

Los Angeles Valley College
The Government of the United States
Political Science 001, Section (17518)
Monday 6:50- 10:10 p.m. Fall 2018

Instructor: SJ Lingrosso
Room: Campus Center Room #206
Phone: 818-677-4971 [This is a CSUN number](#)
Email: lingrosj@lavc.edu (preferred method of communication)
Office hour: By appointment from 6:00-6:45 p.m. on class day in Campus Center Room #253
Website: www.profspace.com/slingrosso

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the politics, principles, theories and practices of the governments of the United States and California.

Course Objectives

Students will be expected to know how to do the following upon completion of the course:

- Analyze and examine the structure, functions, and process of US Government.
- Analyze the historical development of federal, state, and local government practices in the US.
- Analyze the scope of power of federal and state governments in contemporary US society.
- Analyze the historical development and contemporary importance of Civil Liberties and Civil Rights in contemporary US society.
- Analyze and examine the function and process of national and state government in contemporary US.

Course Standards:

California standards state that a unit of credit should require 3 hours of work per week by the student, thus a 3 unit course should demand, in addition to the traditional 3 hour lecture, 6 hours of reading, writing, lab and/or activities. For this course, students are expected to do the following outside of class each week:

2 hours: read the assigned chapter and complete the practice quiz

2 hours: read a newspaper, watch (or listen to) a news broadcast, or read a news blog

2 hours: review your notes from class and integrate the content with current events

Assignments and Grading:

One midterm exam and one final exam will be given each worth 200 points (for a total of 400 points). Exams are not cumulative and will be comprised of multiple choice questions which cover the readings. Scranton form (Item Number: 882-E) will be needed.

Current Events

Students will be selected at random to submit current events for class discussion during the first hour.

Submission of a current event is worth a maximum of 5 extra credit points. Students should print and submit the current event form posted on the website for credit.

For maximum points the student will need to submit a short summary of: *who, what, where, when and the politically relevant aspect of the event*. Do not read us the entire article! Duplicate stories will not be discussed or accepted so it is wise to bring a backup. These are designed to be completed outside of class, therefore typed forms will be given priority over handwritten forms.

Student Participation

This course is conducted in seminar style therefore student participation is essential and expected. Students who participate in class discussions enhance the classroom experience and increase the level of learning for all. Significant consideration is given to these students when their point total is borderline or close to the next higher grade level.

Grading Scale (500 possible points)

400-360	A	90%
359-320	B	80%
319-280	C	70%
279-240	D	60%
239-000	F	50%

Essay Question Grading Rubric

25% for completely answering the question
25% for using examples to illustrate your answer
25% for using course terminology
25% for organizing legible sentences and paragraphs

Make Up Work/Missed Assignments/Extra Credit

Make up exams will only be given in demonstrated emergent circumstances or with **advanced** approval from the instructor. Make up exams must be completed within 1 week of the original exam. Make up exams may not be in the format that was given to the rest of the class to maintain the integrity of the test.

Additional extra credit opportunities **MAY** become available at certain times throughout the semester upon announcement to the entire class. For example, working on campaigns and other political participation can be a chance to earn points toward your overall grade. These assignments are made available upon the sole discretion of the instructor, and may or may not occur. Therefore, it is not advisable to rely on extra credit to pass this course.

Service Learning

Service Learning Projects that are coordinated through Rick Brossman (at 818-947-2642) in the Counseling Department can be assigned extra credit. If you are interested please discuss your proposal with me in order to complete the necessary paperwork by the third week of class. The amount of credit assigned depends on the details on the type and amount of work being performed.

Attendance

It is the student's responsibility to review the calendar for the course and decide if conflicts with work, school or family obligations will accommodate the demands of this course. It will be assumed that students who have chosen to remain in the course after the first week without discussing calendar conflicts with the instructor can accommodate the course calendar without interruption.

Enrolled students who are absent on the first day of class are subject to being dropped by the instructor. If you stop attending class, on or before the drop deadline, you must drop the class **YOURSELF** through the telephone, internet or in person. Failure to do so may result in a grade of "F" in the class.

