Valencia College

United States Government I
Class Syllabus for POS 2041
Classroom Version
Fall 2012
CRN: 13811
T/R 6:00pm – 9:15pm  Bldg M Room 100

Instructor

John Tobia
Political Science Department

Contact Information

Office: 3-332
Hours: 30 minutes before and after class (and by appointment)
Phone: (407) 299-5000 ext. 4893 (work)
        (321) 591-4990 (cell)
E-mail: jtobia@valenciacollege.edu (work)
        ufgator9899@yahoo.com (home)

Grading

Exams (3) 75%
Short Papers (2) 20%
Participation 5%

100-90 A
89-80 B
79-70 C
69-60 D
59-0 F

Exams

There will be three exams—each accounting for 25% of your final grade. They will consist of fifty multiple-choice questions.

Paper #1

Political Socialization is the process in which an individual acquires their political beliefs. Factors of political socialization include: family, peers, religion, race, gender, and education. This assignment will be a two-page paper on the factors of political socialization that have affected you.
Paper #2

In 2002, Michael Moor directed a documentary about guns entitled “Bowling for Columbine.” We will watch the movie as a class assignment during the semester. This assignment will be a two-page paper that will answer the following questions:

1. Was the documentary a fair assessment of guns in our society? Why or why not?
2. Has this documentary changed your views in any way? How?

Participation

Participation includes, but is not limited to: regular attendance, taking part in classroom discussions, asking questions, etc.

Textbook


The textbook is available at the Osceola Campus Bookstore.

Class Policies

Make-up and Late Work

Tests maybe be made up, but ten points will be deducted from the grade for each class period missed and the exams will be in essay format. No late papers (due at start of class) or projects will be accepted.

Attendance

Students are responsible for all material covered in class during an absence.

Cheating/Plagiarizing

A student caught cheating will receive an automatic zero for the assignment. He or she also risks dismissal from class and expulsion from college.

Disclaimer

Course policies and procedures may be changed at the discretion of the instructor. If it becomes necessary, students will be given ample notice.
### Class Contact

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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### Important Names

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Boehner</td>
<td>Speaker of the House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eric Cantor</td>
<td>Majority Leader of the House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Pelosi</td>
<td>Minority Leader of the House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Biden</td>
<td>President of the Senate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry Reid</td>
<td>Majority Leader of the Senate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitch McConnell</td>
<td>Minority Leader of the Senate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Webster</td>
<td>Orlando’s United States Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marco Rubio</td>
<td>Florida’s United States Senator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Nelson</td>
<td>Florida’s United States Senator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Roberts</td>
<td>Conservative Chief Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elena Kagan</td>
<td>Liberal Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonia Maria Sotomayor</td>
<td>Liberal Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth Bader Ginsburg</td>
<td>Liberal Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Breyer</td>
<td>Liberal Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthony Kennedy</td>
<td>Swing voting Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Alito</td>
<td>Conservative Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antonin Scalia</td>
<td>Conservative Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarence Thomas</td>
<td>Conservative Justice</td>
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Syllabus Addendum

Course Description

U.S. Government I discusses the theory, organization, principles, and functions of national government, stressing relationships of individuals to all levels of government in political systems. This course includes learning activities designed to ensure competencies in the use of computers.

Course Objectives

1. To develop within students an appreciation for the American democratic system
2. To enhance the student’s knowledge of the Constitution of the United States
3. To acquaint the student with operation the American government system
4. To increase the student’s awareness of how politics in the United States affects his or her life
5. To give the student the skills necessary to critically analyze political activity in the United States
6. To help the student develop Internet and computer word processing proficiency

Competencies

1. Value
   Make reasoned judgments and responsible commitments

2. Think
   Think clearly, crucially, and creatively; analyze, synthesize, integrate, and evaluate.

3. Communicate
   Communicate with different audiences using varied means

4. Act
   Act purposefully, reflectively, and responsibly
Withdrawal Policy

A student who withdraws from class before the withdrawal deadline will receive a grade of “W.” A student is not permitted to withdraw after the withdrawal deadline. A faculty member MAY withdraw a student up to the beginning of the final exam period for violation of the class attendance policy. A student who is withdrawn by faculty for violation of the class attendance policy will receive a grade of “W.” Any student who withdraws or is withdrawn from a class during a third or subsequent attempt in the same course will be assigned a grade of “F.”

For a complete policy and procedure overview on Valencia Policy 4-07 please go to: http://valenciacc.edu/generalcounsel/policydetail.cfm?RecordID=75.

A student who withdraws from class before the established deadline for a particular term will receive a grade of “W.” A student is not permitted to withdraw after the withdrawal deadline. A faculty member MAY withdraw a student up to the beginning of the final exam period for violation of the class attendance policy. A student who is withdrawn by faculty for violation of the class attendance policy will receive a grade of “W.” Any student who withdraws or is withdrawn from a class during a third or subsequent attempt in the same course will be assigned a grade of “F.” For a complete policy and procedure overview on Valencia Policy 4-07 please go to: http://valenciacc.edu/generalcounsel/policydetail.cfm?RecordID=75.

My personal policy is that I will not withdraw a student past the withdrawal deadline.

Deadlines

- Drop With Refund: 9/4/2012
- Withdrawal With “W”: 9/28/2012
## Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Number</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Assignments/Items Due</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8/28 – 8/30</td>
<td>Read Chapters 1, 2, 3: The Democratic Republic, The Constitution, and Federalism</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2           | 9/4 – 9/6   | Read Chapters 4, 5: Civil Liberties, Civil Rights  
   - Paper #1 due 9/6 |
| 3           | 9/11 – 9/13 | Read Chapters 6, 7, 8: Public Opinion and Political Socialization, Interest Groups, Political Parties  
   - Exam 1 on 9/13 |
| 4           | 9/18 – 9/20 | Read Chapters 9, 10, 11: Voting and Elections, Campaigning for Office, The Media and Cyberpolitics |
| 5           | 9/25 – 9/27 | Read Chapters 12, 13: The Congress, The President |
| 6           | 10/2 – 10/4 | Read Chapter 14: The Bureaucracy  
   - Exam 2 on 10/2 |
| 7           | 10/9 – 10/11| Read Chapter 15: The Courts  
   - Paper #2 due 10/11 |
| 8           | 10/16 – 10/18| Final Exam on 10/18 |
Welcome to U.S. Government

This is a companion site to John Tobia's U.S. Government POS 2041 course taught at Valencia College. You will find links to the class syllabus, notes, study guide, practice exams, sample papers, and my contact information at the top.