

ARIZONA CONSTITUTION SYLLABUS

Glendale Community College • Spring 2009 • POS 221 Section 22310

Contact information

Instructor: Toni McClory
Telephone: (623) 845-3730
Email: toni.mcclory@gmail.com *(Important! Please put POS 221 in the subject line to avoid the District 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: MWF 10:00a–10:50a, room HTA-6
BlackBoard: <https://blackboard.maricopa.edu/webapps/login/> (go there for handouts, extra credit assignments, the study guide wiki, grades, and more)

Required textbook

- McClory, *Understanding the Arizona Constitution* (University of Arizona Press, 2001)
- Secretary of State, *Arizona/US Constitution* (preferably 2008 edition or later)

About the course

This course explores the government of Arizona using the state constitution as the focus. There are many 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, and other important issues. (2) Arizona is a “direct democracy” state and demands a lot of voters. (Think of all those ballot propositions!) This course will help you make more informed choices. (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, etc.) have added reason to understand a government with major impact on their career. POS 221 is intended for citizens, scholars, and public employees; there are no prerequisites.

Class policies

- This 6-week class moves very quickly. Expect to spend roughly 3 hours per week outside of class on course prep. Regular attendance is strongly encouraged (there are no make-ups for missed reading quizzes).
- Late work will be accepted with a 15% grade deduction. Unless there are *very* special circumstances, late work must be submitted within 1 week of the due date.
- **Your own words please!** All written work must be in your own words 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.
- Please keep a copy of all your work until the end of the course as insurance against loss by you or me.
- Let me know if you have any special needs that require accommodation and please make the appropriate arrangements with the College's Disability 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

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

Study Guide Wiki

A collaborative study guide for the final exam will be available in BlackBoard. Everyone is strongly encouraged to contribute to it!

Grading

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

Assignments	Points
4 Reading Quizzes (5 points each)	20
Paper*	40
Final exam*	40
Total points * Required to pass course	100

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 will be posted on the class home page. These credits can be used to offset low grades or late penalties. They cannot be used as substitutes for the required (starred) assignments listed above.

Important dates

1/26	Reading quiz 1
2/2	Reading quiz 2
2/9	Reading quiz 3
2/18	Reading quiz 4
2/20	Paper Due
2/27	Final exam; last day to submit extra credit

Assignments

The following assignments should be *completed* on the date indicated below. “Ch” refers to the textbook, *Understanding the Arizona Constitution*. Read these pages carefully. “Const.” refers to the state constitution (just skim the assigned sections to get the gist).

W 1-21	Introduction: <i>Why do state constitutions matter? How are constitutions different from other laws?</i>
F 1-23	<i>What was Arizona’s territorial period like? Why did Arizona have such a difficult time achieving statehood? What is the Enabling Act & why does it still matter?</i> Read: Ch. 1 (skim quickly); Ch. 2, pp. 11–24
M 1-26	<i>Who were the Progressives? How did they shape Arizona’s Constitution? Why did Taft veto Arizona statehood? How did Arizona get the last word?</i> Read: Ch. 2, pp. 24–end; Const., art. 20 ** Reading Quiz 1
W 1-28	<i>What does the state legislature do? How are members elected? Is there a cure for gerrymandering? What makes it a “citizen legislature” and is this a good idea? Are the voters right about legislative pay?</i> Read: Ch. 3, pp. 33–46; Const., art. 4, pt. 2, §§ 1–8, 21; art. 5, § 12
F 1-30	<i>How is the Legislature organized? How does the lawmaking process work?</i> Read: Ch. 3, pp. 46–60; Const., art. 4, pt. 2 §§ 12, 19; art. 5, § 7
M 2-2	<i>How are your tax dollars allocated? How does the Legislature oversee the rest of state government?</i> Read: Ch. 3, pp. 61–end ** Reading Quiz 2
W 2-4	<i>What is direct democracy? How does the initiative process work? Is it a good thing?</i> Read: Ch. 4, pp. 71–80; Const., art. 4, pt. 1 § 1
F 2-6	<i>How do referenda work? Is the Voter Protection Act a good thing?</i> Read: Ch. 4, pp. 81–87
M 2-9	<i>How do recall and impeachment compare? Was Taft right about recall?</i> Ch. 4, pp. 87–end; ch. 3, pp. 66–68; Const., art. 8 ** Reading Quiz 3

W 2-11	<p><i>How does Arizona's "plural" executive branch differ from the federal executive branch? Which is the better design?</i></p> <p>Read: Ch. 5, pp. 91-102; Const., art. 5, §§ 1-7</p>
F 2-13	<p><i>What powers does the governor possess? How are those powers limited? Does the governor have enough power to effectively govern?</i></p> <p>Read: Ch. 5, pp. 102-111</p>
M 2-16	No class (Presidents Day)
W 2-18	<p><i>What do the other elected executive branch officials do? Does Arizona need a lieutenant governor? Why is the Corporation Commission important?</i></p> <p>Read: Ch. 5, pp. 111-end</p> <p>** Reading quiz 4</p>
F 2-20	<p><i>How do judges "make law"?</i></p> <p>Read: Ch. 6, pp. 117-127; Const. art. 6, §§ 1, 27</p> <p>**Paper due</p>
M 2-23	<p><i>How are Arizona judges chosen, retained, and removed? Is Merit Selection a good system?</i></p> <p>Read: Ch. 6, pp. 128-132</p>
W 2-25	<p><i>How are criminal cases different from civil cases?</i></p> <p>Read Ch. 6 pp. 132-end; Const. art. 2, § 31; art. 18, §§ 5-6</p>
F 2-27	** Final exam; last day to submit extra credit