

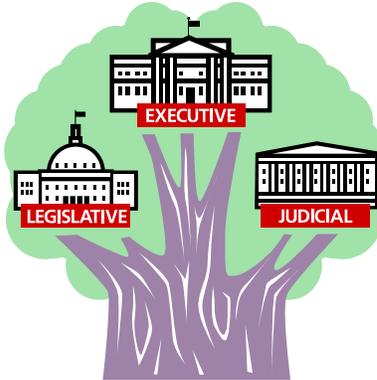
Calumet College



of Saint Joseph

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Prejudices are rarely overcome by argument; not being founded in reason they cannot be destroyed by logic. – Tyron Edwards



AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM I SYLLABUS – PLSC 220

Term: Fall 2018 (2018-1) (August 27 – December 15)

Professor: Dr. Tina Ebenger

Office: 510

Office Phone: 473-4392

E-mail: tebenger@ccsj.edu (office)

Office Hours:

Monday – 12:00 – 1:30, 3:30 – 5:00

Tuesday – 1:45 – 3:15 (Tutoring Center)

Wednesday – 12:00 – 1:30, 3:30 – 5:00

Thursday – 3:30 – 5:00 (Tutoring Center)

Or by appointment

Course Time: Monday and Wednesday, 1:45 PM to 3:15 PM

Course Description:

Students are introduced to the basic concepts for the study of political life in terms of the structure and functions of the American political system. Students will examine the Constitution and its development, the changing nature of federalism, a study of the popular control of government, and the structure and functions of the national government.

Prerequisites: None

Learning Objectives:

General Education objectives:

1. Students will read analytically, synthetically, and critically in a variety of genres.
2. Students will write in a variety of forms using valid logic, persuasive rhetoric, and correct grammar, usage, and punctuation.
3. Students will be able to orally deliver a presentation with a clear central idea that is logically developed, supported by convincing evidence and valid reasoning, and expressed using language and delivery choices thoughtfully adapted to the audience.
4. Students will represent, apply, analyze, and evaluate relevant qualitative and quantitative mathematical and scientific evidence (i.e. equations, graphs, diagrams, tables, words) to support or refute an argument.
5. Students will appreciate, create, and critique the persuasive power of art and media.
6. Students will be able to apply ethical standards to social issues and analyze their own core beliefs and the origin of these beliefs.

Learning Objectives:

PLSC 220:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of- major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical patterns, or historical contexts within a given social or behavioral domain.
 - a. To understand American political institutions and their roles within the American political system.
 - b. To understand how political parties, interest groups, the media, and public opinion affect executive, legislative, and judicial decisions.
2. Identify the strengths and weaknesses of contending explanations or interpretations for social, behavioral, or historical phenomena.
 - a. To evaluate American institutions, processes, and policies based upon informed understanding and critical analyses.
3. Demonstrate basic literacy, in social, behavioral, or historical research methods and analyses.
4. Evaluate evidence supporting conclusions about the behavior of individuals, groups, institutions, or organizations.
5. Recognize the extent and impact of diversity among individuals, cultures, or societies in contemporary or historical contexts.
 - a. To understand the lack of diversity in American government and its impact on policy.
6. Identify examples of how social, behavioral, or historical knowledge informs and can shape personal, ethical, civic, or global decisions and responsibilities.
 - a. To understand how history has shaped policy decisions.
7. To become acquainted with the current issues surrounding and affecting American government.

Textbooks: *Clued in to Politics: A Critical Thinking Reader in American Government*, Christine Barbour & Matthew J. Streb, Editors, 4th Edition, 2014.

Additional Readings Distributed in Class

Assessment:

Book Assignments (6; 5 pts. each)	30
Current Events (2; 5 pts each)	10
Exams (2; 25 pts. each)	50
Class Attendance/Participation	10
	<hr/>
	100

Book Assignments:

There are **six (6)** writing assignments due for this class. At the end of each reading selection in *Clued*, there are a series of questions. Of the assigned readings, I have picked **six (6)** for the students to read and answer the questions. The papers should be 1-2 pages in length, typed, double-spaced and are due the date they are assigned in class. Rubrics will be included for each assignment (although each rubric is the same).

