

Section 22311

HTA 6

Time: TR 1:00 – 2:15 PM

INSTRUCTOR: KATHY HEDGES

Department Phone: 623-845-3285 (leave message)

Telephone/ voice mail: 602-319-0736

E-mail: kathy.hedges@gcmail.maricopa.edu

WIKI: <http://pos221.wikispaces.com/>

(Be sure to put POS 221 in the subject. Otherwise I won't open it.)

Office hours: By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Examination of the Constitution of the State of Arizona. Equivalent to the second part of POS220. May not enroll in POS220 and POS221 concurrently. Prerequisites: None.

This 6-week course will explore the government of Arizona, including local governments, using the state constitution as the focal point. We will examine the structure and politics of the formal institutions of government, as well as the role of local governments, interest groups and citizens in Arizona's political process. State and local governments are too frequently neglected in our federal system of government, yet it is the state government that makes most of the laws that directly effect citizens in the U.S. For the citizen or the political science student, an understanding of State and local government is crucial to understanding the American system of government.

From time to time, revisions may be made to the course requirements specified in the syllabus. It is the responsibility of students who miss class sessions to find out whatever changes have been made. I will be using Blackboard, and will attempt to post all changes to the blackboard site.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Toni McClory, Understanding the Arizona Constitution (University of Arizona Press, 2001) [Textbook web page: <http://staff.gc.maricopa.edu/~tmccclory/understanding/ch1.htm>

Secretary of State, Arizona Constitution (2001 ed.) (This is also available online. I have the Link posted in Blackboard.

BLACKBOARD:

The course will use blackboard for assignments and updates. To get your login password and for information on how to use blackboard use the following website.

<https://ecourses.maricopa.edu/webapps/login/>

Assignments will be submitted on Blackboard as well. Use this site to learn how to submit assignments. <http://media.atc.wpi.edu/Academics/ADLN/Orientation/assign.htm>

For other help and tutorials, go to this site.

<http://www.gc.maricopa.edu/ic/gcchelp/tutorials/blackboard/>

WIKI: The study guide has been placed on a wiki space so that you may work on it together. Take advantage of this shortcut. <http://pos221.wikispaces.com/>

ATTENDANCE:

This is a very short course, and attendance will be crucial to success. If you need to miss a class, notify the instructor of the circumstances by e-mail and check Blackboard for any changes or assignments. You may be dropped from the class if you miss more than 3 hours of class time.

Just as attendance is important, so he being here on time. Announcements are frequently made at the beginning of a class period. If you are late it is your responsibility to get the announcements. I will also post any announcements on the Blackboard site. If you have a schedule that will make promptness an issue, you should talk to me so that we can assess the situation.

ASSIGNMENTS & LATE WORK

- The primary assignment in this course is to keep up with the reading. In order to master the material quickly you should take notes on the Study Guide provided. The Study Guide will assist you in getting the most from your reading,

and can be used on open note quizzes as well as for class discussions and activities. These will be also be used by me to make quizzes and tests. Preparedness and participation will impact your grade.

- *You should plan on spending about three hours a week outside of class.* Because this class is on a very shortened schedule, attendance and timely work submissions are extra important. (Due dates for all assignments are indicated on the calendar below.) Late work: unless you have a compelling excuse, the work must be submitted within one week of the due date and a 20% late penalty will be imposed. Please keep electronic or paper copies of all your work until the end of the semester as insurance against loss by you or me.
- Some assignments are optional. This means that you may do them for credit and they will reduce the weight of the required activities. If you choose not to do them, they will NOT impact your grade. You will be excused from the optional activities.
- Horizon Reports: The required assignments are the Horizon news reports. These require you to watch the Horizon program, on PBS, broadcast at 7:00 p.m. weekdays (You may also download the transcripts instead.) These will be due three times during the class. They must be typed and submitted on Blackboard. Instructions and forms can be found under Assignments on Blackboard.
- Capitol Times alternative to Horizon: <http://www.azcapitoltimes.com/> Username: Azgovt Password: Phoenix. Summarize 2 articles from Capitol Times, and explain why this information is important to the state.

