

American Government
"If men were angels, government would not be necessary."
-James Madison

Spring 2019

American Government M, W, & F 11:00-11:50 a.m.

Tentative Course Syllabus

Professor: Amanda Cook Fesperman

IAI Equivalent: S5 904

Email: amanda_cookfesperman@ivcc.edu (This is the only IVCC email I check. If you send me an email to any other address, I will not receive it. I reply to emails within 24 hours. If you haven't received a reply from me, assume I did not get the email and resend it.)

Web Page: <http://www.ivcc.edu/cookfesperman>

Phone: 815-224-0203

Office: D307

Tentative Fall Office Hours: M, W, F 9:30-10, T/Th, 12:15-2:00, or by appointment. (Please note: I reserve the right to change office hours. If I change them, students will be notified in Blackboard and by email. Please check to make sure before coming to my office hours that I will be present. It is best to try to schedule an appointment ahead of time.)

ReaCH FaR: The capital letters in this statement represent the Core Values of IVCC. They stand for – Responsibility, Caring, Honesty, Fairness and Respect. It is expected that the students and the professor will know and carry out these values in all aspects of this course. Respect and Responsibility-- two of IVCC's core values - have been chosen as this year's campus-wide themes. Respect comes from trying to treat others as you would like to be treated and from trying to put yourself in someone else's shoes. It is also about self-respect, which shows in taking pride in yourself and your work. Responsibility means being motivated to do what you need to do to succeed and following the rules that are established. Keep these themes in mind as you complete course activities and interact with others on campus and in the community this semester.

Syllabus Changes: I reserve the right to change the syllabus at any time during the semester. Students will be notified in class and/or through blackboard/email of any changes.

Text: *Gateways to Democracy, 4rd Edition*, Geer, et al, ISBN **9781337097734** can be purchased or rented in person through the IVCC bookstore or by phone with a credit card by calling 815 224-0311.

Information on the textbook rental program can be found at

<https://ivcc.verbacompare.com/comparison?id=112026>

Blackboard Access: I will be using Blackboard for the purposes of group email, the plagiarism tutorial,

any additional assignments/announcements, lecture notes, essay posts and for grading. You will be enrolled as a Blackboard user by the first day of classes. Blackboard, can be linked to at <https://ivcc.blackboard.com/webapps/login/> You can find information about logging into and using Blackboard by visiting the following link: <http://www.ivcc.edu/studenthelpdesk.aspx?id=16943>

Email Access: All students are required to login and check their IVCC emails on a regular basis. I will only accept emails from your official IVCC Outlook email account. If you do not know how to use your IVCC email or cannot gain access, you MUST visit the learning commons for assistance. I communicate with students via your Outlook email account and it is your responsibility to check that account for communications from me. I have only one email account that I check at IVCC and that is the email address listed at the top of the syllabus (Amanda_cookfesperman@ivcc.edu). If you attempt to email me at any other address, I will not receive the email. Additionally, when sending email to me, please make sure you do the following:

- 1) In the subject heading, put the class name and section (PSI 1000 02).
- 2) Address comments to Professor Cook Fesperman
- 3) Be specific about what it is you are emailing about (I need help finding sources for the paper. I would like to meet with you during your office hours on Monday, September 24th at 12:00. Is this a good time for you?)
- 4) Be polite. Use words like please and thank you.

Students can expect an email response from me M-S when the college is open within 24 hours (Note: I do not work on Sunday for religious reasons, so I will not check email or respond on Sundays). If you do not receive an email response from me, you should assume I did not receive it and send the email again. If you still do not receive a response, contact me by phone during my office hours, come by my office hours, or speak to me after class.

Gen Ed Goals:

To apply analytical and problem solving skills to personal, social and professional issues and situations To communicate orally and in writing, socially and interpersonally.

To work and study effectively both individually and in collaboration with others.

Learning Outcomes:

Outcome #1: Students will be able to explain how human behavior relates to the social sciences, dictates its methods, and leads to the need for government in civil society.

Outcome #2: Students will gain an overview of the content of the Declaration of Independence, and learn the origins and content of the Constitution.

Outcome #3: Students will be able to demonstrate a knowledge of basic principles and applications of law as it relates to human behavior in American society.

Outcome #4: Students will gain an overview of civil liberties and rights in America.

Outcome #5: Students will gain an overview of the efforts that public opinions, interest groups, and voters make to externally influence our government.