Current Events:

Each student will be assigned two current event assignments. They will consist of the article (either from the newspaper, magazine or internet article), a copy of the article, a 1 - 2 paragraph description/summary of the event, the major players involved, and its significance or importance for future events.

Exams:

There are two exams in this class: **Wednesday, OCTOBER 17, 2018** and the final exam on **Wednesday, DECEMBER 12, 2018**. The exams will be a combination of short answer (definitions) and essay questions.

NOTE - IF, FOR SOME REASON, YOU CANNOT BE PRESENT TO TAKE AN EXAM, YOU MUST CONTACT ME PRIOR TO THE EXAM. MAKE-UP ESSAY EXAMS CAN BE TAKEN NO LATER THAN ONE WEEK FOLLOWING THE EXAM DATE.

Class Policy for Attendance:

You cannot succeed in this class if you do not attend. We believe that intellectual growth and success in higher education occur through interaction in the classroom and laboratories. However, we do not want to penalize students for participating in college-sponsored events. When you miss class because of a college event, you must give notice of your absence in advance, and you are responsible for all missed work. Being absent doesn't excuse you from doing class work; you have **more** responsibilities to keep up and meet the objectives of this course.

Each student starts out with 100 points for class attendance/participation. Five (5) points will be deducted for each absence, each late arrival to class, each time you're on your phone, and each time you are talking when you're not contributing to class discussion.

Class Policy on Electronic Devices:

All electronic devices will be kept out of sight during class. If, however, you are a parent and may get a call about your child, please keep your phone on vibrate.

CCSJ Student Honor Code:

I, as a student member of the Calumet College academic community, in accordance with the college's mission and in a spirit of mutual respect, pledge to:

- Continuously embrace **honesty and curiosity** in the pursuit of my educational goals;
- Avoid all behaviors that could impede or distract from the academic progress of myself or other members of my **community**;
- Do my own work with **integrity** at all times, in accordance with syllabi, and without giving or receiving inappropriate aid;

Do my utmost to act with commitment, inside and outside of class, to the goals and **mission** of Calumet College of St. Joseph.

Grading Scale:

Grade	Points	Grade	Points	Grade	Points	Grade	Points
A	100-92	B+	89-88	C+	79-78	D+	69-68
A-	91-90	B	87-82	C	77-72	D	67-62
F	59 and below	B-	81-80	C-	71-70	D-	61-60

Statement of Plagiarism:

If you turn in work that is not your own, you are subject to judicial review, and these procedures can be found in the College Catalog and the Student Planner. The maximum penalty for any form of academic dishonesty is dismissal from the College.

Using standard citation guidelines, such as MLA or APA format, to document sources avoids plagiarism. The Library has reference copies of each of these manuals, and there are brief checklists in your Student Handbook and Planner.

PLEASE NOTE: All papers may be electronically checked for plagiarism.

Tracking Your Progress:

Your midterm grade will be available on MyCCSJ between Weeks 6 and 8. Be sure to see how you're doing and follow up with your instructor.

Sharing Your Class Experience:

At the end of the term, you will have the opportunity to evaluate your classroom experience. These confidential surveys are **essential** to our ongoing efforts to ensure that you have a great experience that leaves you well prepared for your future. Take the time to complete your course evaluations – we value your feedback!

CCSJ Book Rental Program:

The CCSJ Book Program ensures that everyone has the right course materials on the first day of class to be successful. You pay a book rental fee each semester, and in return, receive all the materials for all your classes prior to the beginning of classes. At the end of the semester, simply return the books. For traditional students, the Book Rental Program is conveniently located in the library, where students can pick up and return their books. For students in accelerated programs and graduate programs, books will be delivered to their homes and they can return them by mail. For more information, see <http://www.ccsj.edu/bookstore>. **All books must be returned at the end of the semester or you will incur additional fees, which will be charged to your student account.**

Withdrawal from Classes:

After the last day established for class changes has passed (see the College calendar), you may withdraw from a course by following the policy outlined in the CCSJ Course Catalog.

