**Syllabus POS 2041       Instructor: Dr.  William Geeslin, Spring, 2015**

**Introduction**:**Welcome** to POS 2041, the intent of this course is to introduce you to the investigation of those questions concerning the political process in the United States. The topic areas to be covered are: Political Theory; the Constitution; Federalism; Civil Liberties and Civil Rights; Political Parties; Elections and Campaigns; Interest Groups; the Mass Media; Congress; the Presidency; the Bureaucracy; and the Courts. The required readings for the course are *We the People: Ginsberg and Lowi et.al*. In addition to the text, outside readings relating to article reviews will be assigned and due on the given dates on the Syllabus.

**Article Reviews:**There will be two summary and analyses articles found in the reading list (at the end of the syllabus), each review will be a minimum of two pages long in which the first portion of the article (4-5 paragraphs minimum) will be a summary of the article's contents. The second portion of the article review (4-5 paragraphs minimum ) will be an **analysis (not an editorial, opinion, nor commentary)** based on how the article's contents relate to relevant political science topics discussed in class or in your text. The article topics will correspond to the list provided in the article review format sheet. Article reviews may be marked off as much as one letter grade off for each class beyond the due date. Article Reviews are to be turned in online through Blackboard using the Assignments tab. Be sure to include the article review(in word) along with a pasted copy of the article itself(in either pdf. or html format). If not, your review will not be graded. These reviews are worth approximately **40 percent** of your total grade. (Think, Communicate, Value)

**Tests:** There will be three tests throughout the course of the Semester. All tests will be weighed equally. Taken together tests will constitute **50 percent** of the final grade. The third test will be considered the final exam, and may be cumulative. Each test will correspond to each section in the syllabus. If a test is missed, **there will be no makeup allowed**. So please plan ahead. However, if any **one** of the tests are missed you may want to opt for doing the extra-credit term paper, or dropping that missed test. Only one test may be dropped. I will drop the lowest grade among the tests only. Take note: this only applies to one of the tests, **not article reviews**. (Think, Communicate)

**Class Participation and Attendance:**Lack of attendance **may** result in receiving an **F or WF** for the course( in excess of 6 classes Mon/Wed 3 absences for 3 hour block classes). Please, if you feel that you cannot adjust to the class schedule be sure to consider withdrawing before the deadline. Otherwise class participation takes into consideration attendance, punctuality and participating in class activities and discussions. Participation and attendance will approximately account for **10 percent** of the total grade.(Think, Communicate, Act)

**Technology Requirement:**This course and the college require that the student demonstrate adequate knowledge and application of computer technology. Therefore, the two Article Review sources are to be obtained via the Internet or other online sources such as provided by the media center/Valencia data base. In addition, Students will be required to participate in the media resources seminar. Failure comply with the aforementioned requirements may result in receiving partial credit for the participation element of this course, or a substantial reduction in your class participation portion of your grade. (Think, Communicate, Act)

**Student Confidentiality:** You are protected by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act(FERPA). This means that regardless of your student status, I cannot reveal or discuss your grades or attendance with any third parties, including your parents or guardian, even if you are dual enrollment. See college catalogue for more details.

**Extra Credit: Only One Option to be Used:** 1) Write or e-mail a state or local lawmaker or member of Congress or a letter to the editor of a major newspaper for 5 points tacked on to final average if “A” quality(Communicate, Act) ; 2) Write a 12 page minimum (type written) term paper (with proper use of citations and bibliography) (Think, Communicate) on a political science topic approved by the instructor. This project will be worth 10 points added to the final average (assuming it is an "A" quality paper).

**Unit I**

*Section A:* Politics and Political Theory (Political Culture and the Origins of the American Political  System)

*Section B:* The Constitution and Federalism

*Section C:* Civil Liberties and Civil Rights   (Think, Value, Communicate, Act)

**Unit II**

*Section A:* Public Opinion, Participation and the Mass Media

*Section B:* Political Parties, Campaigns and Elections

*Section C:* Interest Group Politics

**Unit III**

*Section A:* Congress

*Section B:* The Presidency and Bureaucracy

*Section C*: The Judiciary

*Section D:* The Economy, Social Policy, and National Security

**Office Hours** Monday and Wednesday (5:10-5:30) Thursday (6:45-7:00PM) Building 6 3rdfloor(Adjunct Offices)

***Note:*** All class activities and assignments will conform to the core skills of think, value, communicate and act required by the college. The professor reserves the right to make appropriate changes to the syllabus as needed.

**Contact Information:** Please communicate with me through Blackboard e-mail/message board. My blackboard e-mail is wgeeslin@valenciacollege.edu

**ENJOY THE COURSE!**

**Important Due Dates**

**Article Review 1:                      (M/W)/Wed.02/23/15**

**Article Review 2:                      (M/W)/Wed.04/08/15**

**Test 1:                                        (M/W)/Wed.02/18/15**

**Test 2:                                        (M/W)/Wed. 03/25/15**

**Final Exam:   04/29/2015**

**Final Withdrawal Deadline And Final Exam Schedule Refer to the Atlas Calendar**

**Reading List (For Article Reviews)**

*See Article Format Sheet below.*

**Note: The terms of this syllabus can be changed at the professor’s discretion.**

**Enjoy the Class!   Dr. Geeslin**

**Dr. Geeslin   POS 2041 ValenciaCommunity College**

**Literature/Article Review Format Sheet and Rubric**

**Note:** This is a two part assignment consisting of a summary and an analysis.

1. **Article Summary** 4-5 complete paragraphs  40/100 points

Overview of Articles Contents, including the author's main points (In your own words)

1. **Analysis of Article** (must follow article summary) 4-6 complete paragraphs 60/100 points.

Identify facts, concepts, and/or issues found in the article that relate to U.S. government and politics

Articulate/discuss/describe the facts, issues identified in part I in terms of how they are presented in your text or in class by the instructor. In other words, take the article's contents and explain the relationship it has to relevant political science concepts found in your text or discussed in class.

Be sure to maintain linkage between the article's contents and the relevant political science and/or U.S. government concepts discussed in class or in your text.

II( 4-5 paragraphs)  Approximately 60 points

remember, do not editorialize or engage in opinionated commentary!)

NOTE: It is required that you type or print up your work using a word processing program (i.e., Word), double spaced, 10-12 size fonts, standard margins and proper citations and quotes where necessary. As a college assignment, proper grammar and sentence structure are expected from the student.

Be sure to attach the original article to your write-up.

Suggested Reading List

*New York Times and Related NYT Publications*

*Washington Post and Related WP Publications*

*Wall Street Journal*

*Congressional Quarterly and Related Publications*

*Journal of Politics*

*American Political Science Review*

*Businessweek*

*Time*

*Newsweek*

*U. S. News and World Report*

*CNN Online*

*Orlando Sentinel*

*CNN*

*MSNBC*

*Center for Responsive Politics*

*Westlaw*

*Fortune*

*Harpers Weekly*

*American Political Science Review*

*Newsbank*

*SIRS Network*

Document Search: VCCMediaCenter