options. Don’t wait. Also, follow my instructions PRECISELY. If I ask you for written verification, bring it to me ASAP. If I tell you to give me an assignment by a certain day, do it. If I tell you to show up for a makeup exam on a certain day, do it.

### ***Using Turnitin dot Com***

**We use [turnitin.com](https://turnitin.com) to submit our paper.** If you already have a [turnitin.com](https://turnitin.com) account, you can use it again this summer! Use the information below to associate your account with our class submission area.

If you don’t already have a [turnitin.com](https://turnitin.com) account, you can easily register one using your Delta College student email address. Simply go to [turnitin.com](https://turnitin.com) and begin the registration process. When prompted for a course ID number and course passcode, enter:

**19984484** for the ID number  
**SPRING** for the passcode

Remember, the info. above is not your personal login information; as with virtually all other online account registration procedures, you come up with those yourself.

### ***Assignments/Tests***

- **READINGS:** You must complete weekly **assigned readings** on time (textbook and on the website), so you can participate during the scheduled discussion. This information sheet provides a tentative schedule, which may be adjusted as we go along. In the case of online readings, go to our course website and look under the appropriate meeting date.
- **COURSE PARTICIPATION:** If you attend class regularly and participate actively in class discussions, you will very likely get a high participation total. However, note that the precise participation scores will be awarded at my discretion.
- **EXAMS:** The **midterm and final** will be in class, closed-note, and closed-book. They will consist of essay questions and several definitions; there will most likely be 1 essay question and three definitions on the midterm, and 1 essay question and five definitions on the final (actual numbers may vary, just so you know). **The final exam WILL be comprehensive.** Students must bring their own bluebooks or stapled packets of binder paper on which to write their exams. Please use blue or black ink and remember to double-space as you write.
- **RESEARCH PAPER:** This short paper assignment is an opportunity for you to research a **California ballot proposition (AKA ballot initiative)**.
  - In most instances, the making of laws is the role of a **legislature** (like Congress, or the California State Legislature). In the state of California, we have a procedure by which citizens can essentially propose legislation to be approved or rejected by their fellow voters, essentially circumventing the normal legislative process (including the part where the governor must sign the bill for it to become state law). I would like you to choose an historical (or current; there isn't much to choose from on the horizon right now, but you can choose one of the propositions that has qualified for an upcoming ballot or is in the process of qualifying) California ballot proposition and use it to help you discuss and illustrate the following:
    - ♣ Why is it important for citizens to have some direct involvement in lawmaking? Think about the goals and values of American democracy as you discuss, and describe how the state initiative process helps achieve them. If your chosen ballot proposition passed and has been a success, how does it illustrate the value of this system?
    - ♣ How can the initiative process can lead to great policy, or not-so-great policy? What are some potential problems with the process? Are the people and entities that write and present ballot propositions always qualified to write laws? Are they always representing their initiatives honestly? What can go wrong even when initiative sponsors mean well? Consider all angles.
    - ♣ In such a complicated electoral system, how can a voter begin to learn enough about a proposition to make an informed choice? Use

your research skills to find information not just about your proposition and what its success or failure means for California, but how a person can find resources now and in the future to help them make good choices regarding ballot initiatives (and elections in general). Where can you start? What media outlets or organizations present information that you feel you can trust? Has it become easier or harder to make choices as we've moved into the 21st century - how and why?

- ♣ Why did you choose your particular proposition, and why do you think it's good that it passed or failed (or, if it's a proposition that's on or potentially on a future ballot, why you think it should pass or fail)? Consider policy value, but also how a good idea can come an administrative or legal nightmare for government to deal with.
- Other instructions:
  - ♣ Paper is due on [turnitin.com](https://turnitin.com) by the due date posted
  - ♣ The California Secretary of State's website includes a whole section on current and past ballot initiative activity. Check under "Ballot Measures" for links: <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections>
  - ♣ Believe it or not, Wikipedia has a list of historical ballot initiatives (including a handy list of recent biggies) that can help you choose: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_California\\_ballot\\_propositions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_California_ballot_propositions)
  - ♣ The **paper** should be your own work. You may not write papers in groups or pairs. It must be at least **1100 words**, typed, double-spaced, using one side of the paper, in a 12 point font with NORMAL margins.
  - ♣ Please use **MLA** citation formats in your **essay**. For assistance with MLA style, you are encouraged to visit the Writing Center on Main Campus, on the second floor of Holt Center. You are required to use at least five solid sources in researching your paper (major polls, major media outlet election reports, election guides or legislative analyses presented by major organizations, &c.). Remember to use online resources with caution. No Wikipedia or other encyclopedia resources will count toward the minimum five. For an unofficial (and thereby not necessarily always reliable) guide to using MLA style, do a Google search online. One version that may be helpful to you is located at <http://www.studyguide.org/MLAdocumentation.htm>.
- **Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated.** If you copy another person's work, whether it's a student essay, a unique turn of phrase borrowed from a source without appropriate citation, or whole sentences/paragraphs/pages taken from the textbook without quotation or full citations, you are guilty of plagiarism. Plagiarism and cheating will result in a "zero" for the assignment or exam at issue, and possibly more. If you have questions as to what constitutes plagiarism, ask me. You can also learn more at the Writing Center in Holt Center on Main Campus.

