PLSI 101 (Fall 2004)
American Government and Politics (5 units)
Tuesday & Thursday, 10:30am – 12:35pm (CRN: 44079);
Location: BDC, Room B156
Tuesday & Thursday, 3:30pm – 5:35pm (CRN: 44197)
Location: CB 104

Instructor: Dr. Dominique Apollon
Department of Political Science
California State University, Bakersfield
Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays, 2:30pm – 4:30pm, or by appt.
Office location: BDC, Room A252
Office phone: 661-665-6340
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Course Objectives
In keeping with the program objectives of the Department of Political Science, this course aims to provide students with the kinds of information they will need to function as effective citizens. Lectures, reading materials, class discussions, assignments, and examinations are primarily designed to help students:

- Develop an understanding of the American political system, institutions, and values; and
- Think critically about how our political system, institutions, and values have influenced and continue to influence their lives, the lives of others from different social, economic, cultural, and political backgrounds, and vice versa

Requirements & Expectations
Textbook: Ginsberg, Lowi, & Weir, *We the People – An Introduction to American Politics, 4th edition* (2003) is available for purchase in the campus bookstore. I will also from time to time assign additional required readings from the *We the People* appendices, online articles, or other outside sources. These readings will be announced during class, and you are responsible for obtaining the assignment from a classmate when absent. You are expected to keep up with the reading, and to regularly attend lectures, which will include material that is not in the textbook, but that you will be responsible for on examinations.

Academic dishonesty (cheating or plagiarism) will not be tolerated, and will at minimum result in a final course grade of “F”. Please review the relevant pages in the university catalogue.

Students with professionally verified disabilities are encouraged to contact the CSUB Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) about procedures for acquiring accommodation for examinations, and to talk to the instructor as soon as possible. “Blue
Card” forms for accommodation requests will not be accepted less than a week before the relevant midterm or final exam.

**Grading**

25% - Midterm #1 – Tues. Oct. 5
25% - Midterm #2 – Tues. Oct. 26
50% - Final Exam (comprehensive) – Tues. Nov. 30

Make-up exams will only be granted at the instructor’s discretion in rare, documented circumstances.

Students who wish to complete one-point extra credit writing assignments (2-3 pages) for up to two total points of their final grade must meet individually with the instructor to choose from a short list of assigned topics. No extra credit assignments will be accepted after **Saturday, November 27, 2004**.

**Course Outline**

Sect. 1 – Political Culture (Sept. 16)
  Ch. 1
Sect. 2 – The Founding, Constitution, and Federalism (Sept. 21, 23)
  Ch. 2, 3
Sect. 3 – Civil Liberties, Civil Rights, and the Courts (Sept. 28, 30)
  Ch. 4, 5, 15

**Midterm #1** – Tuesday, Oct. 5

Sect. 4 – Public Opinion, the Media, and Public Participation (Oct. 7, 12, 14)
  Ch. 6, 7, 8
Sect. 5 – Political Parties, Campaigns & Elections (Oct. 19, 21)
  Ch. 9, 10

**Midterm #2** – Tuesday, Oct. 26

Sect. 6 – Interest Groups, Congress, and the Presidency (Nov. 2, 4, 9)
  Ch. 11, 12, 13
Sect. 7 – Foreign Policy, Social Policy, and Course Review (Nov. 16, 18, 23)
  Ch. 18, 17

**Final Exam (comprehensive)** – Tuesday, November 30
  11:00am – 1:30pm (CRN: 44079);
  5:00pm – 7:30pm (CRN: 44197)