**Valencia College**

**West Campus**

**POS 2041**

**U.S. GOVERNMENT (Hybrid)**

**3 Credit Hours**

**Summer 2016**

**CRN 31854**

**TR 8:00 – 11:35 am, Room 11-219**

**Course Syllabus**

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| Professor: D. Duncan Jr. | Phone: 407-582-1440 |
|  | Office: Bldg. 11, Room 200-D |
|  | E-mail: dduncan@mail.valenciacollege.edu |
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| Contact hours will be posted in the  Blackboard Course Content link | Division of Behavioral & Social Sciences  Phone: 407-582-1203 or 407-582-1833  Office: Bldg. 11, Room 103-A |

**GENERAL COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Analysis of the organization, structure and operational dynamics of the U.S. national government, both past and present, and an examination of the U.S. Constitution, including principles and theories supporting it. This course includes learning activities designed to ensure competence in the basic use of computers.

As a Hybrid course, the dates that classes do not meet are highlighted in green on the course schedule.

**General Course Objectives:**

To provide an environment that will enable you to:

Demonstrate an understanding of the different types of democracy and the structures and functions of democracy as it is practiced in the United States.

Demonstrate an understanding of the philosophies and theories that led to the development of the U.S. Constitution.

Develop an understanding of the core values of U.S. democracy.

Develop an understanding of the effects of government at all levels in the United States on citizens’ lives and the citizens’ effect on government in the pursuit of local, political, and economic goals.

Use the Internet and computer resources to research, analyze, synthesize and present information on topics related to the study of the U.S. national government.

Demonstrate critical thinking skills in analyzing political, social and economic issues with specific contemporary examples.

**Resources:**

Textbook: “We the People” Ginsberg, Tenth Essential Edition.

Supplements:

– Writings

“Need for Leviathan,” Thomas Hobbes

“Justification of Revolution,” John Locke

“African Slavery in America,” Thomas Paine

“Why Citizens Should Participate in Politics,” J.J. Hendricks

“Race and the Constitution,” Thurgood Marshall

– Videos

“We the People: Story of the Constitution of the U.S.”

“Who Owns Our Government?”

“Orwell Rolls in His Grave.”

Monitor the News Media, i.e.:

Read two Sunday newspapers - one local and one national.

e.g. Orlando Sentinel and New York Times.

View a politically related television program at least once a week.

Listen to at least one politically oriented talk show.

Monitor the Internet, e.g. CNN.com, BBC.com, oneworld.net.

**Testing and Grading Policies:**

Class attendance/participation and homework

Participation includes the active presentation of your views on various issues discussed in class or ascertained from the news media.

Homework includes reading assigned chapters in the textbook and daily monitoring of the news media.

\* 10 chapter Key terms quizzes — fill-in-the-blank, and true/false; understanding the application of terms in context of the chapter. Keys terms are listed the end of each chapter, and are printed in bold-face type throughout the chapters.

\* There will be no make-ups for missed quizzes.

\*Two of the twelve lowest scores will be dropped at the end of the semester.

All assignments including quizzes must be completed in the Content link of BlackBoard Learning 9.1 prior to coming to class. See the Course Schedule in the Course Content link for availability and due dates.

Tests (4)

Test will cover text materials, class discussions, lectures and audiovisual materials.

Test will consist of forty-five (45) multiple choice questions, and one essay—see the “Essay Format” rubric in the syllabus.

\* Make-up tests will NOT be granted.

\* The lowest of the four essays and multiple choice questions scores will be dropped at the end of the semester.

\*BE COGNIZANT OF DUE DATES—download and copy the Course Schedule from the Course Content link.

\* All tests and quizzes must be accessed in the Content link.

Computer-Based Learning Activity

To demonstrate competence with the basic use of computers the college’s U.S. Government (POS 2041) course is designed to include a formal “computer-based” learning activity.

