COURSE SYLLABUS

PSC 101 -- FALL 2014

Course Title and Section: Political Science 101 (IAI: S5900)

Length of Course: 16 Weeks

Credit Hours: 3

Contact Hours: 48

Class Meeting Times: Tues/Thurs 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Room: 3357

INSTRUCTOR: Patrick T. Deane J.D., LL.M.

E-MAIL: pdeane@ssc.edu OFFICE: 3427 PHONE: 708-596-2000 x2538

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays/Thursdays -- 7:00 a.m. to 7:50 a.m. (Virtual/Online office hour -- During this time, please contact me via e-mail at pdeane@ssc.edu)
Tuesdays/Thursdays -- 9:45 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Course Description: A college transfer course; consult the Transfer Center for more details. Political power, its application, location, impact; demands on decision makers, their forms and sources; conversion process, congress, presidency, bureaucracy and courts; outputs, policies, implementation, court decisions.

Course Prerequisites: None

Required Texts and Materials:

GOVERNMENT IN AMERICA BY EDWARDS (2012 ELECTION EDITION ED)
9780205865611 16TH 2014 $144.25

Here is the link for the SSC Book Store Price List:
**Course Objectives:** The study of political science is very much like the study of law. In fact, so much of politics is governed by the law. Moreover, much like the study of law, political science is very analytical and issue driven. What this all means to you in this course is that you must come to class prepared to discuss the assigned materials and chapters.

As an example, I will utilize an analogy from the real world regarding practicing lawyers and politicians. The best lawyers and politicians in the real world do the following 3 basic steps with any legal or political dilemma that comes their way:

1. They know the law and the political principles involved in their issue. This means they have a solid understanding of the law and political principles that will govern the situation. This does not mean they know all of the law or all of the political ramifications (that is an impossible standard). This step is related to you in this course in that you will walk into class having studied the course materials and political principles assign for that day.

2. They apply the law and the given politics to the facts. Knowing the law and political principles as described in step 1 above, the lawyer and/or politician now takes the facts and applies the law and applicable political principles to the facts. Most of the time, the applicable players in the situation have already "made" the facts. The lawyer or politician's job is to apply the appropriate law or political principles to the facts. This step is related to you in this course in that you will be prepared to discuss the law and/or political principles as they relate to the facts presented in either a case, course problem, or other instructor provided scenario.

3. They draw a conclusion. Lawyers and politicians in the real world are paid (sometimes handsomely) to solve their constituent's problem(s). By applying the law and the applicable political principles to the facts, the lawyer and/or politician attempts to solve the problem by drawing a conclusion and giving their constituent a definitive solution and/or recommendation. This final step is related to you in this course in that you will be prepared to draw a final conclusion after discussing the law and/or political principles as they relate to the facts presented in either a case, course problem, or other instructor provided scenario.

Quite often, a student will ask "how does one do well on the exams in this course?" The above 3 steps are always my recommendation to such a student. Over the years, I have noted that past students who have done well in this course have invariably followed the above 3 steps for each exam. In fact, some of those past students are practicing lawyers.

If you do all of the above (in addition to following the Instructor's Expectations section provided below in this Course Syllabus), you are giving yourself the best chance to succeed in this course.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

A. Have a basic understanding of democracy and what it means to us today.

B. Have a general knowledge of the United States constitution and of what is meant by "living" constitutions.

C. Be aware of ways to participate in government through public opinion, interest groups, political parties, and the media.
D. Know the three cornerstones of American government: legislative, executive, and judicial, and the roles that each plays.

E. Be informed of one’s rights and the “due process.”

F. Recognize the progress that minorities have made in reaching equality.

G. Identify potential problems in order to help our elected officials to find solutions.

H. Be able to define systems of government used around the world.

I. Be able to relate theories of government.

**Method of Instruction:** Lecture, case studies, problem studies, class discussion and student centered analytical discussions.

**Definition / Statement of Active Pursuit of the Course:**

ATTENDANCE AND LACK OF TARDINESS -- Attendance and lack of tardiness is mandatory. During each class, the instructor will either call roll at the beginning of the class or circulate an attendance list for your signature. If an attendance list is circulated, it is your responsibility to sign the attendance list. Furthermore, tardiness is disruptive to the learning environment and will not be tolerated. If you are tardy, it is your responsibility to notify the instructor of your tardiness at the end of the class period for which you were tardy. “Tardiness” is defined as not being in your seat and ready to participate when the instructor calls your name during roll call. In the event the instructor elects to take attendance by circulating an attendance list, “tardiness” is defined as not being in your seat and ready to participate when class starts.

PARTICIPATION -- You are expected to be prepared to answer when called upon in class. Also, as the semester progress, you are expected to be actively participating in the course and class discussions. Simply showing up for exams and/or other class assignments does not qualify as actively participating in the course and will not be reported to the college as active participation in the course.

INSTRUCTORS EXPECTATIONS --

1) Treat this course as if it were your job.

