

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE SYLLABUS

Glendale Community College • Spring 2009 • POS 100 Section 22305

Contact information

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Office: 05-135 (in same building as campus bookstore)
Office hours: MW 11:00-12:00; TTh 8:30-10:00 & other times by appointment
Class meets: MWF 9:00a-9:50a; room HTA-6
Blackboard: **<https://blackboard.maricopa.edu/webapps/login/>** (for reading quizzes, online reading assignments, study guide wiki, extra credit, handouts, and grades)

Required texts

- W. Phillips Shively, *Power & Choice* (11th ed. McGraw Hill, 2008)
- George Orwell, *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (any edition)

About the course

Politics is an inescapable part of life. Can you imagine any human organization that doesn't have conflict over collective decisions? This course will introduce you to the formal study of politics. We will explore political issues at all levels—individual, group, national, and international. You will become familiar with the basic vocabulary of the discipline, learn about the different ways that political issues are studied, and develop critical reading, thinking, and writing skills. The course is designed for prospective majors as well as for those simply seeking a better understanding of the political world. There are no prerequisites. Official course description: **<http://www.gc.maricopa.edu/catalog/programs/political.htm#course>**

Class policies

- Late work will be accepted with a 15% grade deduction. Assignments and missed exams must be made-up within 1 week of the due date unless there are *very* special circumstances.
- ***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; the college penalties are severe (see MCCCCD Policy 2.3.11). There are no joint projects in this course.
- Please keep a copy of all your work until the end of the semester as insurance against loss by you or me.
- Please let me know if you have any special needs that require accommodation and make the appropriate arrangements with the Disability and Services Office: (623) 845-3080.
- Consult the college and district handbooks to learn your rights and responsibilities as a student at GCC.

GCC Student Handbook: **http://www.gc.maricopa.edu/catalog/student_rights.html**

MCCCCD Student Guide: Policies, Procedures and Resources: **<http://www.maricopa.edu/legal/student/>**

Grading

The course grade will be based on the following point system:

Required assignments	Points
10 quizzes (in BlackBoard)	100
<i>Nineteen Eighty-Four</i> paper*	100
4 exams* (100 points each; lowest will be dropped)	300
Total points	500
*Required to pass course	

A = 450 points or higher; B = 400–449 points; C = 350–399 points; D = 300–349 points; F = below 300 points. Strong participation in class discussions will be considered in borderline cases.

Extra credit

Up to 50 extra credit points can be earned by completing additional assignments that will be posted in BlackBoard. (These credits can be used to offset low grades or late penalties. They cannot be used as substitutes for the required assignments listed above.)

Important dates

- 1-30 Quiz 1 (all quizzes are taken in BlackBoard)
- 2-9 Quiz 2
- 2-11 Exam 1 (please bring a scantron)
- 2-18 Quiz 3
- 2-25 Quiz 4
- 3-6 Quiz 5
- 3-9 Exam 2 (please bring a scantron)
- 3-23 Quiz 6
- 3-27 *Nineteen Eighty-Four* essay due
- 3-30 Quiz 7
- 4-13 Quiz 8
- 4-15 Exam 3 (please bring a scantron)
- 4-22 Quiz 9
- 5-1 Quiz 10
- 5-13 Exam 4 (please bring a scantron)

Assignments

- The following assignments should be completed by the date indicated below.
- Online reading assignments and handouts can be accessed from links inside of BlackBoard.

W 1-21	Introduction. <i>What is Political Science? And why are we bothering with definitions?</i>
F 1-23	<i>How should we define "politics"? What is "power"?</i> Read: Shively, ch. 1
M 1-26	<i>What is an "ideology"? What is "<u>classical</u> liberalism"? "Classical conservatism"? Socialism?</i> Read: Shively, ch. 2, pp. 20-2125-34
W 1-28	<i>What are the differences between <u>American</u> liberalism and conservatism? Where do you align?</i> Read: Shively, ch. 2, pp. 20-24; take (and critique) the World's Smallest Political Quiz (in BlackBoard: Assigned Readings)
F 1-30	<i>Are American liberals and conservatives distinct groups?</i> Explore the ANES data (in BlackBoard: Assigned Readings); <i>Do ideologies have legitimate value?</i> ** Submit Quiz 1
M 2-2	<i>What is the modern "state"? How is it different from a "nation"? How does it differ from "government"?</i> Read Shively, ch. 3, pp. 47-64
W 2-4	<i>Are states becoming obsolete? Are there alternatives?</i> Read Shively, ch. 3, pp. 64-end;
F 2-6	<i>Do we really need states (what do they do for us?)</i> Read Shively, ch. 4, pp. 75-84; chapter 4
M 2-9	<i>What do states do for us (continued) and how should we measure their effectiveness?</i> Read Shively, ch. 4, pp. 84 to end ** Submit Quiz 2
W 2-11	** Exam 1 (please bring a scantron)
F 2-13	<i>What makes a government policy "just"? Are there universal human rights?</i> Read Shively, ch. 6, pp. 131-138; read the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights (in Blackboard: Assigned Readings)
M 2-16	No class (President's Day)
W 2-18	<i>What makes a government policy "efficient"?</i> Read Shively, ch. 6, pp. 138-end ** Submit Quiz 3
F 2-20	<i>What is democracy?</i> Read Shively, ch. 7, pp. 149-161
M 2-23	<i>What is autocracy? What are the characteristics of military states? One-party states? Monarchies?</i> Read: Shively, ch. 7 pp. 161-170
W 2-25	<i>Are democracies better for all states?</i> Read: Shively, ch. 7, pp. 170-end ** Complete Quiz 4

