

CRAFTON HILLS COLLEGE

SPRING 2024

POLITICAL SCIENCE 100 (POLIT 100): AMERICAN POLITICS

[POLIT-100-20 American Politics](#) MW 10:30AM 11:50AM LEC EAST 101

M10

[POLIT-100-40 American Politics](#) MW 01:00PM 02:20PM LEC EAST 101

M1

[POLIT-100-85 American Politics](#) F 09:00AM 11:50AM LEC EAST 101

F9

INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Steve Hellerman

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Tel: 909-389-3337

email: shellerman@craftonhills.edu

It is best to always **contact the instructor through email or voicemail**, or immediately after class, **NOT through Canvas**.

Political Science 100 is a survey course on the principles of American government and the workings of American politics. The course transfers to the UC and CSU systems and is designed to satisfy the American institutions requirement for an AA degree. POLIT 100 includes readings, lectures, and class discussions covering democracy in comparison to other political systems, basic political and democratic theory, the origins and concepts of American Democracy, the Constitution, federalism, public opinion, political participation, interest groups, the media, the presidency and the executive branch, bureaucracy, Congress, the electoral process and the political party system, the Supreme Court and the judicial system, civil rights and civil liberties, state and local government, as well as the governmental process and the formulation of public policy. Current events and political opinion, particularly as they relate to the subject matter of the class, will also be discussed.

One definition of this course might be “How to attain some idea of what you are going to do in the voting booth.” At least in the normative sense, democracy – including representative democracy – is based upon the premise that healthy political and governmental processes require the participation of a knowledgeable and informed citizenry. Of course, many believe that it is debatable whether or not this theory truly applies to the reality of American politics (an issue that will occasionally arise and be discussed at times during the semester). This course aims to provide the student with enough information and thought-provoking ideas so that he or she can understand and/or effectively participate in the American political system.

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to recognize and describe the major institutions that comprise the American political system, know the key components of the US Constitution, identify and be familiar with the pertinent vocabulary of American politics, and recognize the relevance of politics to individuals within society and society as a whole.

Student Learning Outcomes: Identify the elective offices at each of the four levels of government in the United States; define and distinguish between human rights, civil liberties and civil rights; identify and describe the three branches of the US federal government, their powers and duties, and the checks and balances between the branches.

TEXTBOOK, READING ASSIGNMENTS, LECTURE OUTLINES AND EXAM STUDY GUIDES:

Edward Sidlow and Beth Henschen, *GOVT 11* (Belmont, CA: Cengage Learning, 2021)

Constitution of the United States of America (Available at CHC bookstore for about \$5)

*****There are also additional readings, videos and links to many useful websites available online **on the instructor's CHC Webpage**. Additional reading assignments and relevant links; the **TEST BANK with questions for the quizzes** (student user name and password login required; Firefox may have issues, so use Comodo or Chrome if so); **LECTURE OUTLINES; TAKE-HOME ASSIGNMENTS** are all available electronically online on the instructors page on the Crafton Hills College website, listed under (1) Departments; (2) Political Science (listed under Social Sciences) (3) the instructor's name (4) Web site:

CraftonHills.edu/shellerman

or

<https://www.craftonhills.edu/faculty-and-staff/personal-pages/shellerman/index.php>

Alternatively, find the instructor's name under the Employee Directory, click on it, then click Web Site. OR DO A GOOGLE SEARCH OF THE INSTRUCTORS NAME. If necessary, ask for assistance at the Library/LRC. There is a link to the site on the course Canvas page.

It is strongly recommended that students **PRINT OUT ALL LECTURE OUTLINES AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SEMESTER!!!**

In addition to completing all required reading assignments, students are advised to follow current events through media sources (newspapers, news and opinion magazines, news broadcasts, the internet, etc.) to fully participate in class discussions and get the most out of the lectures and readings. Read national and international stories, as well as Op-Ed pieces, from at least one of these newspapers on a regular basis, particularly for **NEWS: *The Los Angeles Times, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, The Christian Science Monitor***, and viewing the national evening news on network television (ABC, NBC, CBS; or, **particularly, the News Hour on PBS: channels 24, 28 or 50**) as well as local news TV broadcasts (Channels 2, 4, 5, 7, 9 and 11) will prove relevant to the course material. **LISTEN TO NPR AND BBC ON 91.9 FM, and local/national news on 1070 AM EVERY DAY!**

NEWS ANALYSIS AND OPINION: Network "news" channels (CNN, MSNBC, FOXNC), certain public affairs programs (Inside Washington, Face the Nation, FOX News Sunday, Meet the Press, The Daily Show, Last Week Tonight, etc.) will prove quite useful.