- Once I have graded an assignment or exam, I will return it to you in class. Normal grading turnaround time is about 2 weeks, though it may take less/more time depending on our calendar and other circumstances. If you do not come to class on the day(s) I pass an assignment back, you must make arrangements to pick it up from me. Originals will be destroyed if you do not pick them up from me within two weeks of grading. I will not keep copies, nor will I store the originals for you. Final exams will not be returned unless you make arrangements with me beforehand.
- No rewrites. No re-scores.

### ***Help & Special Accommodations***

- You are encouraged to ask me questions about course material before, during, and after class if you have them, circumstances permitting. I may ask you to hold some questions for after class if we are running short on time. Remember to keep questions and comments ON TOPIC.
- General assistance with course information and paper brain storming is available with **subject tutors at Goleman Library on main campus**. Gus and Karen have been our main Civilization 3 tutors at Goleman in the past.
- If you would like technical assistance with papers, you are welcome to make an appointment with the writing tutors at the **Delta Writing Center in 201 Holt Center on main campus**.
- **If you have a documented disability and need accommodations for this class**, please see me as soon as possible. I recommend that you also contact Delta's Disability Support Programs and Services (DSPS) for assistance. DSPS is located in the DeRicco Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor. The phone number is (209) 954-5151 x6272.

### ***Other Obligations***

- Please be courteous, pleasant, and group-adaptable when dealing with classmates and the instructor. :) In other words, play nice.
- In particular, don't disrupt class. That means, among other things, no talking, whispering, passing notes, texting, playing with laptops, reading, doing other assignments, or otherwise disturbing the instructor or other students while in the classroom.
- **Recordings of any kind are prohibited in the classroom, without express permission from me, in advance.**
- If a student is repeatedly disruptive, he or she will be immediately removed from the classroom and possibly removed permanently from the course.
- Also, realize that according to Delta College policy, **persons not enrolled in the class are absolutely prohibited from attending class meetings or otherwise being present in the classroom**. This means no children and no guests.
- **Stay tuned for more details. I reserve the right to clarify or change sections of this syllabus - including my course policies - to better serve the needs of the class as a whole.**

## Grades:

Grades are based on one midterm, your paper, a comprehensive final exam, and class attendance/participation. I'm providing this point information so that you may track your progress as we go along.

Here's the basic point breakdown:

- 1 midterm: 80 points
- Paper: 80 points
- Final Exam: 110 points
- Participation: 30 points
- Total: 300 points

Overall letter grades are determined by the usual 0-100% scheme. 90-100%=A, 80-90%=B, 70-80%=C, 60-70%=D, and below 60%=F.

## Tentative Schedule:

This is a list of topics, by class meeting, and the assignments to be discussed during each period. This is tentative. We may extend discussions, contract them, or add additional reading materials as we go along.

- January 16 - Class Intro.
- January 21 - NO CLASS - MLK HOLIDAY
- January 23 & 28 - **Dilemmas of Democracy: Freedom, Order, and Equality**
  - Majoritarian or Pluralist Democracy (**Janda, Chapter 1**)
- January 30 & February 4 - The United States Constitution (**Janda, Chapter 2, and Hobbes, Locke, and *Federalist Papers* on website - required**)
- February 6 & 13 (NO CLASS FEBRUARY 11 - PRESIDENT'S DAY HOLIDAY) - Federalism (**Janda, Chapter 3**)
- February 20 & 25 (NO CLASS FEBRUARY 18 - PRESIDENT'S DAY HOLIDAY) - Public Opinion, Political Socialization, and the Media (**Janda, Chapter 4; LBJ's "Daisy" campaign commercial from 1964, courtesy of PBS.org and The 30 Second Candidate on website; Hillary Clinton "3am" campaign commercial from 2008; additional source on media's role in democracy - required**)
- February 27 & March 4 - Participation & Voting (**Janda, Chapter 5**)

- March 6 & 11 - Political Parties, Nominations, Elections, & Campaigns...and the Majoritarian Ideal (**Janda, Chapter 6**)
- March 13 - Interest Groups (**Janda, Chapter 7; Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America* excerpt on website - required**)
- NO CLASS MARCH 18, 20, 25, 27 & APRIL 1 - SPRING BREAKS
- April 3 - **MIDTERM EXAM**
- April 8 - Congress (**Janda, Chapter 8; source on Congressional norms and how well they work - required**)
- April 10 & 15 - The Presidency/Executive Branch (**Janda, Chapters 9 & 10; sources to be posted regarding presidential overreach - required**)
- April 17 & 22 - The Courts (**Janda, Chapter 11; Benjamin Cardozo, *The Nature of the Judicial Process* excerpt on website - required**)
- April 24 & 29 - Order and Civil Liberties (**Janda, Chapter 12; Ballot proposition readings on website - required**)
- May 1 & 6 - Equality and Civil Rights (**Janda, Chapter 13; *Bollinger Cases* and *Parents Involved in Community Schools v. Seattle School Dist. No. 1* section on website - required**)
- May 8 - Policymaking (**Janda, Chapter 14**)
- May 13 - California as a microcosm...and more; State Constitution; CA State Government Structures
- May 15 - California issues, campaigns, and elections; Local Government; California wrap-up
- May 20 - **Catch-up and REVIEW for final exam**
- May 22 - **FINAL EXAM in class; RESEARCH PAPER DUE VIA [TURNITIN.COM](https://www.turnitin.com)**