2) Attendance and participation are mandatory and essential. Any unexcused absences over four will result in a letter grade reduction in your final course grade as follows:

   - 0 to 4 unexcused absences will result in a 0 POINT (no letter grade) reduction from your total points earned for the course
   - 5 to 6 unexcused absences will result in a 40 POINT (1 letter grade) reduction from your total points earned for the course
   - 7 to 8 unexcused absences will result in a 80 POINT (2 letter grade) reduction from your total points earned for the course
9 to 10 unexcused absences will result in a 120 POINT (3 letter grade) reduction from your total points earned for the course

11 or more unexcused absences will result in a 160 POINT (4 letter grade) reduction from your total points earned for the course

Obviously, excess unexcused absences will affect your final grade in the course. Absences and participation will be considered in determining your final grade as outlined herein.

3) Tardiness is unacceptable. It conveys lack of respect for your fellow students and the instructor. If you arrive more than 10 minutes late, it will be counted as an unexcused absence. *If you are late for class, come in and make sure I have counted you present when class is over.* It is your responsibility to follow-up with me at the end of the class period on the day you are tardy. Otherwise, you will be counted absent. *If you arrive more than 10 minutes late FOR AN EXAM, you will not be allowed to take the exam and your score will be recorded as a zero on that exam.* Furthermore, any unexcused tardiness over four will result in a letter grade reduction in your final course grade as follows:

- 0 to 4 unexcused tardiness will result in a 0 POINT (no letter grade) reduction from your total points earned for the course
- 5 to 6 unexcused tardiness will result in a 40 POINT (1 letter grade) reduction from your total points earned for the course
- 7 to 8 unexcused tardiness will result in a 80 POINT (2 letter grade) reduction from your total points earned for the course
- 9 to 10 unexcused tardiness will result in a 120 POINT (3 letter grade) reduction from your total points earned for the course
- 11 or more unexcused tardiness will result in a 160 POINT (4 letter grade) reduction from your total points earned for the course

4) Plagiarism/cheating will not be tolerated and will result in an immediate grade of F for the course and written documentation will be made to the appropriate school officials. This F cannot be changed to a grade of W if you attempt to withdraw.

5) Keep up with the reading assignments and take lecture notes. You can't contribute to classroom discussion or participate in activities if you don't know what we are talking about. Classroom discussion and/or participation in activities will be an important part of the learning process and also an important part of your final grade. It will be expected by the instructor that you have read the material for the specific class *before the class* and that you are prepared to discuss the material in an intelligent manner.

6) You must bring your textbook and lecture notes to each class session.
7) Be respectful of your fellow students. Refrain from talking, fiddling with books, backpacks or briefcases during class. In other words, extend everyone the same courtesies you expect for yourself.

8) If you are having difficulty with the subject matter, it is your responsibility to contact the instructor for help.

9) Late assignments will not tolerated and any late assignments will NOT be accepted or graded in this class.

10) The Academic Code of Conduct, the Student Code of Conduct and the Violence and Threats of Violence Code will be in force in this class and those codes are hereby incorporated into this Syllabus by reference. The Academic Code of Conduct can be found in the latest issue of the college catalog.

11) Electronic Communications -- As a courtesy to your classmates and your instructor, please refrain from text messaging, checking email, or answering your cell phone during class time. Depending on the length of the class breaks are provided throughout the course so you can attend to personal matters. Using your personal electronic devices during class time distracts and detracts from communication and collaboration among participants as well as the instructor. If you have an emergency or justifiable reason to leave your cell phone turned on during class time, please make arrangements with the instructor prior to class commencing.

12) You are responsible for all material in the book in the chapters covered in this course as well as all material covered in class and all this material is considered fair game for a quiz or examination.

13) Office of Services for Students with Disabilities -- If you utilize the services of this Office, you must please see me privately as soon as possible so that you and I can make sure all of the necessary accommodations are in place well before any assignment or exam due dates.

**Academic Integrity:** South Suburban College is committed to the ideals of truth and honesty. In view of this, students are expected to adhere to high standards of honesty in their academic endeavor. Plagiarism and cheating of any kind are serious violations of these standards and will result, minimally, in the course grade of “F’ by the instructor.

Furthermore, the terms and provisions of the current South Suburban College Catalog are hereby incorporated by reference into this course outline and made a part of this document. Specifically, the terms and provisions of the Student Codes of Conduct contained in the current South Suburban College Catalog are hereby incorporated by reference into this course outline and made a part of this document. Please familiarize yourself with the Student Codes of Conduct and adhere to them at all times.

**Student Conduct:** South Suburban College students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner which is considerate of the rights of others and which will not impair the educational mission of the College. Misconduct for which students are subject to College Discipline (e.g. expulsion) may include the following: (1) all forms of dishonesty such as stealing, forgery, (2) obstruction or disruption of teaching, research, administration, disciplinary proceeding, (3) physical or verbal abuse, threats, intimidation, harassment, and/or other conduct that threatens
or endangers the health or safety of any person, and (4) carrying or possession of weapons, ammunition or other explosives.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES:

Services for Students with Disability Office: South Suburban College complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Any student who believes that an accommodation is necessary shall utilize the process set forth in the South Suburban College Catalog. The Services for Students with Disability Office is located in room 2268.