At the very least, **LISTEN TO THE NEWS IN YOUR CAR (91.9 FM and/or 1070 AM)**, particularly on your way to and from campus.

EXPLANATION OF GRADING PROCEDURES, EXAMS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

6 (out of 10) Quizzes: **30** percent (w/ an additional **1 to 5** points, potentially)

4 Take-home Assignments: **45** percent (worth **15, 5, 10, and 15** points, respectively)

Mid-term Exam: **15** percent

Final Exam: **10** percent

PLEASE NOTE: Actual course grades are **NOT** calculated or posted on Canvas. Canvas does **NOT** reflect ongoing or cumulative course scores/grades. If you want to know about your ongoing grade for the course: ASK THE INSTRUCTOR!

Except for quiz scores, grades are not posted on Canvas.

*****Students may also earn additional credit towards their final course grade for any voluntary in-class projects/presentations specific to ongoing news reporting or ELECTION issues.

There will be a total of **ten quizzes** during the semester, **six of which will count** for a total of 30 percent of the total course grade. **The instructor will drop the lowest four quiz scores from the student's grade.** Hence, each counted quiz is worth five percentage points, or a fraction thereof, toward the total course grade.

One point extra will be given for each score of "5" after six quizzes scoring "5": one extra point for seven "5's", two for eight, three for nine; five full points for "5's" on all ten quizzes. **So a student could attain more than 30 points for the quizzes, up to 35 points total for all ten.**

Each quiz consists of 30 multiple choice questions (**except Quiz #6** which has 35 questions, and **Quiz #7** which has 40 questions), almost (but **not**) all of which are derived directly from the textbook readings. (**Each quiz includes 1-5 questions NOT from the online GOVT 11 Test Bank.**) The grading scale for the quizzes with 30 questions:

Number Correct	Percent	Score (out of 5)
27-30 (A)	90-100%	5
25-26 (B+)	83.5-86.5%	4.5
24 (B)	80%	4
21-23 (C)	70-76.5%	3.5
18-20 (D)	60-66.5%	3
15-17	50-56.5%	2.5
12-14	40-46.5%	2
9-11	30-36.5%	1.5
6-8	20-26.5%	1
1-5	0.3-16.5%	0.5

ALL QUIZZES WILL BE TAKEN ON CANVAS, **AVAILABLE FROM NOON ON FRIDAY THROUGH 11 PM ON SUNDAY THE WEEK THEY ARE DUE**, EXCEPT FOR QUIZ #6 (CHAPTER 4), WHICH WILL BE TAKEN ON CANVAS ON THE DAYS PRIOR TO THE MIDTERM.

STUDENTS HAVE 35-50 MINUTES TO COMPLETE EACH QUIZ (depending on the number of questions in the quiz).

There will be one **in-class** ("Blue Book" or "Green Book") **written essay mid-term exam (15 points)**, and one **in-class final exam (10 points)**. The mid-term will consist of two essay questions derived mostly from lecture and readings (Sidlow, Chap. 4). The Final will be

taken in-class at the end of the semester; it consists of **two fill-in charts** (identical to **Assignment #2**) and a cumulative multiple choice exam derived from all ten quizzes.

STUDENTS WILL PROVIDE THEIR OWN: Small “regular” size Blue Books or **Green Books** (THE LARGER SIZE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!) for the MIDTERM; Scantron and #2 Pencil for the FINAL.

Students may provide and utilize their own copy of the **US CONSTITUTION** for the **Midterm** and **Final**; and please **bring your copy of the Constitution to class**, too. The US Constitution is **available at the bookstore**.

NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES OR EXAMS WILL BE ALLOWED!

However: **STUDENTS MAY TAKE THE MID-TERM OR FINAL ANY OF THE TIMES THAT THEY ARE GIVEN!**

*****YOU DON'T HAVE TO ASK! JUST SHOW UP!!!!*****

Make sure to put your section information (M10, M1 or F9) on your Midterm and all assignments.

