

CRAFTON HILLS COLLEGE**FALL 2015****POLITICAL SCIENCE 100 (POLIT 100): AMERICAN POLITICS**

<u>Section:</u> 30	*(M1)*	Ref: 1578	MW 01:00p-02:15p (M1)	<u>Room:</u> CYN-117
<u>Section:</u> 40	*(M3)*	Ref: 1580	MW 03:00p-04:15p (M3)	<u>Room:</u> CNTL-132
<u>Section:</u> 25	*(T11)*	Ref: 1582	TTH 11:00a-12:15p (T11)	<u>Room:</u> CNTL-245
<u>Section:</u> 35	*(T2)*	Ref: 1418	TTH 02:00p-03:15p (T2)	<u>Room:</u> CNTL-132

INSTRUCTOR: Steve Hellerman**Office:** OE1 128**Tel:** 389-3337**email:** shellerman@craftonhills.edu

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 7* (Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, 2015)

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

*****There is also additional readings and links to websites organized in four “Reading Packets” available online.

Additional reading assignments and relevant links; the TEST BANK with questions for the quizzes; LECTURE OUTLINES; most of the take-home assignment; and vocabulary study guides 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

http://www.craftonhills.edu/faculty_and_staff/personal_pages/shellerman

Alternatively, find the instructors 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 LRC.

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: *The Los Angeles Times*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *The Christian Science Monitor*. **MOST PARTICULARLY, LISTEN TO NPR AND BBC ON 91.9 FM EVERY DAY!** Monitoring a television network news channel (CNN, MSNBC, CNBC, FOXNC, BBC America) as well as a local news radio station (1070 AM), viewing the national evening news on network television (ABC, NBC, CBS; or, **particularly, the News Hour on PBS**) and certain public affairs programs (McGlaughlin Group, Face the Nation, FOX News Sunday, Meet the Press, The Daily Show, The Nightly Show, etc.) will also prove quite useful. **At the very least, LISTEN TO THE NEWS IN YOUR CAR (91.9 FM), 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: **35** percent (worth **10, 5, 10, and 10** points, respectively)
Mid-term Exam #1: **10** percent
Mid-term Exam #2: **15** percent
Final Exam: **10** percent

*****Students may also earn additional credit towards their final course grade for exceptional class participation and attendance, particularly regarding any voluntary in-class projects/presentations. The instructor must be contacted early in the semester (no later than Week Eight) regarding any extra credit projects.

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 exams scoring "5"; 5 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 25 questions), almost all of which are derived directly from the textbook readings. Quizzes will be given either before or after the relevant lecture, at the discretion of the instructor. The grading scale for the quizzes:

<u>Number Correct</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Score (out of 5)</u>
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

There will be **two in-class** ("Blue Book" or "Green Book") **written essay mid-term exams (10 and 15 points, respectively)**, and **one final exam (10 points)**. The first mid-term will consist of essay questions derived mostly from lecture; the second mid-term will be taken along with Quiz #6 (Sidlow, Chap. 4); the final will consist of **two fill-in charts (identical to most of Assignment #2)** and a cumulative multiple choice exam derived from all ten quizzes.

For quizzes and the midterms, students will provide their own **Scantrons and #2 pencils; small "regular" size Blue Books or Green Books (THE LARGER SIZE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!)** for the **mid-terms**.

Students may provide and utilize their own copy of the **US CONSTITUTION** for all quizzes and exams; and **bring your copy of the Constitution to class, too. The US Constitution available at the bookstore (for about five bucks) is the only one allowed for quizzes and mid-terms!**

NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES OR EXAMS WILL BE ALLOWED!
Don't even ask!

However: STUDENTS MAY TAKE ANY QUIZ, THE MID-TERMS OR FINAL ANY OF FOUR TIMES THAT THEY ARE GIVEN!

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

Make sure to put your section information (M1, M3, T11, or T2) on your quiz and/or assignments; and make sure to inform the instructor if you are with another section when you hand it in!

Lose a point or more, otherwise!

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 10 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 and opinion. Assignment #4 is a take-home essay (based on lectures, readings, and discussions; **only double-spaced papers will be accepted**), worth 10 percent of the final course grade.

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!

**Do not send an assignment or any part of an assignment to the instructor by email!
It will not be accepted!**

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

Again: One grade point or more may be deducted from any quiz, exam or assignment that is missing the student's name and/or section information (i.e., M1, M3, T11, or T2).

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

*******IMPORTANT: STUDENTS WHO FAIL TO HAND IN ASSIGNMENT #1 OR ASSIGNMENT #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. The Writing Center 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*******

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 toward a student's final course grade, particularly after THREE recorded absences.** Arriving late to class or leaving early may be counted as an absence. **The instructor may deduct one grade point for every recorded absence after THREE recorded absences.**

The instructor will not drop a student with any other grade than an "F" after the "drop date" (10/30), i.e., 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 the "drop date."

It is NOT necessary to contact the instructor regarding an absence, except in advance of a mid-term or final.

STUDENTS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND ANY LECTURE ANY OF THE FOUR 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 (DSS).

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 WRITE THEIR OWN PAPERS AND HAND IN THEIR OWN WORK.** It goes without

saying that a take-home paper or essay exam answer based on plagiarism or directly duplicating that 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!).

