

POL 211
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**Political Science 211:
American Politics and Government
(3 credits)
Chaminade University
Fall ~~Winter~~ 2000
August 28, 2000 to December 7, 2000**

Instructor: Marcella Alohalani Boido, M. A.
Classroom: Henry Hall 225
Class schedule: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:00 - 9:20 a.m.
Textbook: Burns, Peltason, Cronin, Bagleby, *Government by the People, 2nd ed.*
Final exam: Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2000, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Henry Hall 225
Final paper due: Thursday, Dec. 7, 2000, in class
Office: Eiben Hall 118
Office hours: By appointment only (please see instructor after class to make an appointment, or call during contact hours)
Tel.: 946-2558, between 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., M-F.
E-mail: mboido@hawaii.edu

Course Description:

"An examination of how Washington works through a study of the dynamics of the American political system. Includes a review of the Constitution, the Congress, the presidency, the bureaucracy, the courts, elections, and the media." (*Chaminade University General Catalog 2000-2001*, p. 155.)

Why study the system of government of the United States of America?

1. We are living in this country (many of us are citizens here), and it is helpful and interesting to understand that country in which one lives and makes one's political contribution.
2. The study of the politics and government of any particular country will help the student to understand the basic tools, concepts, and methods of political science and political analysis. With these tools, the student can also understand the politics and government of other countries, and of other, smaller, political units or jurisdictions. In short, it trains one to do critical, analytical thinking about politics, and to understand what is going on in the political world around one. The ability to do this kind of thinking is essential to living the life of a citizen, that is, an actor, an agent, a person who takes effective action on behalf of one's own political agenda.

Course Objectives:

- Students will learn the basic questions of political science, and how to apply them.
- Students will develop the ability to do critical, analytical political thinking.
- Students will be exposed to the basic methodology of political science, including such tools as statistical analysis, participant observation, case studies, survey interviews, and document/library research.
- Students will learn how to discuss politics in an intelligent way through class participation.
- Students will learn how to read (listen to, watch) and understand various news media.
- Students will learn how to do research and writing in the field of political science.

- Students will develop the intellectual tools for understanding the politics of the USA, including historical knowledge, with an emphasis on reasoning skills.

Exams and papers

Midterm and final exams will have both objective and short essay questions. The five (5) short thought/opinion papers should be 2-5 pages in length. The final paper is a research paper of at least 10 pages, but no more than 15. All papers should be typed, double-spaced, and printed in a 12-point font such as Times Roman, Arial, or Universe.

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

Attendance & Participation:	20%
Midterm:	10%
Final Exam:	20%
Final Paper:	25%
5 short thought/opinion papers:	25% of the total (5% each)

Grading:

A=90-100% B=80-89% C=70-79% D=60-69% F-59% or lower

Extra credit:

Students can do extra credit work in a variety of ways, such as reading and reporting on certain books, events, and in other ways. If you have something you want to do for extra credit, please see the instructor to make arrangements. Students are encouraged to pursue their interests and receive recognition for their efforts.

Grading:

A=90-100% B=80-89% C=70-79% D=60-69% F-59% or lower

Schedule

as of Tuesday, September 26

Week 1, August 28

Introduction, read Chap. 1

Write a political autobiography, 2 pages

Week 2, September 5

The Constitution

Predict the election: a class poll

Week 3, September 11

Chap. 9.

Group discussion: What should a national government do?

Case study in media coverage: OHA

Week 4, September 18

Chap. 9. Case studies in the effect of media coverage: OHA, Bishop Estate.

The power of media to reveal or conceal.

Week 5, September 25

Reading:

Text: Chap. 8. Newspapers: the election returns.

Tuesday: Class discussion: the primaries, exit polls.

Methodology: analyzing election returns.
The opinion papers: how to write an opinion paper.
Thursday: The research paper--what is expected.

Week 6, October 2

Chap. 3 & 4

Opinion paper due on Thursday, October 5

Week 7, October 9

HOLIDAY: Monday, October 9: Discoverer's Day. No classes, offices closed.

Chap. 5

Week 8, October 16

Reading: Chap. 6

Tuesday: Summary and overview.

MIDTERM: Thursday, October 19

Week 9, October 23

Chap. 7

Opinion paper due on Thursday, October 26

Week 10, October 30

Chap. 10

Opinion paper due on 11/2

Week 11, November 6

Reading:

Text: Chap. 11. Newspapers: election returns.

Tuesday, November 7: Election Day

Thursday, November 9:

Class discussion on election coverage, election returns, media issues, etc.

Week 12, November 13

Chap. 12

Opinion paper due on Thursday, Nov. 16

Week 13, November 20

Chap. 13

Week 14, November 27

Chap. 14

Opinion paper due on Thursday, Nov. 30

Week 15, December 4

Chap. 15

Thursday, December 7:

Summary and overview. Review of contents of final exam. Q & A on final exam.

Thursday, December 7: Final papers due in class.

Week 16, December 11

FINAL EXAM, December 12, 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

End of Semester--Have a Happy Holiday Season!