
ARIZONA CONSTITUTION eCOURSE SYLLABUS

Glendale Community College | Fall 2009 | POS 221 Sections 15592 and 15594

Contact information

Instructor: Toni McClory
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Email: toni.mcclory@gcmail.maricopa.edu (*Important!* Please put POS 221 in the subject line to avoid the District's spam checker & assure that your email gets prompt attention)
Office: 05-135 (same building as the campus bookstore)
Office hours: MW 11:00–12:00; TTh 8:30-10:00 & other times by appointment
Class meets: <https://ecourses.maricopa.edu/webapps/login/>

Required textbook

McClory, *Understanding the Arizona Constitution* (University of Arizona Press, 2001).

About the course

This course explores the government of Arizona using the state constitution as the focus. There are good reasons to learn more about this subject: (1) It matters! Most people don't realize that *state* government—not national—has as the primary responsibility for education, public safety, public health, the environment, social legislation, and much more. (2) Informed citizens are essential in a state where ballot propositions flourish. (3) Arizona government is quirky and unique. Learning how it differs from the U.S. government will deepen your understanding of politics in general. (4) Future public employees (teachers, firefighters) should know more about a government that will heavily impact their careers. POS 221 is designed for citizens, scholars, and public employees; there are no prerequisites. See MCCCDC Official Course Description: <http://www.maricopa.edu/curriculum/M-Z/936pos221.html>

Class policies

- *Your own words please!* All written work must be in your own words and syntax unless you are quoting and properly credit the source. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and the college penalties are severe. (See MCCCDC Policy 2.3.11.) There are no joint projects in this course.

How Students Can Avoid Plagiarism:

http://www.gc.maricopa.edu/English/plagiarism_studentresources.html

- Please consult the GCC College Handbook and the MCCCDC Student Guide to learn more about your rights and responsibilities as a student at GCC.

College Handbook:

http://www.gc.maricopa.edu/catalog/student_rights.html

MCCCDC Student Guide:

<http://www.maricopa.edu/legal/student/>

Grading

Assignments	Points
5 weekly Discussion Board contributions (5 points each) The discussion is an important part of this course. It is intended to simulate and improve upon the traditional class experience. I'm expecting you to put some time and effort into this activity. <i>Please don't post until you have completed most of the assigned weekly readings and have read what your classmates have said.</i> Feel free to respond to your classmates' comments as often as you wish to make this a true discussion. Full credit (5 points) will be awarded for a post that does all or most of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ demonstrates that you have read the assigned materials;○ draws upon your own background or experience;○ reacts to posts of others;○ raises no questions or issues (5 points per week with deductions for insubstantial and/or untimely posts)	25
*5 open book quizzes (first quiz = 5 points; remainder = 10 points each)	45
*Final exam (online)	30
Total points	100
* must be completed to pass course	

A = 90 points or higher; B = 80–89 points; C = 66–79 points; D = 60–65 points; F = below 60 points. Strong participation in class discussions or on the study guide wiki will be considered in borderline cases.

Extra credit

Up to 10 extra credit points can be earned by completing additional assignments that are posted (Extra Credit Tab). These credits can be used to offset low grades or late penalties. They cannot be used as substitutes for the required quizzes and final exam.