PLSI 101 (Spring 2006)
American Government and Politics (5 units)
Tue & Thur 10:30am – 12:35pm (CRN: 23082)
Location: SCI 180

Professor: Dr. Dominique Apollon
Department of Political Science
California State University, Bakersfield
Office Hours: Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 1pm – 3pm; or by appt.
Office location: BDC, Room A252
Office phone: 661-654-6340
FAX: 661-654-6075
Email: Whenever possible, please use our WebCT course page to contact me. Otherwise, you may e-mail me at dapollon@csub.edu

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: Karen O’Connor & Larry J. Sabato, Essentials of American Government – Continuity and Change - 2006 Edition (0-321-27623-x) is available for purchase in the campus bookstore. If the cost is prohibitive, you may find a used edition of the Essentials text useful, however, you will be responsible for monitoring the differences with the 2006 edition, which shall be placed on reserve at the Walter Stiern Library. I will also from time to time assign additional required readings from the textbook’s appendices, online articles, or other outside sources. These readings will be announced during class and on our WebCT course page, and you are responsible for obtaining the assignments 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.
Course Outline  (additional readings to be announced in class)

SECTION ONE
- Introduction; American Political Landscape (March. 28, 30) - Ch. 1
- The Founding, U.S. Constitution, (April 4, 6) - Ch. 2
- Federalism and California Politics (April 11, 13) - Ch. 3
- Section One Wrap-up and Review (April 18)
EXAM #1 (April 20)

SECTION TWO
- The Judicial Branch & Civil Liberties (April 25, 27) - Ch. 9, 4
- Civil Rights; Public Opinion & News Media (May 2, 4) - Ch. 5, 10
- Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Elections (May 9, 11) – Ch. 11, 12
EXAM #2 (May 16)

SECTION THREE
- Legislative and Executive Branches; Social and Foreign Policy (May 18, 23, 25, 30) – Ch. 6, 7; 8, 13, 14 (selections)
- Section Three Wrap-Up and Final Exam Review (June 1)

EXAM #3 (Final – comprehensive) – Tuesday, June 6th

Evaluation (20% = Homework/Class Exercises; 80% = Examinations)
There are three exams in this class, consisting of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, matching, short answer identifications, and short essays. I will drop your lowest grade of the three exams (Final exam policy to be discussed in class). Therefore, the remaining exams will each count for 40% of your final course grade.

THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS – NO EXCEPTIONS.
Exam #1 – Tuesday, April 20th
Exam #2 – Tuesday, May 16th
Exam #3 – Tuesday, June 6th (Final Exam/Paper due)

Some Other Important Dates for Spring Quarter 2006
Last Day to:
- Add Courses – Tue, April 4
- Apply for June Commencement – Fri, April 7
- Withdraw from Classes w/o a “W” – Mon, April 17
- Withdraw from Classes for a Serious/Compelling Reason – Mon, May 15