Don't be a schmuck! Don't be a P.I.T.A.!

There will be **FOUR TAKE-HOME ASSIGNMENTS** for the semester: Assignment #1 is worth 15 percent of the final course grade; it covers “Your Political Location.” Assignment #2 (5 percent) concerns comparative political systems, and **charts** (also found on the final exam) regarding American levels of government, and the checks and balances between the three branches of the Federal government; Assignment #3 (10 percent) addresses the print media, political issues, and **the difference between news, news analysis, and opinion**. Assignment #4 is a take-home essay (based on lectures, readings, and discussions; only double-spaced papers will be accepted), worth 15 percent of the final course grade.

NOTE: ASSIGNMENTS #1, #2 AND #3 ARE RELATIVELY QUITE EASY! ASSIGNMENT #4 AND THE MIDTERM ARE NOT AS EASY! (SO.....?)

Students are well advised to **take ALL of these assignments seriously**, complete them in full, and hand them in on time. **ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE WEEK THEY ARE DUE!**

Please **do not send an assignment or any part of an assignment to the instructor by email** unless specifically instructed to do so! Good chance it won't get there or be accessible.

Do not discard any quizzes, exams or assignments until the semester is over!

*******IMPORTANT: STUDENTS WHO FAIL TO HAND IN ASSIGNMENTS #1 OR #2 WILL BE DROPPED FROM THE CLASS!**

Additionally, class participation and attendance may be a factor in determining a student's final course grade (see Attendance Policy below).

The grading scale for the total course grade is as follows:

A = 90 to 100 points

B = 80 to 89

C = 70 to 79

D = 60 to 69

All Students are advised and encouraged to take advantage of tutoring and assistance offered at the **Learning Resource Center** which will be advised regarding take-home essay assignments and the Mid-Term.

*******THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO POSTPONE OR MOVE UP ANY QUIZ, EXAM OR ASSIGNMENT DUE DATE*******

Do you need help with your application for transfer? The University Transfer Center offers step-by-step assistance. Please visit them in CCR-220 (above the financial aid office) or call them at 909-389-3399.

www.craftonhills.edu/transfercenter

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS (AND DROPPING THE CLASS)

Students are expected to attend every class and to arrive before the lecture, quiz, or discussion begins. Attendance will be considered a factor towards a student's final course grade, particularly after **THREE** recorded **absences (TWO for F9)**.

The instructor may deduct one grade point for every recorded absence after THREE recorded absences (TWO for F9).

The instructor will **not** drop a student with any other grade than an "F" after the "drop date" (April 5), the last day to drop the class and receive a "W." So if you stop attending class you likely will receive an "F" (which will permanently appear on your transcripts) if you do not "formally withdraw" from the class by that "drop date."

It is NOT necessary to contact the instructor regarding an absence, except in advance of the Mid-term or Final, or in the event of long-term absences.

STUDENTS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND ANY LECTURE ANY OF THE THREE TIMES IT IS GIVEN.

*****YOU DON'T HAVE TO ASK. JUST SHOW UP!!!*****

Students are responsible for material covered in all lectures, even if they are not in attendance.

It is strongly advised that you arrange in advance to get the class notes and/or assignments from a fellow student if/when you miss a class. **(Use the "Buddy System".)**

It is also strongly advised that students form **STUDY GROUPS** with other members of the class to meet and/or talk by telephone and/or email to discuss and review the content of the course. The instructor is quite happy to encourage and assist students seeking to form study groups.

DISABILITIES

Any student with a disability (e.g., a learning disability) requiring special consideration should notify the instructor as soon as possible (after class). Appropriate accommodations will be developed in consultation with the appropriate offices (SAS).