Student Success Center:

The Student Success Center provides faculty tutors at all levels to help you master specific subjects and develop effective learning skills. It is open to all students at no charge. You can contact the Student Success Center at 219 473-4287 or stop by the Library.

Disability Services:

Disability Services strives to meet the needs of all students by providing academic services in accordance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines. If you believe that you need a "reasonable accommodation" because of a disability, contact the Disability Services Coordinator at 219-473-4349.

Student Assistance Program:

Through a partnership with **Crown Counseling**, Calumet College of St. Joseph provides a free Student Assistance Program (SAP) to current students. The SAP is a confidential counseling service provided to students for personal and school concerns which may be interfering with academic performance and/or quality of life. The SAP counselor is available on campus once a week and off-site at the Crown Counseling offices in Crown Point or Hammond. For more information, **contact Kerry Knowles SAP Counselor**, at 219-663-6353 (office), 219-413-3702 (cell), or kerryk@crowncounseling.org.

CCSJ Alert:

Calumet College of St. Joseph's emergency communications system will tell you about emergencies, weather-related closings, or other incidents via text, email, or voice messages. Please sign up for this important service annually on the College's website at: <http://www.ccsj.edu/alerts/index.html>.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS:

Month/Week	Class Date	Topics and Reading Assignments
August		
1st	Monday, August 27	Introduction, overview of class
	Wednesday, August 29	American political culture What makes us <i>American</i>? American political culture and immigration Clued: 43-44; 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3
2nd	Monday, September 3	LABOR DAY – NO CLASS
	Wednesday, September 5	Video: I Have a Dream – MLK Clued: pp. 15-16; 3.5
3rd	Monday, September 10	The Constitution
	Wednesday, September 12	The Constitution, cont’d
4th	Monday, September 17	The Constitution, cont’d <i>"The Constitution, Articles I – VII"</i>
	Wednesday, September 19	Federalism Clued: pp. 67-68 Video: The US Federal System
5th	Monday, September 24	Federalism, cont’d Clued: pp. 4.4
	Wednesday, September 26	Public Opinion Clued: pp. 217-218; 11.2, 11.3 and 11.5
October		
6th	Monday, October 1	Public Opinion, cont’d <u>Paper due 11.3 (1)</u>
	Wednesday, October 3	Political Socialization <i>"Ideologies and Public Opinion"</i>

Month/Week	Class Date	Topics and Reading Assignments
7th	Monday, October 8	Political participation Clued: pp. 305-306; 14.2 and 14.3
	Wednesday, October 10	Political participation, cont'd "Does Low Youth Turnout Really Matter?" <u>Paper due (2)</u>
8th	Monday, October 15	Review for Mid-Term Exam
	Wednesday, October 17	MID-TERM EXAM
9th	Monday, October 22	Interest Groups Clued: pp. 275-276; 13.3
	Wednesday, October 24	Interest Groups, cont'd Clued: 13.4
10th	Monday, October 29	The Media Clued: pp. 321-322; 15.2, 15.3, 15.6
	Wednesday, October 31	The Media Computer Lab Assignment <u>Paper Due 15.6 (3)</u>
November		
11th	Monday, November 5	The Congress Clued: pp. 119-120; 7.1 and 7.2
	Wednesday, November 7	The Presidency Film: Lincoln
12th	Monday, November 12	The Presidency Film: Lincoln, cont'd
	Wednesday, November 14	The Judiciary Clued: p. 179-180 and 10.5
13th	Monday, November 19	FALL BREAK – NO CLASS
	Wednesday, November 21	FALL BREAK – NO CLASS
14th	Monday, November 26	The Judiciary, cont'd <u>Paper Due 10.5 (4)</u>

Month/Week	Class Date	Topics and Reading Assignments
November		
	Wednesday, November 28	Civil Liberties Clued: p. 81-82 "Supreme Court Upholds..."
December		
15th	Monday, December 3	Civil Liberties, cont'd Clued: 5.1 and 5.2 Paper Due (5)
	Wednesday, December 5	Civil Rights Clued: 95-96 and 6.1 Paper Due 6.1 (6)
16th	Monday, December 10	NO CLASS STUDY FOR FINAL EXAM
	Wednesday, December 12	Final Exam