Outcome #6: Students will gain an understanding of political parties, nominations, and elections in exercising internal control on our governmental system.

Grading:

Class Participation – 15% Class attendance is required and students should come to class prepared to discuss the materials assigned for that week and to discuss any news items on the United States government they come across that should be raised for discussion. I hope that students will come to class with insightful questions and/or comments about the assigned readings and news stories, and I will also be calling on students at random to answer some questions of my own. Answers to my questions should show that the student has read and understands the class materials and that she/he has the ability to apply critical thinking skills to those materials. The quality of your contributions is more important than the quantity, but both are expected.

Research Essays – 35%: For each chapter, students will be randomly assigned to write essays pertaining to that chapter's topics. You can access essay questions each week by logging into Blackboard and clicking on discussion board. You must write your responses in your own words in essay format after having completed the necessary readings and other research that pertains to the topics. After completing your own post, you should read the posts of all of your classmates. I will provide comments on each person's post, and these comments, along with the student essays, will be a source of questions for the exam.

To receive credit, you must answer the question asked of you by the deadline. Your answers should be thoughtful and insightful, you must cite your sources, and your sources cannot include wikis, blogs, or other unreliable sources. The best rule is to verify a source in 3 independent sources in order for it to hold any credibility, although this in and of itself is not a guarantee that the information is factual. All of the following steps must be met in order for the essay to be accepted and graded: 1) It must be double-spaced typed in 12 pt font, Times New Roman, with 1 inch margins and numbered. 2) It must be submitted on time! 3) It must be AT LEAST 3 pages long and no longer than 4. At least 3 pages means that you start at the top of the page and go all the way to the bottom of each page (not including header information). 4) You must use AT LEAST 3 credible sources that must be listed at the end in a bibliography. 6) You must properly cite the paper using APA format (no abstract or headers). 7) The paper should be written formally and be grammatically correct. 8) When you submit the paper, you must copy and paste it into Discussion board as a response to your topic AND post it as an rtf or pdf file AND turn in a paper copy to me in class. The paper will be checked for plagiarism using Safeassign. 9) The paper cannot be all or mostly in quotation marks.

Every student will be assigned 4 essays to write throughout the semester on a rotating basis. You will be able to drop your lowest essay grade. Failure to submit on time more than one gradable essay will result in the student failing the course.

Exams - 50%: There will be four exams throughout the semester. The dates and topic materials are listed in the syllabus. **You must bring a blue book with you to class on exam day.** Blue books can be purchased in the bookstore for a nominal fee. Exams will consist of short answer questions. Students will be given a note card 1 week prior to the exam that they may use to write down any material they want to use on the exam. Only that note card may be used, the note card must be prepared by you, in your handwriting, cannot be copied from someone else's note card/notes and must be turned in with your exam. You MAY NOT photocopy my notes or write them word for word on your card!! Please come prepared on exam day, meaning that you have a thorough understanding of the materials presented in the notes, readings, class discussions and study questions. **Make-up exams will only be granted to students who have a valid excuse that can be documented in writing and when I have approved the absence ahead of time.**

Academic dishonesty: Plagiarism, cheating or dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. This includes so-called "cooperative work" which means work done with the assistance of another student or where students share an assignment. All words or ideas that are not your own must be cited in all of the work that is submitted for this course. Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing may receive a failing grade for the entire course. Additionally, a report of the transgression will be filed with the Vice President of Academic Affairs. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to the following examples: 1) Turning in any work that is not your own or having someone else do the work for you. 2) Using someone else's note card (a copy, a handwritten replica, or material not from your own notes), etc. 3) Having someone else take an exam for you. 4) Cheating off of someone else's test to obtain the answers. 5) Asking another student for an answer to a test. 6) Obtaining the exam (or old versions of exams) ahead of time to know what will be on the exam. 7) Using materials other than the one note card given to you to take the exam, 8) Having another person do your essays or any other written work for you. 9) Purchasing or downloading a paper from the internet in whole or in part. 10) Failing to properly cite or give credit to sources in your paper. 11) Putting anything in your paper that is not in your own words without putting quotation marks around it. 12) Citing an article in your research paper that you did not read. 13) Lying to or trying to deceive any member of the IVCC faculty or staff for personal academic gain.

