**TRUCKEE MEADOWS COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**Social Science/Business Division/Political Science Department**

**\*\*\* You must notify me of any name changes due to marriages or divorces**

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 101 SPRING 2016**

**WEB-BASED**

**Principles of American Constitutional Government**



Constitutions of the United States and Nevada with additional attention to principles and current problems of government. Satisfies U.S. and Nevada Constitution requirements (3 credits)

**Professor: PAUL DAVIS, Ph.D.**

**Professor of Political Science**

**TMCC WebCollege**

**Professor of Political Science**

**Office: SIER 200-N TMCC Main Campus**

**Office Hours: 1 pm - 3:30 pm Monday and Wednesday and by appointment as well**

**Phone: (775) 673-7213**

**FAX: (775) 673-7176**

**E-mail: Use the mail system on the Angel website or if WebCollege is not working:** [**pdavis@tmcc.edu**](mailto:flokken@tmcc.edu)

**WEBCOLLEGE SUPPORT CENTER**

If you need any assistance with issues of a technical nature (can’t access the class, problems with username or password, Browser problems, difficulty attaching files, etc.), please use our technical support by calling:

(775)-673-7814 between 8:30am – 4:30pm (Mon-Fri)

There is also an extensive knowledge base of common problems/how to resolve. Visit: <http://webcollege.tmcc.edu> and click on “HELP”

**THE COURSE**

**Textbook:**  **Due to your professor being such a great guy and his strong dislike of book publishers, he will provide you free of charge all of the reading material necessary to complete the course. The complete reading materials are found in your modules.**

**Take all of the money you would have spent on textbooks and spend it on yourselves or your pets.**

**Dr. Davis**

**Objectives of the Course**:

1.     Students will critically analyze the structure and processes of American and Nevadan government. In particular, students should be familiar with and be able to analyze the constitutions of both systems, the political structures and processes established by each constitution, and the current principles and problems of state and national government.

2.     Students will analyze citizenship duties and the importance of effective involvement in politics.  Specifically, students will develop the skills and attitudes necessary to function effectively as responsible, ethical and contributing citizens of the community, state and nation.

3.     Students will competently read and write about contemporary issues of local and national governance.

**Outcomes of the Course:** 1. Students will be able to critically analyze the structure and processes of American and Nevadan government. In particular, students should be familiar with and be able to analyze the constitutions of both systems, the political structures and processes established by each constitution, and the current principles and problems of state and national government.

2. Students will be able to competently read and write about contemporary issues of local and national governance.

3. Student understandings of politics should include the knowledge of citizenship duties and the importance of effective involvement in politics. Specifically, students should develop the skills and attitudes necessary to function effectively as responsible, ethical and contributing citizens of the community, state and nation.

**Grading Policy**

**Grading/Examinations:**

**-**  1 Nevada test worth **50 points**.

**-** 12 textbook chapter quizzes with **13 points each.**

**-**  8 discussion post assignments worth **12 points each.**

**-**  1 research paper worth **100 points**.

**-**  1 acknowledgment of reading the syllabus within the first 3 days of class worth 0points.

**-**1 introduce yourself assignment within the first 3 days of class worth 0    points

Your performance will be evaluated as follows:

**Quiz specifics:**

-        All quizzes/tests will be conducted online (no requirement to come to campus)

-        Quizzes can be open-book/open-notes

-        Quizzes will be comprised of a mix of objective questions

-        Quiz question point values vary depending upon the topic area

-        Quiz questions will be randomized – each quiz will pull from a substantial list of questions (and select the questions randomly from that list).

-        The Nevada Test questions are derived from the appropriate web site for the online content that is provided for Nevada.

-        If you have a question about a quiz question, you will need to cut/paste that question into private mail (I have no way of knowing your question order)

-        All quizzes are open from the 1st day of class until the last day of class – the syllabus offers a recommended pacing, but you can fall behind or work ahead on quizzes.

