

**POLI 101:
Introduction to Political Science
Spring 2016**

CRN: 53427 & 42949¹
Monday & Wednesday 8:00am – 9:25am **(53427)** / 11:10am – 12:35pm **(42949)**

Rooms: MS 421 **(53427)** / MS 422 **(42949)**

Instructor: Nicholas Boushee, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Department of History and Political Science

Email: nboushee@sdccd.edu **Office Phone:** (619) 388-3696

Office: Math & Social Science Building, Room MS 438

Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 9:30am – 11:00am
Tuesday & Thursday 11:00am – 12:00pm

Advisory: ENGL 101 with a grade of "C" or better, or equivalent, or Assessment Skill Levels R6/W6.

Units 3 units **Grading:** Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass Option

Textbook & Supplies:

Van Belle, Douglas A. 2016. *A Novel Approach to Politics*. 4th edition. Thousand Oaks: CQ Press. ISBN: 978-1-4833-6849-8

Two 882E Scantrons, & one small Blue Book, & a #2 pencil, found at the bookstore.

Supplemental reading materials may be provided by the instructor.

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the field of Political Science. Emphasis is placed on the concepts and methodologies used in the study of political institutions, political participation, public opinion, and the international political system. Topics also include a survey of political theory and the history of American political ideology and culture. This course is intended for students majoring in political science and those interested in the field of political science.

¹ You must only attend your registered section.

Student Learning Outcome:

After successful completion of the course with the grade of C or higher, a Student should be able to produce a well-structured critical analysis essay that addresses an important current political issue.

Student Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

1. Identify the main subfields of political science and describe the various methodologies used in the field.
2. Differentiate between ancient political theory and modern political theory, and identify elements of each.
3. Distinguish between nation, state, nation-state, and government.
4. Identify the main elements of democratic, authoritarian, and totalitarian systems, and classify given political systems, including the United States, according to these labels.
5. Define political ideology and political culture, and identify the main elements of different modern and contemporary ideologies.
5. Describe the historical development of political ideology and culture in the United States.
6. Describe the role of public opinion, mass media, and social networks in the political process.
8. Evaluate the roles of interest groups and political parties in the political process, including in the United States.
7. Describe and evaluate the basic structures of states, including the regional distribution of power, electoral systems, relationship between legislative and executive power, and types of law; and illustrate with examples, including the United States.
8. Explain key issues in the relationship between politics and economics.
9. Identify different types of political violence, and describe theories and examples of revolution.
10. Differentiate between domestic and international politics and law, and identify elements of and debates about the international political system.

Student Responsibilities:

Please refer to the “Student Rights and Responsibilities” section of the Student Handbook or College Catalog (see Policy 3100 and Procedure 3100.2).

Accommodation of Disability:

Students with disabilities who may need academic accommodations should notify the instructor immediately. Contact DSPS (Disability Support Programs and Services) in Room A-115, 619-388-3513. The class will view audiovisual materials (videos/dvds) and if a student needs closed-captioned accommodations, please notify the instructor immediately.

Blackboard:

I use both Blackboard and the campus email to communicate so you **MUST** frequent both to stay up to date. Failing to do either of these is ***not*** an acceptable excuse.

Access the Blackboard Login page: <https://sdccd.blackboard.com>

Type your Username : 7-digit College Student ID (CSID) number

Type your Password: mmddyyyy (birthdate with no hyphens, slashes, or spaces) or use your current password if you are a returning Blackboard user at the SDCCD.

After logging in, you will see your My SDCCD portal page.

Attendance Policy & Requirements:

- It is the student's responsibility to drop all classes in which he/she is no longer attending.
- It is the instructor's discretion to withdraw a student after the add/drop deadline due to excessive absences. ***Withdrawal deadline: 4/8/2016***

Important Dates

Last day to receive, and process and pay for an add code:	2/5/2016
Deadline to drop and be eligible for refund:	2/5/2016
Deadline to drop classes with no "W" recorded:	2/5/2016
Last day to file a petition for Pass/No Pass option:	2/29/2016
Withdrawal deadline:	4/08/2016

- Students who remain enrolled in a class beyond the published withdrawal deadline, will receive an evaluative letter grade in this class.
- The final grade in this class will be affected by active participation, including attendance, as follows:

Attending lectures is mandatory. The instructor will excuse an absence if a student is seriously ill (requires a note from a medical professional), has verifiable judicial and/or military obligations, and/or a verifiable unforeseen emergency.

Students who do not attend the first class will be dropped from the course. Students with more than 5 unexcused absences will be dropped from the class. If the 6th unexcused absence takes place after the final withdrawal date, you will lose a letter grade from your course grade for each absence after the third one. Vacations are not an excuse for an absence so plan to be in class.

If you arrive more than 10 minutes late to class (without prior approval from the instructor), you will be considered absent. Also, early departure from class without prior approval will be considered an absence. The approval of a late appearance and an early departure will be based on the same standard as an excused absence.

Evaluation & Grading:

Student participation in the form of attendance and class discussions is expected. Assignments and exams will include in-class writing (impromptu short response, and a response to a political documentary – bring a Blue Book), formal writing assignments of various lengths, genres, and scope (e.g. political analysis of popular media & current issue, outline and review of an academic journal article), library research session, a mixed-media presentation regarding an important current event/issue and analysis of its relation to you and political science as a discipline, and multiple choice exams. Details of these assignments will be discussed and explained further during lecture, on Blackboard, and with handouts. The exception to this will be in-class pop quizzes, which may or may not occur. The scores for your assignments and exams will be recorded on Blackboard for your convenience.