Reading Materials

[We the People: An Introduction to American Politics](#)

Eleventh Essentials Edition, by Benjamin Ginsberg, Theodore J. Lowi, Caroline J. Tolbert, Margaret Weir ISBN: 9780393283648. This book is mandatory for all students, and it is up to each individual to have a copy to read and study. Using alternate editions of this text should be avoided and is done at your own risk.

Classroom Etiquette

Studying political material involves discussing topics that may be uncomfortable for certain individuals. Issues that pertain to religion, race, gender, age, sexual orientation and others will be openly explored.

Every student will be expected to show the proper respect for fellow students, the instructor and the facilities in which the class is held. All college policies, regulations and customs relating to student conduct will be observed.

Distractions such as cell phones, electronic devices, sleeping in class, arriving late or leaving early, will not be tolerated out of respect for everyone. Disruptive students can be suspended for up to 2 class sessions at the professor's discretion. If you bring food and/or drinks into the classroom, please use the trashcans.

If you wish to discuss personal issues or circumstances please see me during my scheduled office hours. Approaching the podium to discuss grades, absences or other personal information is not appropriate. In order to maintain an environment where everyone feels free to express their honest opinions and viewpoints, the use of recording devices is not permitted in this class. Also, in an effort to minimize distraction and disruptions of course discussions, the use of computers or tablets, even for note taking, will not be permitted.

Academic Honesty

Since this is not a collaborative course, students are expected to do their own work. For example academic dishonesty would include sharing, distributing or posting ANY materials that are meant for the measurement of individual student knowledge in this class. College policies regarding honesty issues will be in force with all assignments. All forms of cheating are unacceptable and all instances of plagiarism, cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Vice President of Student Affairs, in addition to the student receiving a failing grade for the assignment in question. Repeated instances of cheating can result in a failing grade in the course.

Accommodation for Differing Ability

Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. Please notify the instructor the first week of class of any accommodations needed for the course. All accommodations must be approved through the office of Services for Students with Disabilities, Student Services Annex (SSA) 1st Floor.

Main: (818) 947-2681

TTY: (818) 947-2680

Email: SSD@lavc.edu

Calendar of Discussion Topics and Reading Expectations:

Week	Date	Topic	Ch.	Note
1	8/27	Introduction to the course		Adds/Drops
2	9/3	Labor Day		Holiday
3	9/10	The Founding and Constitution	2	
4	9/17	Federalism	3	
5	9/24	Civil Liberties and Civil Rights	4	
6	10/1	The Media	6	
7	10/8	Political Parties and Elections	7	
8	10/15	MID TERM Exam		Chapters 2,3,4,6,7
9	10/22	Interest Groups	8	
10	10/29	Congress	9	
11	11/5	Presidency	10	
12	11/12	Veterans Day		Holiday
13	11/19	Movie Night		
14	11/26	Federal Courts	12	
15	12/3	California State Politics		State and Local Sheet
16	12/10	Final Exam		Chapters 8,9,10,12, state

1. How many voting members are in the U.S. Senate?

2. How many voting members are in the U.S. House of Representatives?

3. How many U.S. Supreme Court Judges are there?

4. How long is the term of office for a U.S. Senator?

5. How long is the term of office for a U.S. Representative?

6. Who is the current president of the United States?

7. Who is the current Vice President of the United States?

8. Who is the Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court?

9. Who is next in line to succeed if the President and the Vice President are killed?

10. How long is a term for the President of the United States?

Your Name _____

Your Preferred Email _____

Your Current Student Standing (circle one)

1st year

2nd year

3rd year

High School Student

Returning Student

Other _____

Your Educational Goals (circle one)

AP or College Credit

Transfer

A.A. Degree

Certificate

Other _____

Why did you choose this particular class?

Do you have any concerns about finishing the course? (For example, "I have work and/or family obligations")

Do you have anything else you would like to share or a question you would like to ask me?