Final Grade Scale**: \*\*\*There Is No Extra Credit Available for this course!**

**A = 360-402**

**B = 320-359**

**C = 280-319**

**D = 240-279**

**F =      0-239 -** it is the student’s responsibility to withdraw from the course

before the semester deadline .

obtain a “W”.  **The last day to withdraw is Wednesday April 5th. 2016.**

**If you have a question about a quiz question, you will need to cut/paste that question into private mail (I have no way of knowing your question order).**

**Remember**: Your quizzes may be taken anytime throughout the course. The discussion posts do have written deadline

***\*\*\*Please be aware that this syllabus and the requirements of the class may be changed at any time during the semester at the discretion of the professor.***

**Academic Dishonesty will not be tolerated; this course assumes mature and responsible behavior on your part. Any documented academic dishonesty on quizzes, research exercises and/or the bulletin board will result in a grade of "F" for the course. YOU are taking this class, not your friends or family members. Please ensure that it is YOUR work I am evaluating.**

**Typical Week/Coursework:** Each week, you will have chapter(s) to read. After you have read the relevant chapter for that week, you can check out related online content. Then, take the appropriate quiz. You will also participate in the class discussion. And don’t forget the writing assignments. Let me know if you have any questions. I strongly suggest that you follow the **suggested weekly assignment schedule.**

**Faculty Class Check-in Practices:** I will normally check into the class at least once a day to respond to questions you may have. I suggest contacting me using the web email system for your specific course.

**Discussion Forum Topics:** This semester you will be required to post comments to the course Discussion Forum Topics – 8 substantive entries required = 10 points maximum each which equals 80 points total possible. This is a "threaded discussion" and will be geared to a specific topic. You have the option to respond to other students if you wish. It is not required to do so. To be counted, entries must be “substantive” (The minimum is 1 full page in length (250 words). \*\*All Discussion Forum Topics are due no later than Sunday evening at 11pm of the due date assigned. **Any late assignments will be reduced by a minimum of 50% after that time and date.** **No attachments are accepted! It is your responsibility to make sure that you have sent the discussion posts probably and that the Instructor has received them. It must be showing on the discussion board after you have sent them. You do NOT need to respond to other students but you may do so if you are so inclined. It is strictly voluntary.**

**Student Behavior and Discussion Forum Topics**: I expect everyone to respect a diversity of opinions, to discuss ideas but not engage in personal attacks and to maintain an appropriate decorum online. Avoid the use of profanity and other language that could be viewed as inappropriate or offensive. You remain subject to the Code of Behavior for TMCC students. Just as I might need to end a discussion in a traditional class (to keep things moving), I reserve the right to end our discussions in this class and move on to the next discussion topic. I may also need to remove a posting if I deem it to be offensive. In other words, this is a classroom discussion (just virtual) and I have control over it. I appreciate your cooperation and understanding. Please let me know if you have any questions.

**Writing Assignment:** in support of the “writing across the curriculum” practices at TMCC, this course requires a written research paper.

The research paper assignment must be submitted by **attachment only** no later than **Sunday, April 17th by 11:00 p.m.** You may submit the paper earlier anytime.

**NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED!**

***\*\*\*Please see the assignment topics and follow the requirements requested exactly in the module within your specific course.***

**Student Support:** TMCC provides a wide range of assistance. Visit the TMCC web site ([**www.tmcc.edu**](http://www.tmcc.edu)) to find links to the library, counseling, 24-hour tutoring, financial aid, the bookstore, admissions & records and the controller's office. In addition, you may qualify for assistance. We have a Disabilities Resource Center (DRC) on campus that can assist you. Please let me know if I can be of any help. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) states that a person is eligible for accommodations if they have a qualifying disability. Students with documented disabilities have the right to free accommodations to ensure equal access to educational opportunities at Truckee Meadows Community College.

Qualified, self-identified students with documented disabilities have the right to free accommodations to ensure equal access to educational opportunities at Truckee Meadows Community College. For assistance, contact TMCC’s Disability Resource Center at 775-673-7277,  TTY 775-673-7888, come by the Red Mountain Building, room 315 B or visit [www.tmcc.edu/drc](http://www.tmcc.edu/drc).   **Taking a Web-based class:** Please remember that to survive and succeed, you will need to focus on being organized and staying with the pace of the class. If you need it, please ask for assistance. It is very easy to get behind on course work – stay current and focused. **AND IF NEEDED, ASK FOR HELP EARLY.**  I can realistically do a lot more in the first few weeks than I can in the last weeks of the term. **Course Evaluation and Assessment**At TMCC, student feedback is very important.  You will be asked to complete a student evaluation of the course and to complete a content assessment as well.  You are expected to complete both as a requirement of the course.