Extra Credit: There will be extra credit opportunities throughout the semester that I will announce in class and/or through blackboard. Extra credit usually involves attending events on-campus that I think are relevant to the course or will enhance your overall experiences as a student. Extra credit is added to the exam portion of your grade. The first extra credit assignment is as follows:

Extra Credit Assignment 1. Point Value - 10. Submit an entry to me for the 2019 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Writing Contest. The entry can be about any aspect of the civil rights, historic or modern, and does not have to be about Dr. King himself. The entry can be in any writing style (essay, poem, short story, etc.), but must be a serious attempt (no Haikus) and must be your own original work. Entries must be typed, include your name and phone number, and must be submitted no later than Friday, December 8th. **Please email me your entry as an attachment.**

Final grades: The grading scale for this course will be as follows:

90-100%=4.0 80-89%=3.0 70-79%=2.0 60-69%=1.0

I round grades up at .5 and down at .4 so every point counts in this class. Also, please be aware that the final grade is not based on total points, rather on weighted grades. The weighting is as follows: 10% for Class Attendance, 50% for exams, and 40% for research papers. The final weighted grade in Blackboard is the correct grade. **Please note: I do not use total points.** The grades are weighted so you cannot calculate your grade by adding up the points you have a dividing by the total points. The weighted grade in blackboard is your current semester grade.

Special Needs If you are a student with a documented cognitive (learning disability), physical or psychiatric disability (anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, AD/HD, post-traumatic stress, and others) you *may* be eligible for academic support services such as extended test time, texts in audio format, note taking services, etc... If you are interested in learning if you can receive these academic support services, please contact Tina Hardy (tina_hardy@ivcc.edu, or 224-0284), or stop by the Disability Services Office in C-211.

My hope is to create an equitable learning environment for all students. If you want to discuss your learning experience, please talk to me as early in the term as possible. If you know you have, or suspect you have a disability (learning disability, physical disability, or psychiatric disability such as anxiety, depression, AD/HD, post-traumatic stress, or others) for which you may need accommodations, please contact the Disability Services to determine if you are eligible for support.

Course Withdrawal: The final date to withdraw from this course is Monday, April 8th. Effective Summer 2011, students are now able to withdraw themselves through WebAdvisor. Instructions for doing so can be found at <http://www.ivcc.edu/admissions.aspx?id=1984>

Please Note: Before withdrawing yourself from a course it is HIGHLY recommended that you speak to your instructor and the financial aid office (if you are receiving financial aid) first. Students often believe they are doing worse in a course than they are, or, if special circumstances exist, a faculty member may be able to work out an alternative to a withdrawal like an incomplete. Faculty members still reserve the right to withdraw students for violations of class policies, or to issue them a failing grade. Students cannot withdraw from a class in order to avoid receiving a punitive grade. Those who do will be reinstated.

A Note About Respect: IVCC is an academic institution where all sincere viewpoints are welcomed, however, this does not give you license to verbally attack or intentionally offend your fellow classmates or professor. If you disagree with a person's point of view, please do so respectfully and by using critical thinking, not by issuing personal attacks, sarcasm, or insults. Any student who violates these class policies will be removed from class at the discretion of the instructor and will receive a failing grade for the semester. Egregious violations of this policy will be referred to the college for disciplinary action.

A Few Rules:

1. Please do not disrupt the class when using technology.
2. Do not sleep in the classroom.
3. Do not talk while I am or others in the class are talking.
4. Do not pack up your things or rustle papers until I have dismissed you from class.
5. Do not come to class late. If you are late on occasion, please come into class quietly and do not disrupt the classroom.
9. Chewing Tobacco is not permitted in the classroom or in my office.
10. IVCC is a smoke-free campus. You may not smoke anywhere on the campus. This includes E-cigarettes.
11. If you smoke or wear perfume/cologne, please do not sit in the front of the class due to my asthma.
12. Please address me in person and in all written communication as Professor Cook Fesperman.
13. No portion of my class may be video or audio recorded and no photos may be taken without the specific written consent of me and then only for a legitimate academic need.

Failure to obey these rules may result in a student being asked to leave the class temporarily or permanently, depending on the nature of the offense and at the sole discretion of me. Students asked to leave the class for the entire semester will receive a failing grade.