Mini-group assignments (In-class)

Chapter 5 Public Opinion

Chapter 4: Civil Liberties

Chapter 4: Civil Rights

Instructions will be provided on scheduled dates of assignments

• **See the course schedule for due dates.**

**Late assignments will NOT be accepted.**

Assignments

Video: Who Owns Our Government?

Youtube: Orwell Rolls in His Grave.

Watch the videos on assigned dates. Post your reflections in the Discussion link in BB by the due date on the schedule.

**Valencia Student Core Competencies**:

Valencia faculty has defined four interrelated competencies (Value, Think, Communicate, and Act) that prepare students to succeed in the world community. These competencies are outlined in the College Catalog. In this course, through classroom lecture and discussion, group work, and other learning activities, you will further develop your mastery of these core competencies.

**Grading Scale:**

A = 90 - 100

B = 80 - 89 10 Chapter Quizzes = 50 pts.

C = 70 - 79 3 Tests = 300 pts.

D = 60 - 69 Mini-group assignments = 45 pts.

Video Assignments (2x10 points) = 20 pts.

**Final Grades: (415)**

A = 374

B = 332

C = 291

D = 249

**Academic Dishonesty and Student Code of Classroom Conduct:**

* **Student Code of Conduct** http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policydetail.cfm?RecordID=180
* **Copyright Policy**  
  http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policydetail.cfm?RecordID=48
* **Educational Work Products**  
  http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policydetail.cfm?RecordID=58
* **Discrimination and Harassment**http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policydetail.cfm?RecordID=15
* **Information Technology Resources**http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policydetail.cfm?RecordID=56
* **Acceptable Use of Information Technology Resources**http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policydetail.cfm?RecordID=247
* **FERPA and Student Records**  
  http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policydetail.cfm?RecordID=186
* **FERPA Overview**  
  http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Resources/FERPA-Overview.htm
* **Student Records Procedure**http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/proceduredetail.cfm?RecordID=186

**Withdrawal Policy**

Per Valencia Policy 4-07 (Academic Progress, Course Attendance and Grades, and Withdrawals), a student who withdraws from class before the withdrawal deadline of 6/10/2016 will receive a grade of “W.”  A student is not permitted to withdraw after the withdrawal deadline.  Students who stay in the class after this deadline are responsible to complete all work required for the course; e.g., homework, projects, tests, etc. If you choose to stop coming to the class after the Withdrawal deadline, you will be held responsible for all work missed, including the final. Any work which is not completed by the appropriate deadline will receive a zero. Hence, the final grade for the course will be determined by taking into consideration the percentages obtained by work which was turned in and the zeros given to work that were not turned in on time. Any student who withdraws or is withdrawn from a class during a third or subsequent attempt in the same course will be assigned a grade of “F.”  For a complete policy and procedure overview on Valencia Policy 4-07 please go to: [http://valenciacc.edu/generalcounsel/policydetail.cfm?RecordID=75](https://webmail.valenciacc.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=4d21770910c649bc91125588fb873e86&URL=http%3a%2f%2fvalenciacc.edu%2fgeneralcounsel%2fpolicydetail.cfm%3fRecordID%3d75).

**Special Accommodations**

“Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a Notification to Instructor (NTI) form from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and discuss specific needs with the professor, preferably during the first two weeks of class. The Office for Students with Disabilities determines accommodations based on appropriate documentation of disabilities."

**Contact information:**

West Campus SSB, Rm. 102 Ph: [407-582-1523](tel:407-582-1523) Fax: [407-582-1326](tel:407-582-1326) TTY: [407-582-1222](tel:407-582-1222)

**Disclaimer:**

The professor reserves the rights to amend this course syllabus at any time during the semester. But, all changes will be announced in a timely manner.

**ESSAY FORMAT**

(20 points)

Introduction paragraph

Setting of Stage—general statement/s

Thesis sentence—restate

the question; include the

major terms in the quest-

ion to be explained.