**Course Evaluation** -The evaluation will appear at the 14th week of the class.  The evaluation provides useful feedback regarding course requirements, the text, the discussions, etc. - and I feel you are in the best position to evaluate when you have experienced most of the course.  I especially encourage you to provide written comments as they provide more context than the standard questions on the evaluation.

**Course Assessment** - please take a moment to review the course objectives and anticipated outcomes listed on this syllabus.  It is my commitment to you that I will teach to those identified objectives and outcomes.  You will be expected to complete a brief "post" assessment quiz of 15 questions sometime during the final two weeks of the course.  IT IS CRITICAL THAT YOU TAKE THE POST-ASSESSMENT QUIZ.  The quiz will simply confirm - or not confirm - that you have learned what I wanted you to learn this semester.  THE POST-ASSESSMENT QUIZ IS NOT GRADED AND DOES NOT AFFECT YOUR COURSE GRADE.   Rather, it will help me going forward to improve the value and effectiveness of the course.

Suggested Weekly Assignment Schedule

**SPRING 2016 SEMESTER**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Week of:** | **Reading/Discussion** | **Web Activities** |
| Week 1 Module 1  January 25 | Introduction Video for the course.    First 3 days of class: Read acknowledge syllabus assignment.  Introduce yourself assignment | Turn in reading syllabus acknowledgment first 3 days of class.  Introducing yourself assignment will be due by 1-31-16 |
| Week 2 Module 2  February 1 | Reading:  Chapter 1:  The Nature of Government  Discussion Topic #1 Assignment: The American Citizen and Apathy | Read material found in Module 1  - Quiz 1  - Discussion Topic #1 due by  2-07-16 |
| Week 3 Module 3    February  08 | Reading:  Chapter 2:  Foundations of American Government | - Read additional material found in Module 3  - Quiz 2 |
| Week 4 Module 4  February 15 | Reading:  Chapter 3:  Federalism    Discussion Topic #2 Assignment: U.S. Constitution | - Read additional material found in Module 4  - Quiz 3  - Discussion Topic #2 due by 2-21-16 |
| Week 5 Module 5  February 22 | Reading:  Chapter 4:  American Political Attitudes and Participation | - Read additional material found in Module 5  - Quiz 4 |
| Week 6 Module 6  February 29 | Reading:  Chapter 5:  How Do Citizens Connect with their Government?    Discussion Topic #3 Assignment: Campaigns and Elections | - Read additional material found in Module 6  - Quiz 5                                       -  Discussion Topic 3 due by 3-6-16 |
| Week 7 Module 7  March 07 | Reading:  Chapter 6: Congress: The People's Branch?  Discussion Topic #4 Assignment: Congress | - Read additional material found in Module 7  - Quiz 6  Discussion Topic 4 due by 3-13-16 |
| Week 8 Module 8  March 14 | Reading:  Chapter 7:  The Presidency: The Leadership Branch | - Read additional material found in Module 8  - Quiz 7 |
| Week 9 Module 9  March 21 | Reading:  Chapter 8: Bureaucracy: The Real Government  Discussion Topic #5 Assignment: Interest Groups | - Read additional material found in Module 9  - Quiz 8  Discussion Topic 5 due by 3-27-15 |
| Week 10 Module 10  March 28 | Reading:  Chapter 9: The Judicial Branch    Discussion Topic #6 Assignment | - Read additional material found in Module 10  - Quiz 9  - Discussion Topic #6 due by 4-3-16 |
| Week 11 Module 11    April 4 | Reading:  Chapter 10: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights  Discussion Topic #7 Assignment | - Read additional material found in Module 11  - Quiz 10  Discussion Topic #7 due by 4-10-16 |
| Week 12 Module 12  April 11 | Reading:  Chapter 11:  Policy Making: Political Interactions  **The Research Paper Assignment is due by Sunday April 17th by 11 pm. It must be submitted as an attachment only. No late papers will be accepted.** | -Read additional material found in Module 12  - Quiz 11  **The Research Paper Assignment is due by Sunday April 17th by 11 pm. It must be submitted as an attachment** |
| Week 13 Module 13    April 18 | Reading:  Chapter 13: Comparative and Political Economic Systems  Discussion Topic #8 Assignment | - Read additional material found in Module 13  - Quiz 13  Discussion Topic #8 due by 4-24-16 |
| Week 14 Module 14    April 25 | Reading:  All Reading Materials for the State of Nevada are found in this module 14 | - Read additional material found in Module 14  - STATE OF NEVADA QUIZ  - Do course evaluation  -Take non-graded assessment test |
| Week 15 Module 15    May 2 | Complete remaining test and quizzes and also readings that previously were not completed. | Complete all remaining quizzes and/or course evaluation |
| Week 16    May 09 | Final Week  **CLASS CLOSES 11:00 PM on Saturday May 14th.** | Complete all remaining quizzes and/or course evaluation |

