**Valencia College**

**Course Syllabus**

**State & Local Government POS 2112**

3 **Credit Course**

**Spring 2020**

**Jan 6 – April 26, 2020**

**CRN 26929, 24567, 23939**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Instructor:** Subhas T. Rampersaud  **Contact Information:** 407-582-1214 Office: 11-213  Office Engagement Hours:  Posted on my Office Door & Faculty Web page  **Email:** [srampersaud1@valenciacollege.edu](mailto:srampersaud1@valenciacollege.edu)  Department of Business, Behavioral and Social Sciences: 11-103 | **Class Meeting Days/Times**:  **Spring 2020, Jan.6 - April 26.**  **CRN 26929, MW 1130-12:45pm**  **Rm. 11-339**  **24567, T/R 8:30 -9:45am.**  **Rm. 11-339**  **CRN 23939, T/R 2:30 -3:45pm.**  **Rm.11- 216**  **Final Exam Week: April 20-26** |

**Required Course Text:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Governing States and Localities, 7e  Kevin B. Smith & Alan Greenblatt  February 2019 | 584 pages | CQ Press  ISBN: 9781544325422  WEBSITE [https://edge.sagepub.com/smithgreenblatt7e] |

**Course Description**

This course is designed to;

* Provide an introduction to States & Local governments and politics, and would be required in order to pursue more specialized courses on American politics.
* Provide an analysis of the organization and structure which constitute States & Local governments.
* Examine the relationship of the individual to all levels of government.

**Learning Outcomes**;

W**hat will I learn?**

* Explain our political system from a historical and contemporary perspective.
* Examine the underlying philosophy (& theories) that led to the formation of the states and their varied Constitutions.
* Summarize the relationship between the national Constitution and those of the states; their strengths and weaknesses.
* Analyze the organization and structure which constitute the States & local government:
  + the institutions of the Legislature, Executive & Judiciary Branches, and the Bureaucracy.
* Explain American political behavior at both the individual and societal levels, and the extent to which American politics live up to democratic ideals at the level of the states.
* Examine the core values which support and define the democratic tradition and political culture of the United States.

Some additional learning outcomes include;

1. Discussion of how government at all levels effect citizens’ lives and how citizens effect government in the pursuit of social, political, and economic goals.
2. Identifying the role of factors such as class, ethnicity, religion, gender, social, political and economic interest as sources of conflicts and divisions in the United States.
3. Examining one’s personal responsibility in the areas of one's civic, social, and academic life.

This course also includes learning activity designed to ensure competence in the basic use of computers.

**Valencia Student Core Competencies**

In this course, through classroom lectures, discussions, group work, and other learning activities, you will further your mastery of the core competencies. These core values are intended to prepare students to succeed in the global community by developing critical skills as follows;

* **Think** clearly, critically and creatively byanalyzing, synthesizing, evaluating and integrating instructions, class discussions, group projects and presentations, as well as use of quantitative information.
* **Communicate** through critical skills in reading, listening and writing effectively.
* **Act** reflectively and consciously, and understand how your behavior may affect others around you.
* **Values:** Reflect on your own and others’ values from individual, cultural and global perspectives.

**Class Policies:**

**Attendance:**

* Given that class discussions and group activities are an integral component of this course, your attendance is necessary. More than 4 **absences** will prevent students from earning an A in this course. (For the Friday class that would be 3 absences)
* Attendance will be taken at the start of every class.
* You may be asked to substantiate excused absences.

**Tardiness:**

* Entering the class late is disruptive. Repeated late arrivals will negatively affect your grades.
* Leaving the class early is equally disruptive and you will be required to inform me before class starts, (Urgent situations excepted).

**Withdrawal Policy**

The Withdrawal Deadline for each term is published in the Academic Calendar online.

Please note:

* After the withdrawal deadline each semester, **students can no longer withdraw themselves.**
* Faculty can withdraw students for a W *after* the deadline **only for excessive absences. I will not withdraw anyone for excessive absences. That would be the responsibility of the individual student.**
* I do not plan to withdraw students.