Body paragraph/s (not limited to one paragraph)

1. Explain or describe major terms or concepts in the thesis sentence.
2. Provide specific contemporary examples to illustrate explanations.

(5 pts.)

1. Brief Analysis (After explanation or description, ask Why?)

Conclusion paragraph

Brief summary

--reword TS, include

the major terms from TS.

Structure—5 pts.

Information (Accuracy)—5pts.

Analysis (After explanation, answer the question why?)—5pts.

***Higher Ground***

*moon and stars sit way up high*

*earth and trees beneath them lie*

*the wind blows fragrant lullaby*

*to cool the night for you and i*

*on the wing the birds fly free*

*leviathan tames angry sea*

*the flower waits for honeybee*

*the sunrise wakes new life in me*

|  |
| --- |
| *and every hour of every day I’m learning more*  *the more i learn, the less i know about before*  *the less i know, the more i want to look around*  *digging deep for clues on higher ground…* |

*the fishes swim while rivers run*

*thru fields to feast my eyes upon*

*intoxicated drinking from*

*the loving cup of burning sun*

*in dreams I’ll crave familiar taste*

*of whispered rain on weary face*

*of kisses sweet and warm embrace*

*another time another place*

*and every hour of every day I’m learning more*

*the more i learn, the less i know about before*

*the less i know, the more i want to look around*

*digging deep for clues on higher ground…*

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| The pen is mightier  than the sword, and  considerably easier  to write with.  MARTY FELDMAN |

Having trouble with your papers because your writing skills need sharpening? Stop by The Writing Center and sign up

for a half-hour appointment. We’re open six days a week

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West Campus 5-155 Mon-Thurs 8 am-9 pm Fri 8 am-2 pm Sat 9 am-1 pm

**Extra Credit Opportunities**

(Max. 50 points)

Instructions: All extra credit opportunities must be submitted in your My Portfolio in LifeMap.

* Essay reviews (3).
  + Earn up to five (5) extra credit points each for responding to my comments on your essays. My comments are in the Feedback box of the essay under the Assignment link of BB 9.1. Your response must be submitted before the next test.
* Research paper (1)
  + Earn up to fifty (50) extra credit points submitting a five page paper on the “Impact on an Industry on the Political Process.” See the instructions for the paper on the Research Paper page. The deadline for submission is 6/8/2016.

**Research Paper**

**“The Impact of Industry on the Political Process”**

**Instructions:**

* Research topic: The impact of industries on the political process.
* Select and industry, and the area to be researched from list below.
* Inform me of your selection by 6/15/2015. Duplications of selections will not be approved.

List of industries:

* + Retail stores
  + Energy
  + Private prisons
  + Fast foods
  + Internet gaming
  + Credit cards
  + Commercial agriculture
  + Online gaming
  + Student loans
  + Healthcare
  + News media
  + Pharmaceutical
  + Internet

Areas of research

* Historical background of an industry—three or four major companies; products/services provided.
* Election campaign contributions—three or four members of Congress; committees assignments relevant to industry.
* Bureaucratic agencies—three or four federal agencies/bureaus; regulations impact on industry.
* Interest Groups—three or four; political actions/activities.
* Legislations—three or four federal laws or proposals; impact on industry.
* Supreme Court rulings—three or four cases/decisions; impact on industry.
* Internal documentation.
* Bibliography must include at least five (5) sources per group member. At least two must come from professional Internet sites (Wikipedia is not an acceptable source), and two from books (use resources provided by the library). MLA format.

Reflection excerpt

“As we grow and mature, many , if not most, of our notions about our realities change, and which we held to be hallowed or divinely consecrated is modified, sometimes radically, demonstrating that our truths and realities are in a constant flux. Those of us who are too rigid to see change on our paths eventually succumb to a fix view of the world, making ourselves and d those around us miserable.”

Dr. Wayne B. Chandler