Academic Assistance Center: This center is designed to provide assistance to students in achieving success in coursework through a variety of instructional services that includes individual and group tutoring. It is located in Room 2264 on the Main Campus.

Writing Center: South Suburban College’s Writing Center provides expert tutorial assistance for our students by our English faculty. Students can receive services in planning a draft, revision, editing/proofreading and more. To schedule an appointment, students can call (708) 596-2000 ext. 2336. Visit Room 3234 for a Walk-in session (first come, first serve availability).

South Suburban Library: The library is a central service area for books, periodicals, audiovisual materials, subscription databases, and online resources that support the research and informational needs of students. The Library is located in room 1249.

Child Care: Contact the Child Development Center (CDC), Room L233, ext. 2210 for assistance with your on-campus child care needs.

USEFUL WEB LINKS

Findlaw -- www.findlaw.com
Illinois Courts -- www.state.il.us/court
Oyez.org -- www.oyez.org

GRADING AND TESTING

You will be given 6 examinations during the course of this semester. Each examination is worth 100 points as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examination</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EXAMINATION 1</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXAMINATION 2</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXAMINATION 3</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXAMINATION 4</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXAMINATION 5</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXAMINATION 6</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The grading scale used to determine your grade on each examination is:

90 TO 100 TOTAL POINTS = A  
80 TO 89 TOTAL POINTS = B  
70 TO 79 TOTAL POINTS = C  
60 TO 69 TOTAL POINTS = D  
0 TO 59 TOTAL POINTS = F

However, in consideration of the no make-up exam policy identified below and/or if you happen to have a bad exam, I will drop your lowest exam score. Therefore, the grading scale used to determine your final course grade is:

450 TO 500 TOTAL POINTS = A  
400 TO 449 TOTAL POINTS = B  
350 TO 399 TOTAL POINTS = C  
300 TO 349 TOTAL POINTS = D  
0 TO 299 TOTAL POINTS = F

NO MAKE-UP EXAMS COURSE POLICY: You must be in attendance at the time each examination is scheduled. **ABSOLUTELY NO MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS WILL BE ALLOWED!** If you miss a scheduled exam and/or are unable to complete your exam in a timely manner, that missed exam and/or uncompleted exam will count as the low exam grade I will drop at the end of the course when calculating your final exam grade. **CONSEQUENTLY, YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED A SECOND MAKE-UP ATTEMPT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE WHATSOEVER!** Please use this policy to your advantage and wisely during the course of this semester and save your dropped or missed exam to the end of the course.

In regard to the above mentioned examinations, each examination will contain multiple choice type questions and will be scantron graded. Also, in the instructor's sole discretion, writing and/or extra credit opportunities may be required or made available throughout the course of the semester. If you are not in attendance on the day such required writing assignments and/or extra credit opportunities are made available, you will not be allowed to participate in those required and/or optional opportunities.
CLASS ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMINATION SCHEDULE:

08/19/2014  INTRODUCTION TO COURSE
08/21/2014  START CHAPTER 1
08/26/2014  FINISH CHAPTER 1
08/28/2014  START CHAPTER 2
09/02/2014  FINISH CHAPTER 2
09/04/2014  EXAM 1
09/09/2014  REVIEW EXAM 1, START CHAPTER 3
09/11/2014  FINISH CHAPTER 3, START CHAPTER 4
09/16/2014  FINISH CHAPTER 4
09/18/2014  EXAM 2
09/23/2014  REVIEW EXAM 2, START CHAPTER 5
09/25/2014  FINISH CHAPTER 5
09/30/2014  START CHAPTER 6
10/02/2014  FINISH CHAPTER 6, START CHAPTER 7
10/07/2014  FINISH CHAPTER 7
10/09/2014  EXAM 3
10/14/2014  REVIEW EXAM 3, START CHAPTER 8
10/16/2014  FINISH CHAPTER 8
10/21/2014  START CHAPTER 9
10/23/2014  FINISH CHAPTER 9
10/28/2014  START CHAPTER 10
10/30/2014  FINISH CHAPTER 10
11/04/2014  EXAM 4
11/06/2014  NO CLASS -- MR. DEANE OFF CAMPUS
11/11/2014  NO CLASS – VETERAN’S DAY
11/13/2014  REVIEW EXAM 4, START CHAPTER 11
11/18/2014  FINISH CHAPTER 11, START CHAPTER 12
11/20/2014  FINISH CHAPTER 12
11/25/2014  EXAM 5
11/27/2014  NO CLASS -- THANKSGIVING
12/02/2014  REVIEW EXAM 5, CHAPTER 13
12/04/2014  CHAPTER 15
12/09/2014  EXAM 6 DURING FINALS WEEK
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXAM 1</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Subject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introducing Government in America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>The Constitution</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXAM 2</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Subject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Federalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Civil Liberties and Public Policy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXAM 3</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Subject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Civil Rights and Public Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Public Opinion and Political Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>The Mass Media and the Political Agenda</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXAM 4</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Subject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Political Parties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Campaigns and Voting Behavior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Interest Groups</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXAM 5</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Subject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>The Presidency</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXAM 6</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Subject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>The Budget: The Politics of Taxing and Spending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>The Federal Courts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>