

Summer 2017

PSI 1000 100 American Government Online

Tentative Course Syllabus

Email: amanda_bigelow@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 24-48 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/bigelow>

Office Hours: by appointment online only

CLASS STARTS WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14TH. HAVE YOU EMAILED YOUR PROFESSOR????

ReaCH FaR:

The bold 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-- one of IVCC's core values - has been chosen as this year's campus wide theme. Respect influences each of us daily -- at school, in our homes, at work, and in our fields of study. Keep the theme in mind as you complete course activities and interact with others on campus, in blackboard 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 through blackboard/email of any changes.

Text: *Gateways to Democracy, 3rd Edition*, Geer, et al, ISBN 1-2858-5854-9 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

http://www.ivccbookstore.com/site_rental.asp?mcsid=124FC272454240A0A567CFE005F2DE5B

Required Download: All exams for this course will be taken using the Respondus LockDown Browser. Instructions for downloading this browser can be found at the following link:

<http://www.ivcc.edu/dl.aspx?id=14876>

If you are having problems accessing a quiz or exam using the Respondus browser, please review the material provided at the IVCC help site linked above. In the event that this information does not help you resolve the issue, then please contact the Student Helpdesk at 224-0318 for further assistance.

Course Objectives:

*To prepare the student to become a member of the global community by becoming more aware of the international system of governments, global interdependency and the strengths and limitations of current international organizations and state governments.

*To illustrate the inequalities that exist in the world today, analyze how the American system of government and the international community may perpetuate these inequalities, and look for solutions to the problems of inequalities in the world community.

*To give the student an understanding of the nature and scope of political science both theoretically

and historically.

*To make the student aware of her/his social and cultural biases in order to learn critical analysis skills

*To assist students in demonstrating a competent understanding of International Relations in the following ways:

*Ability to compare and contrast the traditional and modern approaches to the study of International Political institutions.

*Ability to describe and compare the philosophies underlying various intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations

*Ability to describe and analyze the social and political issues besetting the global environment in the 21st Century.

*Ability to understand the role that each of has to play in the world and how we as individuals can make a difference.

Attention:

This is an online course that will require you to have knowledge of and access to a reliable computer and internet server. If you have not taken an online course before, you MUST sign up for an [online orientation](#). Failure to complete an online orientation may result in the college withdrawing you from the course so please make sure you complete it. You should also take the course orientation provided on my web page. You will also need to use Blackboard, and Respondus Lockdown Browser to complete exams.

You must be knowledgeable of the contents of this course syllabus and you are expected to complete all of the course assignments on time without the direct supervision of your professor. You are encouraged to maintain regular communication with your professor throughout the semester, especially when you have questions regarding course content or protocol. It is assumed that you have a reliable computer and internet connection and that you can competently use a computer to send/receive emails (with or without attached files), to conduct internet research (using various search engines), and to do word-processing.

Blackboard, can be linked to at <https://ivcc.blackboard.com/webapps/login/>

Click [here](#) for a list of frequently asked questions about blackboard.

Respondus Lockdown Browser, can be downloaded at

<http://www.respondus.com/lockdown/information.pl?ID=328538650>

Here is additional information about Respondus that you will want to read before attempting to take an exam – [Respondus FAQ](#)

Grading:

Online Short Papers: 50%

Because this is a nontraditional class we will not be interacting with each other in a normal classroom environment. Still, I think discussion and class participation are vital to your success in this class. With this in mind I have set up a discussion area in Blackboard for this class. Students will be randomly assigned to write 4 reaction papers during the semester pertaining to the chosen week's topics. You can access paper 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. Essay Requirements

- 1) Must be 3 pages long at a minimum (If you turn in a paper that is less than 3 full pages, I will not grade it)
- 2) Must be in 12 point, times new roman
- 3) Must be grammatically correct, spell-checked, and in formal essay style
- 4) Must NOT include opinion or speculation
- 5) Must be cited using APA citation (in text) method (you can find out how to use this citation method by clicking [here](#)).
- 6) Be submitted on time. (I do not accept late papers)
- 7) Contain no plagiarism.

Blackboard Discussion papers are worth 50% of your grade so you should be prepared to spend ample time each week preparing your essay. Answers must be posted by Monday at noon in order to receive credit. **Blackboard should be used only for the specific purpose of responding to weekly posts and not for personal reasons or to promote a personal agenda.** Also, this 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. Any student who violates these class policies may be removed as a user from blackboard, and will subsequently fail the course.

Exams – 50%

There will be four exams for the semester. The dates and topic materials are listed in the syllabus. All exams will be online and you must be well-prepared, meaning that you have a thorough understanding of the materials presented in the notes, readings, blackboard essays and study questions. **You will only have 48 hours to complete each exam!** It is also imperative that you have a **reliable computer and network** available to you when taking the exams, since they are timed and you only have one chance to take them. **Once you begin an exam, you must complete it!!** If for any reason you begin an exam and do not complete it, you will **not be given a second chance to take it** so please make sure you are prepared

and that you are using a computer that will not fail you. I recommend that you use a computer that has something other than dial-up access, especially if you are using the same line to receive incoming phone calls.

