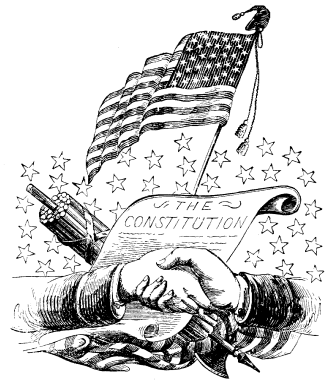


**POLITICAL SCIENCE 102
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT
COURSE REQUIREMENTS
SPRING 2011**



INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Alan M. Kirshner

TEXTBOOKS: Alan Kirshner, In The Course of Human Events: Essays in American Government, 6th ed., 2009
O'Connor and Sabato, Essentials of American Government: Roots and Reform, 2009 Edition. (This text is free online with the purchase of Alan Kirshner's book.)

PEARSON SITE:

After buying the HE book, go to <https://register.pearsoncmg.com/register/reg1.jsp?productID=42149>. Register here using the password under the blue flap on the card shrinkwrapped with the text. Once you have registered and have your password you can go directly to http://wps.ablongman.com/long_oconnor_mpslessag_2009 to enter your ID and password.

DESCRIPTION: The nature of constitutional government in America and the theory and practices of democracy. Problems of individual rights, popular representation and responsible leadership are emphasized.

ACTIVITIES: In addition to the usual lectures and student note taking, a series of other classroom activities may occur--discussions, informal debates, multi-media presentations and nano-lectures (sometimes known as Kirshner's sermons).

GRADING: An exact average of two exams and the interfaces!

NOTE: If you fail to officially withdraw and you have answered "HERE!" (or a facsimile) to my roll call at any time, I will have no choice but to give you an F in this course. I will not change an F to an I (certainly not to a "W") once I have submitted my grades

CREDIT/NO-CREDIT:

You may take this course credit/no-credit. I am not informed as to who takes the course C/NC, nor do I need to be.

QUESTIONNAIRE:

You will find a questionnaire at <http://www.kirshnerisms.com/questionnaire.html> which must be downloaded and completed according to the schedule found on your assignment sheet (after first exam). Where do you find the answers? Any place you like--including your memory banks!

INTERFACES: On your daily assignment sheet you will notice due dates for twenty(20) interfaces divided among the nine essays. The interfaces (worksheets) are located at <http://www2.ohlone.edu/people/akirshner/interfaces.html>. Each interface is worth a maximum of five points when completed and submitted on the day assigned. This total of 100 points is your third grade for the course. Interface worksheets are to be completed and **no question is to be left unanswered**. Points are provided for an attempted answer--right, wrong, maybe and opinion.

Interfaces will drop one point for each day they are turned in late. Since I may not have attendance sheet available, you must let me know of the interface you submit when you were absent and when you returned to class so I can count the days from your return to class. I will not make any exceptions to this policy. Well, except with a doctor's note or you let me know in advance that you have left our world. Obviously, after five days all interfaces are disconnected and no points can be obtained for submission. I will explain the reason for this in class.

Please print off the copy of what you sent me immediately (after you press the submit button a copy appears) and bring it to class as we will go over them. The copy also serves as your proof that you sent the interfaces as they are time stamped. If you inform me that you turned in an interface that I did not place on the grade sheet and you do not have this time stamped receipt, I

cannot verify you turned it in. I will post grades periodically online at

[http:// www.Ohlonc.edu/people/akirshner/gradesps.html](http://www.Ohlonc.edu/people/akirshner/gradesps.html) .

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Academic dishonesty defrauds all those who depend upon the integrity of the college, its courses, and its degrees and certificates. Students are expected to follow the ethical standards required in Ohlone courses. These standards are defined in the Policy on Academic Dishonesty. Violations of this policy include cheating and plagiarism. If you cheat on an exam you will obtain a 0 on the exam and an F in the course. Once I enter the F grade you will not be able to take a W for the course.

STANDARDS OF STUDENT CONDUCT:

The student has the right and shares the responsibility to exercise the freedom to learn. The student is expected to conduct himself/herself in accordance with the standards of the College that are designed to perpetuate its educational purposes.

BEWARE:

“Too many people today view the world with a sense of personal entitlement. They harbor a belief they are somehow entitled to a grade, a degree, a job, a raise, a mortgage, a home, the good life in general; rather than recognizing most of these things actually need to be earned. We need to keep our commitment to a general and liberal education, with critical thinking as a core focus. Personal assumptions and beliefs need continual reflection and scrutiny under the bright lights of reality and social awareness. A sense of entitlement is difficult to maintain if one truly thinks in a critical manner.” *From Dr. Jim Wright, Ohlone College’s Vice President of Academic Affairs, February 23, 2009*

COURSE OUTLINE:

I. Introduction to American Government

A. What is Politics?

1. Four Historic Definitions
2. Local, State, Federal

B. Who Rules?

1. Democratic Pluralism (Hyperpluralism)
2. Participatory Democracy
3. Elitism
4. Machiavellian Interpretation
5. Bureaucrats

C. Political Values--Philosophies of the Framers of the Constitution

D. Political Terminology

E. Political Systems vs. Economic Systems

1. Capitalism
2. Socialism
3. Communism

F. Political Structure

II. Democracy

A. Theories of Democracy

B. A 300 Year History of the American People

1. African-Americans
2. Hispanic-Americans
3. Women
4. Homosexuals
5. Immigrants (legal and undocumented)

III. Democracy and the U.S. Constitution

A. Electoral College

B. Checks and Balances

C. Separation of Powers

D. California's Direct Democracy

1. Recall
2. Initiative
3. Referendum
4. Primaries



IV. Federalism

A. Territories to Statehood

B. Regionalism

C. Federal vs. Unitary vs. Confederal

VII. Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

A. Civil Liberties: Theory and Practice

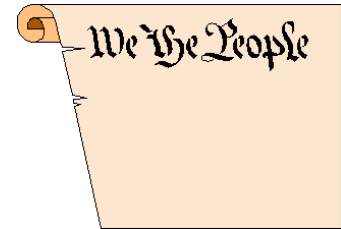
B. Civil Rights: Theory and Practice

C. The Constitution and Liberties

1. History to the 14th Amendment (1868)
2. History after the 14th Amendment -- Incorporation
3. State Responses to Nationalization of Civil Liberties

VIII. Grass Roots Politics (Local, State, Federal)

- A. Public Opinion
- B. The Mass Media
- C. Elections and Voters
- D. The Two-Party System
- E. Power Politics



IX. The Executive Branch of the U.S Government

- A. Leadership and Charisma
- B. The Presidency
- C. Executive Agencies
- D. Interest Groups

X. The Legislative Branch of the U.S. Government

- A. Congress
- B. How a bill becomes a law
- C. Legislation at the state and local levels

XI. The Judicial System

- A. Federal
- B. State
- C. With Kirshnerisms

XII. International Relations and American Foreign Policy

- A. U.S. impact on the World
- B. World's impact on the U.S.
- C. Third World Views
- D. Jihad vs. McWorld
- E. The Myth of Sisyphus
 1. The hope of idealism
 2. The hope of Realpolitik

XIII. The American Dream

- A. The Protestant Work Ethic
- B. Assimilation vs. Separatism
- C. The Future Ain't What It Used To Be