For a complete policy and procedure overview: [http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policy/default.cfm?policyID=75&volumeID\_1=4&navst=0](https://webmail.valenciacollege.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=722dfd3803e9406cb8ffcf1a6c017458&URL=http%3a%2f%2fvalenciacollege.edu%2fgeneralcounsel%2fpolicy%2fdefault.cfm%3fpolicyID%3d75%26volumeID_1%3d4%26navst%3d0)

**“No Show” Status**

Class attendance is required beginning with the first class meeting. If you do not attend the first class meeting, you may be withdrawn from the class as a “no show.” If you are withdrawn as a “no show,” you will be financially responsible for the class and a “W” will appear on your transcript for the course.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **No Show Period** | **Withdrawal Deadline**  **(To receive a 'W')** |
| Jan 14-23, 2020 | Friday, March 20, 2020 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **College Closed ( Credit Classes Do Not Meet)** | |
| **Jan. 20. 2020**  **Feb. 14, 2020**  **March 9-15, 2020** | MLK  Learning Day  Spring Break |

**How will I be graded?** Assessment is ongoing.

Grades will be assigned as follows:

* Attendance and class participation 5 %
* Group Project & Presentation 15 %
* 9 Quizzes 18 %
* 1 Group project summary 2%
* 5 written assignments submitted on time 40 %
* 2 Exams 20 %

Total: 100%

**All assignments are required to be successfully completed in order to pass the course.**

**Grading scale**:

90 –100% = A

80 – 89% = B

70 – 79% = C

60 – 69% = D

Below 60% = F

**Exam & Assignments Make-Up Policy**

* There will be four exams, the fourth to be held during the final exam week.
* Final exam for this course is mandatory. Failure to attend the final exam will result in you being assigned the grade up to that point in the course.
* In the cases of documented emergencies, (as per Valencia Community College Policy), make up exam may be arranged with my consent, excepting for the final exam**.**
* Make up for all other assignments will be up to the instructor’s discreti**on**

**Written Assignments**

You will be expected to submit multiple written assignments on assigned topics, given that this is a **writing intensive course. These** will:

* Be type written, double spaced and in 12 point fonts, Times Roman Numerals.
* Reflect you own thinking, opinions and interpretations of sources which you reference. All outside sources must be properly cited. See section on Plagiarism below.
* Refer to <http://www.ccc.commnet.edu/mla/index.shtml> on how to cite your references. Click on Citing Sources tab.
* West Campus Communications resource:  [http://valenciacollege.edu/learning-support/](https://webmail.valenciacollege.edu/owa/redir.aspx?SURL=vNuE4WqtqEBCzbdIxbNnSgLNVB940E8tVrph5b2AoDRRZT3AtLjSCGgAdAB0AHAAOgAvAC8AdgBhAGwAZQBuAGMAaQBhAGMAbwBsAGwAZQBnAGUALgBlAGQAdQAvAGwAZQBhAHIAbgBpAG4AZwAtAHMAdQBwAHAAbwByAHQALwA.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fvalenciacollege.edu%2flearning-support%2f)
* **Essay Rubrics provided**

*\*You will not use Wikipedia, CliffsNotes or Spark Notes as part of your citation.*

*\*I may not accept late submissions.*

**Internet Research Statement**  
Because of the variety of sources, ease of publication, lack of central control and proliferation of commercial information on the free Internet, it is often hard to tell if the information is reliable. Many sites contain research and information of high quality. However, unlike traditional print publications or library-based electronic resources, there is usually no process of peer review, nor is there an editor verifying the accuracy of information presented on the Internet. There are an increasing number of sites containing information that may be incomplete, anonymously written, out-of-date, biased, fraudulent, or whose content may not be factual. Students should, therefore, use caution in use of the free Internet for their research needs. For academic topics that are addressed in scholarly literature, use of electronic databases or visiting the library may better meet your needs. However, each professor makes the final determination of what is or is not accepted as a valid source so review the syllabus for specific guidelines from your professor.  
See the following tutorial for more information: [http://valenciacollege.edu/library/east/webevalinfo.cfm](https://webmail.valenciacollege.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=722dfd3803e9406cb8ffcf1a6c017458&URL=http%3a%2f%2fvalenciacollege.edu%2flibrary%2feast%2fwebevalinfo.cfm)

**Quizzes**

There will be 9 chapter-based quizzes/short questions throughout the semester. You are expected to read the relevant chapters and answer the quizzes. The multiple choice/short answers sections of your exams will be drawn from these quizzes.