Additionally, all exams must be taken using **Respondus Lockdown Browser**. You must download Respondus Lockdown Browser immediately! Do not wait until the day of the exam to download the browser in case you experience any difficulties. You only have to download it once, and then you will be set for the semester.

Academic dishonesty: Plagiarism or cheating 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) Having someone else take an exam for you. 3) Cheating off of someone else's test to obtain the answers. 4) Asking another student for an answer to a test. 5) Obtaining the exam ahead of time to know what will be on the exam. 5) Having another person do your paper or any other written work for you. 6) Purchasing or downloading a paper from the internet in whole or in part. 7) Failing to properly cite or give credit to sources in your paper. 8) Putting anything in your paper that is not in your own words without putting quotation marks around it.

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: 50% for Blackboard, and 50% for exams. 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 and 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 disabilities), 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 on disc, 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.

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 Office. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Tina Hardy at (224-0284).

Course Withdrawal:

Effective Summer 2011, students are now able to withdraw themselves through WebAdvisor. You can access it through "My Class Schedule" and through the "Register and Drop" page on the Student Menu. Students can also come to the Admissions & Records Office to request a withdrawal. He/she will need to show a photo id and complete the withdrawal form. The faculty member will receive the yellow copy of the withdrawal form. The last day to withdraw from this course is July 26th.

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.

Mandatory Attendance Policy:

This is an online class, not a telecourse, which means you are expected to attend class on a regular basis by doing the assignments in Blackboard and taking the exams. A student **will be automatically withdrawn** by me for failure to complete a discussion essay. If the failure to comply is beyond the withdrawal deadline, **a failing grade** will be issued instead.

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

Week 1: June 14-19

Reading Assignment – Reading Assignment – [Critical Thinking](#) and [Cognitive Dissonance](#)

Reading Assignment: Geer, et al, Chapter 1 and lecture notes and Federalist Papers 10 and 51 in the back of your textbook.

Special Blackboard post for everyone! Everyone will complete a blackboard exercise designed to get used to using Blackboard. The assignment is available in Discussion Board and is due no later than June 16th at 11:59 p.m.

Blackboard Papers (Due date: No later than Monday, June 19th at noon).

Week 2: June 20-26

Reading Assignment: Geer, et al, Chapter 2 and lecture notes and The United States Constitution and Amendments (End of Geer, et al, textbook).

Reading Assignment: Geer, et al, Chapter 3 and lecture notes and [Heart of Atlanta Motel v. United States](#), [Katzenbach v. McClung](#) and [Wickard v. Filburn](#).

Blackboard Papers (Due date: No later than Monday, June 26 at noon).

Exam I: Covers All Materials in Weeks I and II. Exam I will post on Tuesday, June 27th at noon and must be completed by Thursday, June 29th at noon.

Week 3: June 27-July 3

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

Reading Assignment: [Engle v. Vitale](#), [Schenk v US](#), [Texas v Johnson](#), [Roe v Wade](#)

Blackboard Papers (Due date: No later than Monday, July 3rd at noon).

Week 4: July 4-10

Reading Assignment : Geer, et al, Chapter 5 and lecture notes.

Reading Assignment: “[I Have A Dream](#)” online, [Brown v. Board of Education](#), [Lawrence v Texas](#), [Windsor v US](#)

Blackboard Papers (Due date: No later than Monday, July 10th at noon).

Exam II: Covers All Materials in Weeks III and IV. Exam II will post on Tuesday, July 11th at noon and must be completed by Thursday, July 13th at noon.

Week 5: July 11-17

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

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

Blackboard Papers (Due date: No later than Monday, July 17th at noon).

Week 6: July 18-24

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

Reading Assignment: [Arizona v. The United States](#) and [National Federation of Independent Businesses v Sebelius](#)

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

Blackboard Papers (Due date: No later than Monday, July 24th at noon).

Exam III: Covers All Materials in Weeks V and VI. Exam III will post on Tuesday, July 25th at noon and must be completed by Thursday, July 27th at noon.

Week 7: July 25-31

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

Reading Assignment: Geer, et al, Chapter 8 and lecture notes.

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

Blackboard Papers (Due date: No later than Monday, July 31st at noon).

Week 8: August 1-7

Reading Assignment: Geer, et al, Chapter 10 and lecture notes.

Reading Assignment: Geer, et al, Chapter 11 and lecture notes.

Reading Assignment: [Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission](#), [McKutcheon v. FEC](#)

Blackboard Papers (Due date: No later than Monday, August 7th at noon).

Watch Video: *Free Speech for Sale*

Exam IV: Covers All Materials in Weeks VII and VIII. Exam IV will post on Tuesday, August 8th at noon and must be completed by Wednesday, August 9th at 11:00 p.m.