

"If men were angels, no government would be necessary."

-James Madison

Summer 2019

PSI 1000 100 American Government Online

Tentative Course Syllabus

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 24-48 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/cookfesperman>

Office Hours: by appointment online only

Class Location: Online through Blackboard at <https://ivcc.blackboard.com/>

Online Video Lectures: Will be available through Blackboard at <https://ivcc.blackboard.com/>

CLASS STARTS WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12TH. HAVE YOU EMAILED YOUR PROFESSOR????

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-- 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, 4th 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://www.ivccbookstore.com/>

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.

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 100).
- 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 online on Monday, June 17th at 4. 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-F when the college is open within 24 hours. 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 the division office at 8152240487.

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.

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:

2 Online Essays: 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. Every 2 weeks students will be randomly assigned to write essays pertaining to that week's topics. You can access essay questions 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 4 pages long and no longer than 6. At least 4 pages means that you start writing the essay (not your name, the class, etc. all of which belongs on a title page that is not included in the page count) 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 reference page.
- 6) You must [properly cite](#) the paper using APA format.

- 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, pdf or .doc file. The paper will be checked for plagiarism using safeassign.
- 9) The paper cannot be all or mostly in quotation marks.

Blackboard Discussion essays are worth 50% of your grade so you should be prepared to spend ample time preparing your essay. Answers must be posted by the due date at 12:00p.m. (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. 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 may be removed as a user from blackboard, and will subsequently fail the course.

Exams – 50%

There will be four exams throughout 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 a 48 hour of opportunity to take an 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. To be safe, take the test on campus in a computer lab where someone can assist you!

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 person for an answer to a test. 5) Obtaining the exam or previous exams ahead of time to know what will be on the exam. 6) Using materials other than your notes and book to you to take the exam, 7) Having another person do your paper or any other written work for you. 8) Purchasing or downloading a paper from the internet in whole or in part. 9) Failing to properly cite or give credit to sources in your paper. 10) Putting anything in your paper that is not in your own words without putting quotation marks around it. 11) Citing an article in your research paper that you did not read. 12) Lying to or trying to deceive any member of the IVCC faculty or staff for personal academic gain.

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.

Extra Credit: Every 2 weeks in Blackboard there will be an extra credit essay that you may choose to write on for extra credit. You can earn up to 10 extra points per week for every extra credit essay you write. Topics and instructions for submission and due dates will be listed each week in Discussion Board. Take advantage of these opportunities as they will not only help you prepare for the exam, but can also greatly improve your grade in this class.

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.

YOU@IVCC is a web portal that fosters student success in three domains: Succeed (academics/career); Thrive (physical/mental health); and Matter (purpose/community/social connections). The portal serves up relevant information and campus resources, and the content becomes personalized when a student completes brief assessments, fills out a profile, or searches for something specific. Student activity within the portal is completely anonymous and available 24/7/365. Simply type in you.ivcc.edu, fill out the sign up information, and get started.

Course Withdrawal: The final date to withdraw from this course is **Wednesday, July 24th**. 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.

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, submitting your homework and taking the exams. A student will be automatically withdrawn by me for any of the following reasons: 1) Failure to complete more than 1 discussion essay; or 2) Missing more than one exam. 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

Weeks 1 and 2: June 12-24

Reading Assignment – Reading Assignment – