
Calumet College

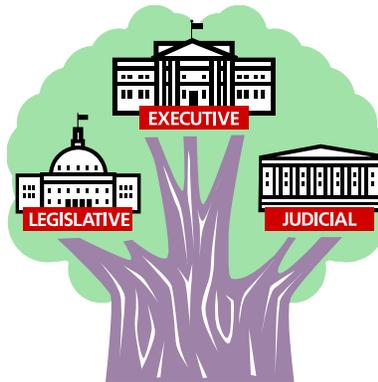


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Thomas Jefferson stated, "Freedom is lost gradually from an uninterested, uninformed, and uninvolved people."

Prejudices are rarely overcome by argument; not being found in reason they cannot be destroyed by logic – Tryon Edwards



AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM I
SYLLABUS – PLSC 220

Term: Fall (2020-1) (August 24 – December 11)

Professor: Dr. Tina Ebenger

Office: 510

Office Phone: 473-4392; Cell: 937-369-8318

E-mail: tebenger@ccsj.edu (office)

INSTRUCTOR BACKGROUND: Dr. Ebenger obtained her Ph.D. in Political Science in 2004 from the University of Cincinnati. Her research interests include voting, civil rights and civil liberties, the Supreme Court and social diversity issues

Office Hours:

**Monday – 11:00 – 12:00; (class 12:00 – 1:30; 1:45 – 3:15;
Monday only 7:00 – 10:00); 3:30 – 6:00**

Wednesday – 11:00 – 12:00; (class 12:00 – 1:30; 1:45 – 3:15) 3:30 – 5:00

Thursday – 11:00 – 12:00; 2:00 – 4:00 OR BY APPOINTMENT

Course Time: Monday and Wednesday, 12:00 – 1:30

Course Delivery Method: In Person, Face-to-Face

Course Description:

Students are introduced to the basic concepts for the study of political life in terms of the structure and functions of the American political system. Students will examine the Constitution and its development, the changing nature of federalism, a study of the popular control of government, and the structure and functions of the national government.

General Education Objectives:

1. Students will read analytically, synthetically, and critically in a variety of genres.
2. Students will write in a variety of forms using valid logic, persuasive rhetoric, and correct grammar, usage, and punctuation.
3. Students will represent, apply, analyze, and evaluate relevant qualitative and quantitative mathematical and scientific evidence (i.e. equations, graphs, diagrams, tables, words) to support or refute an argument.
4. Students will be able to apply ethical standards to social issues and analyze their own core beliefs and the origin of these beliefs.

Social Science and Political Science Learning Objectives:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical patterns, or historical contexts within a given social or behavioral domain.
 - a. To understand American political institutions and their roles within the American political system.
 - b. To understand how political parties, interest groups, the media, and public opinion affect executive, legislative, and judicial decisions.
2. Identify the strengths and weaknesses of contending explanations or interpretations for social, behavioral, or historical phenomena.
 - a. To evaluate American institutions, processes, and policies based upon informed understanding and critical analyses.
3. Demonstrate basic literacy, in social, behavioral, or historical research methods and analyses.

4. Evaluate evidence supporting conclusions about the behavior of individuals, groups, institutions, or organizations.
5. Recognize the extent and impact of diversity among individuals, cultures, or societies in contemporary or historical contexts.
 - a. To understand the lack of diversity in American government and its impact on policy.
6. Identify examples of how social, behavioral, or historical knowledge informs and can shape personal, ethical, civic, or global decisions and responsibilities.
 - a. To understand how history has shaped policy decisions.

Textbooks: *Clued in to Politics: A Critical Thinking Reader in American Government*, Christine Barbour & Matthew J. Streb, Editors, 4th Edition, 2014.

Additional Readings Distributed in Class

Assessment:

Issue Papers (6; 5 pts. each)	30
Exams: 2 (30pts each)	60
Attendance	<u>10</u>
	100

Class Assignments:

There are **six (6)** writing assignments due for this class. At the end of each reading selection in ***Clued***, there are a series of questions. Of the assigned readings, I have picked **six (6)** for the students to read and answer the questions. The papers should be 1-2 pages in length, typed, double-spaced and are due the date they are assigned in class. Rubrics will be included for each assignment (although each rubric is the same).

Exams:

There are two exams in this class: **Wednesday, October 14, 2020** and the final exam on **Wednesday, December 9, 2020**. The exams will be a combination of short answer (definitions) and essay questions.

Grading Scale:

Grade	Points	Grade	Points	Grade	Points	Grade	Points
A	100-92	B+	89-88	C+	79-78	D+	69-68
A-	91-90	B	87-82	C	77-72	D	67-62
F	59 and below	B-	81-80	C-	71-70	D-	61-60

Student Responsibilities

<p>Safety Measures</p>	<p>The safety of our College Family in this unprecedented time is our primary concern. Following guidelines presented by the Centers of Disease Control (CDC), the Indiana Health Department, and best practices among other institutions of higher education, we are requiring the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face coverings in all indoor public spaces, including classrooms, the library, the Tutoring Center, and faculty offices. • Daily self-monitoring. If you have a temperature of 100.4 or higher, or any symptoms of COVID-19 – fever or chills, a cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, or nausea or vomiting – stay home and consult the class policy for staying on track. • Disinfect your personal space using the materials provided when you enter the classroom. • Maintain physical distancing of at least six feet within classrooms and other common spaces.
<p>Attending Class</p>	<p>You cannot succeed in this class if you do not attend. We believe that intellectual growth and success in higher education occur through interaction in the classroom and laboratories. Being absent doesn't excuse you from doing class work; you have more responsibilities to keep up and meet the objectives of this course.</p> <p>Each student starts with 100 points for attendance, however, deductions will be taken for missed class (5 points), late to class (5 points), sleeping in class (5 points), leaving during class (5 points) and being on your phone during class (5 points, up to 50 points for each infraction during each class.)</p>
<p>Turning In Your Work</p>	<p>You cannot succeed in this class if you do not turn in all your work when due.</p>
<p>Meeting Standards for Classroom Behavior</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use all the class time. Come to class on time and stay in class until the end. Coming late, leaving early, and getting up during class disrupts the class and disrespects others. • Come prepared. Bring your texts, be prepared to take notes, and be able to demonstrate that you have completed the assignments for the day through your participation in class. • Respect others. Listen when your classmates and the instructor are speaking. Think about their contributions. Respond appropriately. • Use electronic devices only for class purposes. Engage with your classmates and the instructor without technological distractions. • It is expected that ALL phones will be kept in your purse/backpack throughout the class. The only exception is

	when you are expecting an important call but even then it must be cleared by the professor.
CCSJ Student Honor Code	<p>This course asks students to reaffirm the CCSJ Student Honor Code: I, as a student member of the Calumet College academic community, in accordance with the college's mission and in a spirit of mutual respect, pledge to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuously embrace honesty and curiosity in the pursuit of my educational goals; • Avoid all behaviors that could impede or distract from the academic progress of myself or other members of my community; • Do my own work with integrity at all times, in accordance with syllabi, and without giving or receiving inappropriate aid; • Do my utmost to act with commitment, inside and outside of class, to the goals and mission of Calumet College of St. Joseph.
Doing Your Own Work	<p>If you turn in work that is not your own, you will be subject to judicial review by the Faculty-Student Grievance Committee. These procedures can be found in the Student Planner. The maximum penalty for any form of academic dishonesty is dismissal from the College.</p> <p>Using standard citation guidelines to document sources avoids plagiarism. You'll find guides to the major citation methods at the CCSJ Specker Library Web page at http://www.ccsj.edu/library/subjectsplus/subjects/guide.php?subject=cite</p> <p>PLEASE NOTE: All papers may be electronically checked for plagiarism.</p>
Sharing Your Class Experience	Your voice matters! At the end of the term, you will have the opportunity to evaluate your classroom experience. These confidential surveys are essential to our ongoing efforts to ensure that you have a great experience that leaves you well prepared for your future. Take the time to complete your course evaluations – we value your feedback!
Withdrawing from Class	After the last day established for class changes has passed (see the College calendar in the CCSJ Course Catalog), you may withdraw from a course by following the policy outlined in the Course Catalog.

Resources	
CCSJ Book Rental Program	The CCSJ Book Program ensures that everyone has the right course materials on the first day of class to be successful. You pay a book rental fee each semester, and in return, receive all the materials for all your classes prior to the beginning of classes. At the end of the semester, simply return the books.

	<p>For traditional students, the Book Rental Program is conveniently located in the library, where students can pick up and return their books. For students in accelerated programs and graduate programs, books will be delivered to their homes and they can return them by mail. For more information, see http://www.ccsj.edu/bookstore. All books must be returned at the end of the semester or you will incur additional fees, which will be charged to your student account.</p>
Student Success Center	<p>The Student Success Center provides faculty tutors at all levels to help you master specific subjects and develop effective learning skills. It is open to all students at no charge. You can contact the Student Success Center at 219 473-4287 or stop by the Library. In addition, you can access online tutoring at Tutor.com. See the link within the Blackboard course.</p>
Disability Services	<p>Disability Services strives to meet the needs of all students by providing academic services in accordance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines. If you believe that you need a "reasonable accommodation" because of a disability, contact the Disability Services Coordinator at 219-473-4349.</p>
Student Assistance Program	<p>Through a partnership with Crown Counseling, Calumet College of St. Joseph provides a free Student Assistance Program (SAP) to current students. The SAP is a confidential counseling service provided to students for personal and school concerns which may be interfering with academic performance and/or quality of life. The SAP counselor is available on campus once a week and off-site at the Crown Counseling offices in Crown Point or Hammond. For more information, contact Kerry Knowles SAP Counselor, at 219-663-6353 (office), 219-413-3702 (cell), or kerryk@crowncounseling.org.</p>
CCSJ Alerts	<p>Calumet College of St. Joseph's emergency communications system will tell you about emergencies, weather-related closings, or other incidents via text, email, or voice messages. Please sign up for this important service annually on the College's website at: http://www.ccsj.edu/alerts/index.html.</p>

SCHEDULE OF READINGS:

Month/Week	Class Date	Topics and Reading Assignments
August		
1st	Monday, August 24	Introduction, overview of class
	Wednesday, August 26	American political culture Clued: pp. 1-3, 15-16, 2.1 Video: I Have a Dream - MLK Clued: 43-44; 3.5
2nd	Monday, August 31	Immigration Clued: 3.1 Video: Legal Immigration: Last Week Tonight with John Oliver https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXgnRMU1fTs
September		
	Wednesday, September 2	The Constitution Video – US Constitution
3rd	Monday, September 7	NO CLASS – LABOR DAY
	Wednesday, September 9	The Constitution, cont'd <i>"The Constitution, Articles I – VII"</i>
4th	Monday, September 14	The Constitution, cont'd <i>"The Constitution, Articles I – VII", cont'd</i>
	Wednesday, September 16	Federalism Clued: pp. 67-68 Video – The US Federal System
5th	Monday, September 21	Federalism, cont'd Clued: 4.4
	Wednesday, September 23	Public Opinion Clued: pp. 217-218; 11.3 and 11.5 <u>Paper due 11.3 (1)</u>
6th	Monday, September 28	Political Socialization <i>"Ideologies and Public Opinion"</i>
	Wednesday, September 30	Political participation Clued: pp. 305-306; 14.2

Month/Week	Class Date	Topics and Reading Assignments
October		
7th	Monday, October 5	Political participation, cont'd "Does Low Youth Turnout Really Matter?" <u>Paper due (2) 5 Paragraph Theme</u>
	Wednesday, October 7	Political Parties Clued: pp. 251-252 Video: Ideologies of political parties in the United States https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4_ss4WEN3ZI
8th	Monday, October 12	Review For Mid-Term Exam
	Wednesday, October 14	MID-TERM EXAM
9th	Monday, October 19	Interest Groups Clued: pp. 275-276
	Wednesday, October 21	Interest Groups, cont'd Clued: 13.4 <i>Federalist Paper #10</i>
10th	Monday, October 26	The Media Clued: pp. 321-322, 15.6
	Wednesday, October 28	The Media Computer Lab Assignment <u>Paper Due 15.6 (3)</u>
November		
11th	Monday, November 2	The Congress Clued: pp. 119-120; 7.1 and 7.2 You Tube Video: Crash Course https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n9defOwVWS8
	Wednesday, November 4	The Presidency Film: Lincoln

Month/Week	Class Date	Topics and Reading Assignments
12th	Monday, November 9	The Presidency Film: Lincoln, cont'd
	Wednesday, November 11	The Judiciary Clued: p. 179-180 and 10.5
13th	Monday, November 16	The Judiciary, cont'd <u>Paper Due 10.5 (4)</u>
	Wednesday, November 18	Civil Liberties Clued: p. 81-82
14th	Monday, November 23	Fall Break
	Wednesday, November 25	Fall Break
15th	Monday, November 30	Civil Liberties, cont'd Clued: 5.1 and 5.2 "Supreme Court Upholds..." <u>Paper Due (5)</u>
December		
	Wednesday, December 2	Civil Rights Clued: 95-96 and 6.1
16th	Monday, December 7	Wrap-Up Review for Final Exam <u>Paper Due 6.1 (6)</u>
	Wednesday, December 9	FINAL EXAM