**Academic Honesty**

All forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited at Valencia. Academic dishonesty included, but is not limited to, plagiarism (turning written work that you took, word for word, from another source and pretending such work is your own. “Cut and Paste” from websites is plagiarism.), cheating, furnishing false information, forgery, alteration or misuse of documents, misconduct during a testing situation, and misuse of identification with intent to defraud or deceive. All work submitted by students is expected to be the result of the students' individual thoughts, research, and self-expression. Whenever a student uses ideas, wording, or organization from another source, the source shall be appropriately acknowledged. Any form of cheating during exams will constitute an immediate “F” for that quiz/exam. Plagiarism will result in a “0” for that essay. Other sanctions available to the professor should a violation occur are described in the Valencia Student Handbook or onlinehttp://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policy/default.cfm?policyID=193&volumeID\_1=8&navst=0

**Plagiarism\*: I expect you to present your own ideas and opinions in your written assignments and that all outside sources have been cited properly. I will not accept plagiarism and any written assignment which shows signs of plagiarism will be returned to you with a zero grade.**

**Earn Extra Credits**

You can earn **up to 5 %** by engaging in volunteer work (throughout the semester) in community work, such as charitable organizations, political or interest groups.

* You must show proof of your active volunteer service (picture of you engaged and a letter or email from your supervisor).
* Additionally you will be required to submit a one page summary of your activities and why is it important. Paper need not exceed two pages (12point font, double spaced).
* As part of the above referred to 5% credit, Instructor will also offer credits for attendance of special events offered during the semester on campus.

**Group Discussions, Projects and Activities**

Students will be challenged to discuss and debate with each other in groups the extent to which our political practice satisfies American democratic ideals.

* Use of current events, electronic and printed news materials, judicial rulings and cases, policies acts of the government, and role of media will be used as part of instigating and developing critical “political literacy”.
* You will be expected to follow current domestic & local political events.

**Class Room Conduct**

Mutual respect for every person in the classroom is a precondition for all class participation. You are encouraged to maintain an open mind. We will discuss topics which may be controversial, or which may challenge your political beliefs, and which may elicit strong feelings. I ask you to recognize that the rich diversity at this college presents a valuable opportunity to enhance each of our learning and shape our perspectives.

Inappropriate language is often offensive to other people and is not acceptable in the classroom.

Valencia is dedicated not only to the advancement of knowledge and learning, but is concerned with the development of responsible personal and social conduct. By enrolling at Valencia, a student assumes the responsibility for becoming familiar with and abiding by the general rules of conduct. The primary responsibility for managing the classroom environment rests with the professor. Students who engage in any prohibited or unlawful acts that result in disruption of a class may be directed by the professor to leave the class. Violation of any Valencia policies/procedures or classroom rules may lead to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the College. Disciplinary action could include being withdrawn from the class, disciplinary warning, probation, suspension, expulsion, or other appropriate and authorized actions.

You may also reference the Student Code of Conduct policy

<http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policydetail.cfm?RecordID=180>

**Cell Phones and Electronic Devices**

Students are required to turn off all cell phones and electronic devices when you enter the class, and during examinations. If there is an emergency situation warranting the use of a cell phone or pager during class time, the student must notify the faculty at the beginning of class. During a testing situation, if a cell phone or pager vibrates or is audible, the student’s quiz, test, or examination will be collected and the student will be asked to leave without an option for completion.

No text messaging allowed while in class.

Laptops use will only be allowed if they are used for note taking. Those using laptops in class will be required to sit in the first row of seats.

**Health and Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a notification from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD), and discuss their specific needs. The Office for Students with Disabilities is located in SSB Rm. 102.

**Some Learning Considerations**

This course outline reflects a contract between the instructor and the students. Successful learning requires full commitment from each one of us. Learning takes place best when we observe the following behaviors:

* Come to class prepared to learn. Pay attention to the schedule and read assigned chapter and materials ahead of class.
* Learn to manage your time efficiently and “chunk” out your assignments over a longer tern instead of waiting to the end to “do it all” in one sitting. You will likely be less overwhelmed by the deadlines.
* While in class, do not work on, or read materials and assignments unrelated to my class. I may deduct points from your overall grade for such activities and ask you to leave the class.
* Write down your questions and seek clarifications, preferably at the start of class.
* If you are still unclear, be honest and ask for further clarification. Keep in mind that others in the class may also be unclear but are unable to articulate their questions.
* Learning in a group setting requires you to cultivate awareness of your biases and judgments and how they may interfere with what you hear, interpret and understand.
* Keep them in check and be prepared to approach discussions with an open mind and keen listening awareness.
* You may be rotated in and out of different groups so as to facilitate a larger conversation relevant to the subject matter.

You have made a commitment to higher learning, a privilege not everyone enjoys. This requires a commitment of resources as well as time and effort; it also represents a phase of your life which you will not be able to repeat later on. Honor that commitment and yourself by balancing your efforts and time between study, work and fun, and remain vigilant of the people and things which may interfere with your achieving your goals.