Privacy and Parents

Federal law prohibits me from releasing ANY information about a student to a third party without the specific written consent of a student. To do this, you must go to the college alone, sign a FERPA release form, and list the specific information that I can release to specific individuals. Once this is done, I will release that information. However, I want to make it clear that it is my policy that I do not meet with, communicate with, or have any discussions with parents or any other third parties. This is a college class and you are expected to behave as a responsible college student regardless of your age. If you or your parents or representatives do not want to abide by this policy, then you should not take this class. I am happy to meet with students and discuss their progress or concerns.

Class Assignment Schedule

January 9th Welcome! Class procedures and policies.

Assignment: Plagiarism tutorial in blackboard (must be completed by Friday, October 8th at noon)

Reading Assignment – *Critical Thinking* and *Cognitive Dissonance* and Jared Diamond's *Soft Sciences are Often Harder than Hard Sciences* (These articles can be found in Blackboard under the Lecture Notes Section)

January 11th Essay Assignments assigned for the semester

Discussion of Critical Thinking and Cognitive Dissonance and Diamond Reading Assignment: Geer, et al, Chapter 1

January 14th Discussion: Democracy

January 16th Discussion: Democracy continued

Reading Assignment: Geer, et al, Chapter 2 and The United States Constitution and Amendments (Geer back of your book).

January 18th Discussion: The Constitution

Reading Assignment: Reading Assignment: Federalist Papers 10 and 51 (Back of your book)

January 21st – IVCC Closed for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. Celebrate the Dream!

January 23rd - Discussion: The Federalist Papers

Reading Assignment: The Constitution (back of your book)

January 25th Discussion: The Constitution continued

January 28th Discussion: The Constitution continued

Reading Assignment: Geer, et al, Chapter 3 and lecture notes

January 30th Discussion: Federalism

Reading Assignment: Heart of Atlanta Motel v. United States, Katzenbach v. McClung and Wickard v. Filburn (Available in Blackboard under Lecture Notes).

February 1st Discussion: Federalism continued

February 4th Discussion: Federalism continued

February 6th Exam I – All Materials to Date (Remember your blue book, note card and blue or black pen)

Reading Assignment: Geer, et al, Chapter 12 and lecture notes.

February 8th Discussion: Congress

February 11th Discussion: Congress continued

February 13th Discussion: Congress continued

February 15th Discussion: Congress continued

Reading Assignment: Geer, et al, Chapter 13 and lecture notes.

February 18th College Closed for Presidents' Day

February 20th Discussion: The Presidency

February 22nd Discussion: The Presidency continued

February 25th Discussion: The Presidency continued

Reading Assignment: Geer, et al, Chapter 15 and lecture notes.

February 27th Discussion: The Courts

March 1st Discussion: The Courts continued

March 4th Discussion: The Courts continued

March 6th Exam II – All materials post-Exam I (Remember your blue book, note card, and blue or black pen).

Reading Assignment: Geer, et al, Chapter 9 and lecture notes.

March 8th – 17th Spring Break: No CLASSES

March 18th Discussion: Political Parties

March 20th Discussion: Political Parties continued

March 22nd Discussion: Political Parties continued

Reading Assignment: Geer, et al, Chapter 8

March 25th Discussion: Interest Groups

March 27th Discussion: Interest Groups

Reading Assignment: Geer, et al, Chapters 10 and 11 and lecture notes

March 29th Discussion: Elections and Campaigns

April 1st Discussion: Elections and Campaigns continued

April 3rd Discussion: Voting

April 5th Discussion: Voting continued

Reading Assignment: Geer, et al, Chapters 6 and 7 and lecture notes.

April 8th Discussion: Public Opinion

April 10th Discussion: Public Opinion continued

April 12th Discussion: The Media

April 15th Exam III - All Materials Post Exam II (Remember your blue book, note card, and blue or black pen)

Reading Assignment: Geer, et al, Chapter 4 and lecture notes.

April 17th Discussion: Civil Liberties

April 19th Discussion: Civil Liberties continued

April 22nd Discussion: Civil Liberties continued

April 24th Discussion: Civil Liberties continued

Reading Assignment: Ginsberg, Chapter 5 and Civil Rights lecture notes online. Also read "I Have A Dream" in Blackboard.

April 26th Discussion: Civil Rights

April 29th Discussion: Civil Rights continued

May 1st Discussion: Civil Rights continued

May 3rd Discussion: Civil Rights continued

May 6th Exam IV - All Materials Post Exam III (Remember your blue book, note card, and blue or black pen)