HONORS PROGRAM

Talk to the instructor if you are interested in taking POLIT 100H, ASAP. You must be enrolled in the CHC Honors Program.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students should review the college regulations concerning academic misconduct and dishonesty, which will be enforced in this class. In particular, plagiarism should be avoided at all costs. **Anyone who cheats** on a quiz or exam, plagiarizes, or directly duplicates the work of another student and/or cuts and pastes directly off of a website (i.e., anyone who tries to pass off someone else's work as his or her own) **will be referred to the Vice President of Student Services for appropriate action and penalties.** While students are encouraged to study and work together whenever possible, **EACH STUDENT IS REQUIRED TO INDIVIDUALLY DO THEIR OWN WORK AND WRITE THEIR OWN PAPERS.** It goes without saying that **a take-home Assignment or essay exam answer based on plagiarism or directly duplicating the work of another student will be given a grade of "F", and such action will certainly affect the final course grade; and quite possibly your transcript (permanently!).**

The policy regarding the use of AI programs on papers:

1. AI-assisted plagiarism is the practice of taking AI generated text and passing it off as one's own original work.
2. AI-assisted plagiarism is the practice of taking AI generated text and using it without giving proper credit to the original AI composition software.

Using a cell phone during the Midterm or Final results in automatic exam failure!

CIVILITY

REASONABLE PEOPLE CAN DISAGREE!
SIDE CONVERSATIONS AND OTHER DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR WILL NOT BE
TOLERATED!!!! (GO OUTSIDE)

Don't be a schmuck! Don't be a P.I.T.A!

Please be sure that **ALL CELL PHONES ARE TURNED OFF** or on "vibrate only" (i.e., **WILL NOT RING** or make other noises) during class.

NO TEXTING DURING CLASS!!!! (GO OUTSIDE IF YOU MUST)

OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT

The instructor may meet with students immediately after class, by appointment, or during office hours in EAST 101 or CTB-311.

The instructor can be contacted by email: shellerman@craftonhills.edu

PLEASE: NEVER EVER simply assume that email has been received and/or read, or that email has been or not been sent! Follow up may be necessary in “The Land of Email.” (Follow up with a phone call, even!)

The instructor may be contacted by his office phone: **909-389-3337**

Please leave a coherent message w/ a call-back telephone # (say it at least twice). The instructor will call you back from a landline.

PLEASE: NEVER EVER simply assume that a voice message has been received and/or heard. Follow up may be necessary in the “The Land of Voice Mail.” (Follow up w/ an email, even!)

It is best to always **contact the instructor through email or voicemail**, or immediately after class. **NOT through Canvas.**

COURSE LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE

Note: Class lectures and discussions will sometimes include issues and topics not specified in this syllabus.

The instructor reserves the right to change, revise and/or update this syllabus at any time during the semester.

Lectures, Quizzes, Assignment due dates, and/or the Midterm MAY BE POSTPONED OR MOVED UP at the instructor’s discretion!

Week One (1/17-19): GOVT11, Chapter 1; #1 Political Philosophy and History Stuff. Course Introduction; Ways of Viewing Politics (Left/Right; Liberal/Conservative); Development of the Modern State (Sample Lecture for Note-Taking)

Take-Home Assignment #1 (Due Week Three): “Your Political Location”
(Get dropped from the class if you don’t hand it in!)

Week Two (1/22-26): GOVT11, Chapter 1; #1 Political Philosophy and History Stuff. Basic Political Theory and Political Ideologies; Comparative Political Systems Basic Political Theory and Political Ideologies; Comparative Political Systems

******Quiz #1 (Chap. 1)**

Take-Home Assignment #1 (Due Week Four): “Your Political Location”

(Get dropped from the class if you don’t hand it in!)

1/26: Last day to add a class; last day to drop a class and get your \$ back!

Week Three (1/29-2/2): GOVT11, Chapters 2, Appendix: *Declaration of Independence*; *The US Constitution*; *Federalist #’s 10 and 51*; #1 Political Philosophy and History Stuff. Comparative Political Systems; Democratic Theory, “Pre-American” Democracy; Democratic Theory and the Social Contract.

2/4: Last day to drop a class without a “W”

Week Four (2/5-2/9): GOVT11 , Chapters 2, 3, Appendix: *Declaration of Independence*; *The US Constitution*; *Federalist #’s 10 and 51*; #1 Political Philosophy and History Stuff. The American Founding; Federalism and the Constitution

******Quiz #2 (Chap. 2)**

Take-Home Assignment #1 Due

Take-Home Assignment #2 (Due Week Six)

(Get dropped from the class if you don’t hand it in!)

2/11: Super Bowl (Sunday National Holiday)!!!!!!!