Assignments	Points	Final Grade
Journal Article Outline	50	90% and above: A = Excellent
Mid-Term Exam [scantron]	80	80-89: B = Good - above average
Pop Politics Topic Memo	50	70-79: C = Satisfactory – average
Pop Politics Paper	100	50-69: D = Passing - less than satisfactory
Doc. Analysis & Response [Blue Book]	50	49 and below: F = Unacceptable
Presentation (audio &/or visual)	60	
Participation: Disc, Pop Quizzes, Library Visit, etc.	30 [approx.]	
Final Exam [scantron]	80	
Approximate Total Points:	500	

Assignment Submission:

Students are required to utilize SafeAssign found in Blackboard for all out-of-class written assignments. All class assignments will be submitted in Blackboard, unless announced in class. This class will attempt to decrease hard copies and paper by utilizing Blackboard to submit written assignments.

I do not accept assignments by e-mail. It is the student's responsibility to schedule and complete make-up exams and turn-in class assignments on time. Make-up exams will be given for documented medical reasons or extreme hardship cases only. Repeated tardiness, unacceptable classroom behavior, excessive absences, or leaving class early will result in a lower final class grade. Total number of participation/discussion points may change and will be announced in class. Assignments are due before class start on the day they are listed. Late assignments will be marked down 10% for every day it is late. Once I return assignments or grade exams/quizzes/essays, late assignments will not be accepted. If you know you will not be able to turn in an assignment on the specified day, turn it in **early**.

Participation:

Student participation in the form of attendance and class discussions is expected. I expect you to participate by attending lecture, completing small assignments beyond the major tasks described below, and being active in group and class activities. You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the course material, and having done the reading. We will aim to integrate discussion into each class meeting, as there is no separate section. This will require active participation of all students for its success. Much of our learning will take place in these discussions, as students share insights and ideas with each other.

Ideological Diversity:

You will not be graded according to whether you share the political opinions or ideologies of the instructor or authors of the assigned texts. I do ask that you be open-minded and respectful, both of your fellow students and instructor and of diversity of opinion. I hope that you will view this diversity as valuable for your learning. As Stuart Mill once wrote: “All silencing of discussion is an assumption of infallibility.” In this course, no one is infallible.

Class Decorum:

I begin with the premise that each student enrolled in this course is highly intelligent and capable and I have high expectations for both your academic commitment and personal behavior. You are responsible for your success in this course and the course is designed such that if you work hard you will do quite well. The course has all the ingredients necessary to engage and challenge you. I expect students to refrain from engaging in any distracting or disruptive behavior such as—but not limited to—showing up late, using cell phones, texting, surfing the web, taking pictures, talking to classmates outside of our discussions. This sort of behavior is disrespectful not only because it makes it difficult for other students to concentrate in class, but it also makes it difficult for me to do my job. I will not tolerate any disruptive behavior and will refer egregious cases to Student Affairs.

Academic Integrity:

I expect students to refrain from cheating, plagiarizing, or engaging in any other type of academic misconduct. Students who are found in violation of district Procedure 3100.3, Honest Academic Conduct, will receive a zero grade on the assignment, quiz, or exam in question and may be referred for disciplinary action in accordance with Procedure 3100.2, Student Disciplinary Procedures:

http://www.sdccd.edu/docs/procedures/Student%20Services/AP%203100_03.pdf

Class Schedule & Reading:

The below class schedule outline is **tentative** and subject to change as necessary. You are responsible for keeping up with any changes made to the schedule. Schedule changes will be announced in class. Students should complete the assigned class reading prior to the class lecture. I recommend you bring the textbooks and your notes to every class. Lectures will build on and move beyond the ideas you have read about for that week.

Wk	Dates (M–W)	Topics & Assignments	Readings
1	1/25 – 1/27/2016	Introductions, Syllabus, Methods	Chapter 1: Pages 1-39
2	2/1 – 2/3	Ideal vs. Real	Chapter 1: Pages 1-39
3	2/8 - 2/10	Why Government?	Chapter 2: Pages 40-67
4	2/15 Off - 2/17	Governing Society Journal Article Outline Due 2/17	Chapter 3: Pages 68-91
5	2/22 – 2/24	Government’s Role in the Economy	Chapter 4: Pages 92-118
6	2/29 – 3/2	Structures and Institutions	Chapter 5: Pages 120-145
7	3/7 – 3/9	The Executive Midterm 3/9	Chapter 6: Pages 146-170
8	3/14 – 3/16	The Legislative Function Paper Topic Memo Due 3/16	Chapter 7: Pages 171-201
9	3/21 – 3/23	Brazilian Bureaucracy Library Research Session 3/23	Chapter 8: Pages 202-220
Off	3/28 - 4/1	<i>SPRING BREAK</i>	
10	4/4 – 4/6	Courts & Law + Paper Writing Tips	Chapter 9: Pages 221-248
11	4/11 – 4/13	The Democratic Ideal in Modern Politics Pop Politics Paper Due 4/13	Chapter 10: Pages 250-281
12	4/18 – 4/20	Media, Politics, & Government	Chapter 11: Pages 283-312
13	4/25 – 4/27	International Politics Political Documentary Response 4/27	Chapter 12: Pages 313-349
14	5/2 – 5/4	Political Culture Presentations	Chapter 14: Pages 353-374
15	5/9 – 5/11	The Study of Politics Presentations	Chapter 15: Pages 376-385
16	5/16 – 5/18	Review Final In-Class Exam 5/18	Chapter 15: Pages 376-385