**ABOUT THE PROFESSOR 2016**

**Dr. PAUL DAVIS** Email: davisp775@charter.net

Phone (775) 673-7213-Office (775) 358-5252**-**Home

Paul Davis received his Ph.D. from the University of Utah in International Relations and has been teaching for the University of Nevada System for the past 34 years. He has traveled around the world lecturing and conducting research on international terrorism and Politics. He is a three-time International Fulbright Scholar conducting research in India, Egypt and Israel as well as Russia, Spain and France and teaching in Germany, Italy, Belgium and Greece. He was a selected participant in the United States State Department Scholar-Diplomat Program on National Security in Washington DC and was involved in conducting a program on international peace, security and conflict management for the United States Institute of Peace also in Washington DC. He is a two-time National Endowment for the Humanities Research Fellow in the field of international violence and a two-time National Science Foundation scholar. He co-authored a textbook entitled: **Introduction to Political Terrorism** for McGraw-Hill Publishers**.**  He was recognized in 1999 by the Nevada Board of Regents as Professor of the Year for the State of Nevada. In 2000 he was appointed by the Governor of Nevada to serve on the 5 member State Board of Dispensing Opticians. In 2001 the journal Cerebrum: Dana Forum on Brain Science (Summer 2001) published his article entitled *The Terrorist Mentality*. It was republished in the Seventh Edition of **Annual Editions: Violence and Terrorism 2004/05** by McGraw-Hill Publishers. In 2002 he was appointed as a Commissioner to serve on the Sparks Centennial Commission by the Sparks City Counsel. In 2002 he was appointed by Congressman Jim Gibbons to serve on the anti-terrorism Homeland Security Advisory Board for the State of Nevada. In 2003 he was selected to serve on the Academic Advisory Board for the **Annual Editions: Homeland Security** Publication by McGraw-Hill/Dushkin. In the Fall of 2003 he underwent training and became a member of the Citizen Homeland Security Council of Washoe County. In November of 2003 he was appointed by Washoe County Commission to serve on the five member Library Board of Trustees. In 2004 he completed training and joined the Community Emergency Response Team of Washoe County, Nevada. In 2004 he was also appointed by the Washoe County Commission to serve on the seven members Animal Control Board. Since 2004 he has been an adjunct professor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas for the Graduate department program in Emergency Management and Homeland Security teaching the required international terrorism courses. In 2005 he graduated from the Truckee Meadows Regional Citizens Academy and also completed the Reno Citizens Institute on Local Government Academy. In 2007 he completed the Washoe County Leadership Academy. In 2009 he was appointed to Wadsworth’s Publishers Political Science Technology Advisory Board and McGraw Hill’s AM GOV and Weapons of Mass Destruction Board of Advisors. In 2009 he was selected to the American Council of Education College network course review team. In 2009 and 2010 he was appointed to serve on the Washoe County Human Services Board. Finally in 2010 he was a guest of the Turkish Cultural Foundation in Istanbul, Turkey.