Week Five (2/14-16): GOVT11, Chapters 2, 3, Appendix: *Declaration of Independence*; *The US Constitution*; *Federalist #’s 10 and 51*; #1 Political Philosophy and History Stuff. Federalism and the Constitution; Federalism and State and Local Government

******Quiz #3 (Chap. 3)**

MONDAY, 2/12: LINCOLN’S BIRTHDAY, NO CLASSES!

Week Six (2/21-23): GOVT11, Chaps. 4, 5, 14; #2 Civil Rights Stuff; *The Bill of Rights* (and relevant subsequent amendments). Human Rights, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties; Civil Liberties

Take-Home Assignment # 2 Due

MONDAY, 2/19: WASHINGTON’S BIRTHDAY, NO CLASSES!

Week Seven (2/26-3/1): GOVT11, Chaps. 4, 5, 14; #2 Civil Rights Stuff; *The Bill of Rights* (and relevant subsequent amendments). Civil Liberties; the Civil Rights Movement

******Quiz #4 (Chap. 5)**

2/28: Deadlines: To submit Scholarship Applications/to apply for Spring Graduation

3/4: Deadline for Cal Grant GPA Verification

Week Eight (3/4-8): GOVT11, Chaps. 4, 5, 14; #2 Civil Rights Stuff; *The Bill of Rights* (and relevant subsequent amendments). The Courts.

******Quiz #5 (Chap. 14)**

Week Nine (3/11-15): GOVT11, Chaps. 4, 5, 14; #2 Civil Rights Stuff; *The Bill of Rights* (and relevant subsequent amendments). The Courts; Civil Liberties Review; “Media Sources”.

******Mid-term Exam: Blue Book Essay and Quiz #6 (Chap. 4)**

MARCH 18-23: SPRING BREAK, NO CLASSES! (Gone Fishin’)

March Madness!!!!!!!

Week Ten (3/25-29): GOVT11, Chaps. 7, 8, (pp. 178-184 only), 9, 11; Public Opinion; Political Parties; Elections and Voters; Candidates and Campaigns. Readings: Sidlow, Chaps. 7, 8, (pp. 177-183 only), 9, 11; **TEST BANK: 7A, 8A, 9A;** “Media Sources”.

****Take-Home Assignment #3 (Due Week 11)**

Baseball Season!!!!!!!!!!

Week Eleven (4/1-5): GOVT11, Chaps. 7, 8, (pp. 178-184 only), 9, 11. Political Parties; Elections and Voters; Candidates and Campaigns. **TEST BANK: 7A, 8A, 9A;** “Media Sources”.

******Quiz #7 (Chaps. 7, 8 [quiz questions pp. 178-184 only], 9)**

4/5: Last Day to Drop a Class and get a “W”

Week Twelve (4/8-12): GOVT11, Chaps. 6, 7, 9, 11; “Media Sources”. The US Congress.

******Quiz #8 (Chap. 11)**

Take-Home Assignment # 3 Due

Taxes!

Week Thirteen (4/15-19): GOVT11, Chap. 12. #4 Presidential Stuff (and Bureaucracy). The Presidency.

Take-Home Assignment # 4 (Due Week 17)

NBA Playoffs!!!!!!!!!!

Week Fourteen (4/22-26): GOVT11, Chap. 12; #4 Presidential Stuff (and Bureaucracy). The Presidency.

Week Fifteen (4/29-5/3): GOVT11, Chaps. 12; #4 Presidential Stuff (and Bureaucracy). The Presidency.

******Quiz #9 (Chap. 12)**

Week Sixteen (5/6-10): GOVT11, Chap. 13; #4 Presidential Stuff (and Bureaucracy). Bureaucracy.

(F9: COURSE REVIEW AND FINAL EXAM PREP)

******Quiz #10 (Chap.13)**

Week Seventeen: (5/13-15): COURSE REVIEW AND FINAL EXAM PREP

*******Take-Home Assignment #4 Due*******

FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE:

TUES/THURS (T10/T5) 13-WEEK CLASS: FINAL- Thursday, 5/16

FRIDAY (F9) CLASS: FINAL- Friday, 5/17

MON/WED (M10/M1) CLASSES: FINAL- Monday, 5/20

**STUDENTS MAY TAKE THE FINAL ANY OF THE FOUR TIMES
IT IS GIVEN!!!!!!**

TUESDAY, 5/21: COMMENCEMENT GRADUATION CEREMONIES!

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HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!