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!**

**Continued rudeness or disruptiveness may result in being ejected from the class
and, eventually, dropped from the course!!!!**

Please be sure that **ALL CELL PHONES** and hand-held devices **ARE TURNED OFF** or on “vibrate only” (i.e., **WILL NOT RING** or make other noises) during class. **Looking at a cell phone during a quiz, midterm or final results in automatic failure!**

NO TEXTING DURING CLASS!!!! (GO OUTSIDE)

OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT

The instructor may meet with students **immediately after class, by appointment, or during office hours** in SSA 334: **Tues. and Thurs, 1-2:30 pm.**

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 w/ a phone call, even!)

The instructor may be contacted in his office either in person or by phone: **909-389-3337.**
Please leave a message w/ a call-back tel. #.

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!)

COURSE LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE

Note: Class lectures and discussions will sometimes include issues relating to current events as well as other 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 (1/19-21): Readings: Sidlow, Chapters 1, 2, 3; Reading Packet #1.

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”

Week Two (1/25-28): Readings: Sidlow, Chapters 1, 2, 3; Reading Packet #1.

Basic Political Theory and Political Ideologies; Comparative Political Systems
Basic Political Theory and Political Ideologies; Comparative Political Systems

1/29: Last Day to Add Classes and/or Drop a Class (no “W”) and Get Your Money Back!

Week Three (2/1-4): Readings: Sidlow, Chapters 1, 2, 3, Appendix: *Declaration of Independence*; *The US Constitution*; *Federalist #’s 10 and 51*; Reading Packet #1.

Comparative Political Systems; Democratic Theory, “Pre-American Democracy”; Democratic Theory and the Social Contract. (Begin Super Bowl prep.)

Take-Home Assignment #1 Due

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

1/30: Deadline to drop class and not get a “W”

Week Four (2/8-11): Readings: Sidlow, Chapters 1, 2, 3, Appendix: *Declaration of Independence*; *The US Constitution*; *Federalist #’s 10 and 51*; Reading Packet #1.

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

The American Founding; Federalism and the Constitution

Take-Home Assignment #2 (Due Week Five: Next Week!)

Week Five (2/15-18): Readings: Sidlow, Chapters 1, 2, 3, Appendix: *Declaration of Independence*; *The US Constitution*; *Federalist #’s 10 and 51*; Reading Packet #1.

Federalism and the Constitution; Federalism and State and Local Government

2/15 (Monday): Washington’s Birthday: No Class!!!!

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

Take-Home Assignments # 2 Due

Week Six (2/22-25): Readings: Sidlow, Chaps. 4, 5, 14; Reading Packet #2; *The Bill of Rights* (and relevant subsequent amendments).

******Mid-term Exam #1: Blue Book Essay**

Week Seven (2/29-3/3): Readings: Sidlow, Chaps. 4, 5, 14; Reading Packet #2; *The Bill of Rights* (and relevant subsequent amendments).

Human Rights, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties; Civil Liberties; the Civil Rights Movement

Week Eight (3/7-10): Readings: Sidlow, Chaps. 4, 5, 14; Reading Packet #2; *The Bill of Rights* (and relevant subsequent amendments).

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

The Courts

3/14-3/18: SPRING BREAK!!!! (Gone Fishin’)

Week Nine (3/21-24): Readings: Sidlow, Chaps. 4, 5, 14; Reading Packet #2; *The Bill of Rights* (and relevant subsequent amendments).

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

Civil Liberties Review

Week Ten (3/28-31): Readings: Sidlow, Chaps. 7, 8, (to p. 182), 9, 11; Reading Packet #3.

******Mid-term Exam: Blue Book Essay #2 and Quiz #6 (Chap. 4)**

******Public Opinion; Political Parties; Elections and Voters; Candidates and Campaigns.**
Readings: Sidlow, Chaps. 4, 5, 14; Reading Packet #2; *The Bill of Rights* (and relevant subsequent amendments).

Week Eleven (4/4-7): Readings: Sidlow, Chaps. 7, 8, (to p. 182), 9, 11; Reading Packet #3.
Political Parties; Elections and Voters; Candidates and Campaigns. (Baseball Season begins)
Take-Home Assignment # 3

4/8: Deadline to drop class and get a “W” (and not an “F”)

Week Twelve (4/11-14): Readings: Sidlow Chaps. 6, 7, 9, 11; Reading Packet #3. The US Congress. (TAXES!)

4/12: (Tuesday) Stupid Moronic Flex Day: No Class!!!!

******Quiz #7 (Chaps. 7, 8 [quiz questions to p. 175], 9)**

Week Thirteen (4/18-21): Readings: Sidlow Chaps. 12, 13; Reading Packet #4. The Presidency.

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

Take-Home Assignment #’s 3 Due

Take-Home Assignment #Assignment #5 (**Due Week 17**)

Week Fourteen (4/25-28): Readings: Readings: Sidlow Chaps. 12, 13; Reading Packet #4.
The Presidency

Week Fifteen (5/2-5): Readings: Readings: Sidlow Chaps. 12, 13; Reading Packet #4.
The Presidency

Week Sixteen (5/9-12): Readings: Sidlow Chaps. 12, 13; Reading Packet #4.

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

The Presidency; Bureaucracy

Week Seventeen: (5/16-19): Readings: Sidlow Chaps. 12, 13; Reading Packet #4.
Bureaucracy

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

Take-Home Assignment #4 Due

Week Eighteen: (12/23-26):

5/23 & 24: Course Review and Prep. for Final Exam

5/25 & 26: FINAL EXAM

**Students may take the final any of the four times it is given.
(YOU DON’T HAVE TO ASK.....)**