EXAMS

- There will 5 quizzes and a final exam. Quizzes will be open note, but not open book and the exam will consist of short answer or multiple-choice questions, and will be closely tied to the text and class work. I am hoping that we will have two guest speakers, and quizzes and exams will cover their presentations as well as other class discussions. For those reasons, class attendance will be very important.
- The open note quizzes are due BEFORE THE CLASS TIME on the date listed and cannot be made up. Instead you will receive the percentage on one missed quiz that quiz that you receive on the final. All others will count as zero.
- Although you are encouraged to assist each other in understanding the material, all work in this class is individual effort, including homework and exams. In the case of cheating, both parties will receive no credit for the work.
- All work submitted for a grade in this class is individual. Evidence of systematic use of another's work will result in a zero on the work, which cannot be made up. *Rules of plagiarism and individual work do apply. Do your own work in your own words.*
- Plagiarism will be handled in accordance with the handbook. See GCC Student Handbook (www.gc.maricopa.edu/studenthandbook/) for your rights and responsibilities as a student at GCC.

EXTRA CREDIT

Extra credit opportunities will be provided. Check Blackboard for extra credit and optional opportunities. One optional assignment can be turned in per class meeting any time up to, but not including, the last regular class meeting. Some optional assignments need to be completed as assigned since they will be used in class discussions. This is a good way to get more out of the class and do some extra learning on your own, but remember you may only turn in one per week until the last week of regular class. No late work, or extra credit will be accepted during the last class.

Taping/Special needs

Taping of lectures and class discussions is not permitted without permission. If you have any special circumstances that require accommodation, contact the Disability and Services Office (523) 845-3080 so that arrangements can be made to assist you, and let me know of the issues as well.

GRADES

Your final grade will be based on the following point system:

Three Newsmaker reports: 25 pts. = 75

Final exam = 100 points total

Quizzes: 5 X 10 = 50

Extra credit = up to 25 points

Optional assignments to be determined: 25-50 pts points

The final grade will be assigned on a scale of: A = 90%; B = 80%; C = 70%; D = 60%; F = below 60%

ISSUES: If you believe that an error has been made, or if you need to discuss a policy in the class, make an appointment with me and we can talk. I try to be reasonable. Don't let a problem fester or cause stress. Most issues can be resolved if we talk.

CLASS SCHEDULE (*Tentative*)

You will notice that each week has textbook chapters assigned with Talking Points. Talking Points are the overall discussion questions we will address in class. You should be ready to discuss them during class, but written work is not required.

The following reading assignments should be *completed* by the date indicated below. Read the textbook assignments carefully and complete the Study Guide questions in preparation for the quizzes. Be ready to discuss the Talking points for each class. Be sure to read the assigned portions of the Arizona Constitution.

Although class discussion may be affected by the availability of guest speakers, the quizzes and horizon assignments will remain unchanged.

Week of:


Jan. 20– Introduction

Tues: Introduction to Arizona: Ch. 1 (skim quickly) & Ch. 2 and Ariz. Const., art. xx

Talking points: Describe the role of the states in the Federal System, and the role of a Constitution in a democracy.

Thurs 1/22: Quiz Ch. Ch. 2

The Making of the Arizona Constitution: Talking points: Discuss the various periods in Arizona's History, and the events and issues that led to territorial status and delayed statehood for Arizona.

 **Work ahead: Optional Assignment due February 24. 25 points. Select one current Arizona issue. Present a 500 word summary of the problem, and proposed solutions. Use 3 sources, and document them in apa style. (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>) Be prepared to share it in class.**

*Due at the beginning of class **February 24***

Jan. 27 – Legislative Branch

Tues: QUIZ: Ch. 3

The Arizona Legislature:

Download: [Legislative Redistricting](#); Download from week 2 in Course Materials: blackboard.

