

ARIZONA CONSTITUTION eCOURSE SYLLABUS

Glendale Community College • Spring 2009 • POS 221 Sections 22312 and 47243

Contact information

Instructor: Toni McClory
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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: BlackBoard: <https://blackboard.maricopa.edu/webapps/login/>
Emergency: (only if Blackboard is down) <http://web.gccaz.edu/~tmccclory/Azonline/AZonline.htm>

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 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 which demands a lot of voters. (Think of all those ballot propositions!) This course will help you make more informed political 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 (e.g., teachers, firefighters) have added reason to understand a government that has major impact on their career. POS 221 is intended for citizens, scholars, and public employees; there are no prerequisites.

MCCCD Official Course Description:

Special note to eCourse students: Because this 6-week class moves quickly, and a significant amount of reading is involved, this online format is recommended only for students with good study habits and solid computer skills.

Class policies

Please consult the [GCC College Handbook](#) and the [MCCCD Student Guide](#) to learn more about your rights and **responsibilities** as a student at GCC. Please pay special attention to the rules/penalties for plagiarism. *All written submissions must be in your own words and syntax!*

Grading

Required assignments	Maximum Points
<p>5 weekly contributions to the Discussion Board (5 points each)</p> <p>The discussion is an important part of this course. It is intended to simulate and improve upon the traditional class experience. In essence, you will be co-teachers, sharing your knowledge and insight. To accomplish this I'm expecting you to put some time and effort into this activity. Don't post until you have completed most of the assigned weekly readings. Please read what your classmates have to say. And feel free to respond to your classmates' comments as often as you like to make this a true discussion. Full-credit (5-point) posts will do some or all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• demonstrate that you have read the assigned materials;• draw upon your own background or experience;• react to the posts of others;• raise new questions or issues <p>(5 points per week with deductions for insubstantial and/or untimely posts)</p>	25
5 open book quizzes (first quiz = 5 points; remainder = 10)	45
Final exam (online)	30
Total points	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 will be considered in borderline cases.

Extra credit

If you want to enrich your learning experience, or simply improve your grade, you can earn up to 10 additional points by completing one or more of the posted extra credit assignments.