**Valencia ID cards**

Valencia ID cards are required for the Library, Testing Center, and IMC usage. No other form of ID at those locations will be accepted. Possession and utilization of a Valencia ID is mandatory to obtain these services.

**Syllabus Subjected to Change**

This syllabus may be altered, at the instructor’s discretion, during the course of the term. It is the responsibility of the student to make any adjustments as announced.

Subhas Tiwari Rampersaud

M.A. Political Science

M.A. Yoga & Philosophy

HERO’s Advisor

Valencia Peace & Justice Institute Advisory Council

407-582-1214

s[rampersaud1@valenciacollege.edu](mailto:rampersaud1@valenciacollege.edu)

**Course Schedule: Jan 6– April 26, 2020**

**Week 1 (Jan.6)**

1. Introductions
   * Discuss course syllabus and expectations
   * Introduction to Political Science, Politics and Government
2. Chapter 1, The American Political Culture: Who are we?
3. “*Professor,* *I am worried about my grade”*

**Week 2 (Jan 13)**

1. Complete Chapter 1
2. Quiz 1
3. **Written Assignment 1**. **Due dates: MW, Jan 22, TR, Jan 23 . before your class starts. Either slide your stapled copy under my office door (11-213), or turn in a hard copy in class, or send to my Atlas email address. No late submissions, or unstapled essays will be accepted. NO PAPER CLIPS, please!**

**Week 3 (Jan.20) College closes Monday Jan 20 for MLK Day**

1. Chapter 2, The Founding and the Constitutions, National and States
2. **Group Projects Assigned. DRAFT due dates: For M/W March 18 by 6 pm. For T/R, March 19, by 6 pm., by email. After Spring Break**
3. **Written assignment 1 due this week. MW, Jan 22, TR, Jan 23**
4. **Written Assignment 2**. **Due date: For MW classes , Feb 19. For T/R, Feb. 20.**

**Week 4 (Jan.27)**

**1. Valencia Celebrates Peace & Justice Week Jan. 27-30.**

**Classes that coincide with PJI’s schedule will be required to attend several events. Details will follow in classes.**

1. Chapter 2 cont’d.

2. Quiz 2

3.Chapter 3, Federalism

**Week 5 (Feb. 3).**

1. Chapter 3, Federalism, cont’d.

2. Quiz 3

3. Redistricting & Gerrymandering

4. Quiz 4

**Week 6 (Feb.10)**

1. Chapter 5, Venting, Voting & Elections
2. Quiz 5
3. **Exam 1**
4. Feb 13 traveling with students to a conference

**Week 7 (Feb 17) Written Assignments 2 due this week. For MW classes , Feb 19. For T/R, Feb. 20.**

1. Chapter 6. Interest Groups & Political Parties
2. Quiz 6
3. **Written Assignment 3**. **Due date; March 3 for MW. For TR, March 4.**

**Week 8 (Feb 24)**

1. Chapter 7, Institution: Legislature
2. Quiz 7

**Week 9 (March 2)**

1. Chapter 8, Institution: Executive Branch / Governor
2. Quiz 8
3. **Written Assignment 3 due this week.**
4. **Written Assignment 4**. **Due dates; March 18 for MW, March 19 for TR class.**

**Week 10 (March 9) Spring Break**

**Week 11 (March 16**

Chapter 9, The Courts

1. Quiz 9
2. **Written Assignment 4 due this week. March 16 for MW, March 17 for TR.**
3. **Project Drafts Due ; MW, March 18, TR March 19, 6 pm. by email.**

**Week 12 (March 23)**

**Withdrawal Deadline is Friday, March 30.**

**Written Assignment 5. Due date. April 1 for MW, April 2 for TR classes**

1.Electoral College

2. Group Presentations Begin

3. Quiz 10 , Summary paper

**Week 13 (March 30- April 3)**

1. **Group Presentations** .

**2. Essay 5 Due MW, April 1, TR April 2**

**Week 14 (April 6).**

1. Group Presentations
2. Group Presentations

**Week 15 (April 13).**

1. Group Presentations
2. **All Individual Group Summary Essays (#6) are due at time of presentations**.

**Week 16 (April 20)**

**Exam: Take home**

\*Please note that the above week outline is tentative and is subjected to change based on class size, discussions, extracurricular in-campus learning opportunities/ activities, etc.