F 2-27	<i>What is political "authority"? What is political "legitimacy"? How is legitimacy attained and lost?</i> Read Shively, ch. 8, pp. 181–186
M 3-2	<i>What are the (heightened) demands for democratic citizenship? (Can it be achieved in the Middle East?)</i> Read Shively, ch. 8, pp. 186–192
W 3-4	<i>What is "social capital"? What is "political culture"? What is "political socialization"? What role does religion play?</i> Read Shively, ch. 8, pp. 192–203
F 3-6	<i>Is democratic legitimacy declining in the U.S.?</i> Read Shively, ch. 8, pp. 203–end. Study the ANES data (in BlackBoard: Assigned Readings) ** Submit Quiz 5
M 3-9	** Exam 2 (please bring a scantron)
W 3-11	<i>What is constitutionalism?</i> Read Shively, ch. 9, pp. 209–217; 222–end
F 3-13	<i>How was the U.S. Constitution created?</i> Read Factsheets Constitutional Roots and U.S. Constitutional Convention (Blackboard: Assigned Readings)
3-16 to 3-20	No class (spring break)
M 3-23	<i>How do federal states differ from unitary states? What are the pros/cons of each? Is federalism a realistic solution for Iraq?</i> Read Shively, ch. 9, pp. 217–222 ** Submit Quiz 6
W 3-25	<i>What do elections do for us?</i> Read Shively, ch. 10, pp. 230–235
F 3-27	<i>Which is a better voting system: proportional representation (PR) or Single-Member Plurality Districts (SMPD)?</i> Read: Shively, ch. 10, pp. 235–241 ** Nineteen Eighty Four essay due
M 3-30	<i>Is the American electoral college undemocratic, dangerous, and obsolete?</i> Read Factsheet U.S. Electoral College (BlackBoard: Assigned Readings) ** Submit Quiz 7
W 4-1	<i>Who votes? Who doesn't? Why?</i> Read Shively ch. 10, pp. 241–246; ANES voting data (Blackboard: Assigned Readings)
F 4-3	<i>What influences voter choices?</i> Read Shively, ch. 10, pp. 257–end
M 4-6	<i>Do we need political parties? What do they do for us?</i> Read Shively, ch. 11, pp. 255–266
W 4-8	<i>How do two-party systems (like U.S.) differ from multi-party systems?</i> Read Shively, ch. 11, pp. 266–end
F 4-10	<i>What are interest groups? How do they differ from parties?</i> Read Shively, ch. 12, pp. 278–288

M 4-13	<i>What are the tactics of interest groups? Do they do more harm than good?</i> Read Shively, ch. 12, pp. 288–294 ** Submit Quiz 8
W 4-15	**Exam 3 (please bring a scantron)
F 4-17	<i>Parliamentary government—how does it work?</i> Read Shively, ch. 14
M 4-20	<i>Presidential government—how does it work?</i> Read Shively, ch. 15, pp. 341–351
W 4-22	<i>Which system is better—parliamentary or presidential?</i> Read Shively, ch. 15, pp. 351–end ** Submit Quiz 9
F 4-24	<i>How has the international order changed since World War II?</i> Read: Shively, ch. 18, pp. 395–403
M 4-27	<i>Is Huntington’s Clash of Civilizations all wet?</i> Read: Huntington, “Clash of Civilizations” (Blackboard: Assigned Readings); and Said, “Clash of Ignorance (BlackBoard: Assigned Readings)
W 4-29	Huntington debate continued
F 5-1	<i>How is international politics different from domestic politics?</i> Read Shively, ch. 18, pp. 403–413 ** Submit Quiz 10
M 5-4	<i>Modern warfare and terrorism—how do we protect ourselves?</i> Read Shively, ch. 18, pp. 413–417
W 5-6	<i>Is the U.N. a failure?</i> Read Shively, ch. 18, pp. 409–end
F 5-8	<i>Taking stock: Which question interested you the most? What was the most surprising thing you learned in this course? Where should you go to learn more?</i>
M 5-11	No class (finals week)
W 5-13	Exam 4 (please bring scantron)