Ch. 3 (pp. 33–50) and Ariz. Const., art. iv, pt. 2 §§ 1–8, 21, 23, and art. v, § 12

Talking points: Why is the Arizona legislature called a citizen legislature? What are the consequences of a citizen legislature?

The Lawmaking Process

Ch. 3 (pp. 50–60) and Ariz. Const., art. iv, pt. 2, §§ 12–15, 17, 19, 20 and art. v, § 7

Talking points: How does the legislature organize for business? How do Arizona's legislative leaders compare to the leadership of the U.S. Congress?


What happens in each stage of the lawmaking process? What limitations have been placed on the legislature's lawmaking functions and on the power of the purse? Evaluate the process. Explain why budgeting issues are difficult to solve and suggest solutions to the problems.

Thurs1/29 : *Horizon Report # 1 due/.

Other legislative powers

Ch. 3 (pp. 61–70) and Ariz. Const., art. iv, pt. 2, § 11 and art. viii, pt. 2

Talking points What other functions does legislature perform? How do politics affect legislative decisions.

 **Optional Assignment due next Thursday. 20 points: After you read chap 4: Read one article on the Initiative (found in the week 3 folder. Use the Abstract form in the Forms folder to take notes as you read. Submit the arguments for and against the use of the Initiative on this form and summarize them in two paragraphs.**

Feb. 1– Direct Democracy & Issues of Legislating

Tues: Quiz Ch. 4

Part The Initiative and Referendum, and Recall

Ch. 4 and Ariz. Const., art. iv, pt. 1 and Ariz. Const., art. viii

Talking points: Explain why the Arizona Constitution was considered progressive and explain and evaluate the provisions for direct democracy in Arizona's constitution,

Thurs 2/5: 2nd Horizon report due (Optional: 10 Points: Read one article on the Initiative found on BlackBoard. And follow directions listed above.

Legislative issues.

Taking points: What are the Criticisms of Direct Democracy? Are they valid? What are the current issues faced by the legislature? Proposals for change

Feb. 10 – Executive Branch

Tuesday Quiz Ch. 5

The Governor: Ch. 5 (pp. 91–111) and Ariz. Const., art. v, §§ 1–8, 12

Talking Points: What are the formal and informal powers and limitations of the Arizona Governor. What does the Arizona Constitution say about the office?

Thursday 2/12 : *Horizon Report # 2 due/.

Other Executive Branch Officials: Ch. 5 (pp. 111–116) and Ariz. Const., art. v, § 9

Talking Points: Which executive officials are elected? What are their major functions? Evaluate the plural executive of Arizona. Why does this make it difficult for executive officers to achieve their goals?

Possible Guest speaker/Arizona issues

Feb. 17: : Judiciary Quiz Ch. 6

Tuesday: Quiz:

Ch. 6 (pp. 117–132) and Ariz. Const. art. vi and vi.i (skim)

Talking Points: Explain how judges are selected in Maricopa and Pima county and in the outlying counties. What is the jurisdiction of each level of court in Arizona?

Part 2: Crimes, Torts and Reform

Ch. 6 (pp. 132–142) and Ariz. Const., art. ii, §31; art. xviii, § 5–6

Talking Points: Evaluate the need for tort reform in Arizona, and the major proposals for tort reform

Thurs 1/19: Quiz Ch. 7

Local Government

Ch. 7 Talking Points: Explain how local governments are established in Arizona, and describe the functions of county and city governments. and explain why some county governments have sought home rule.

Feb. 24: Horizon report #3

Tuesday:

Issue Reports due.

Local Gov Issues Continue discussions of Issues and Initiatives

Feb. 26: Thursday: Final Exam:

The final will be comprehensive and will be in the tech center the last day of class..

If you miss this exam, the regular make-up rules apply.

Use the Study Guide on open note quizzes, to prepare for class discussions and to study for exams..

See Official Course Description and Competencies

<http://www.dist.maricopa.edu/cgi-bin/cpr.pl?trm=20066&crs=pos221&inst=99>

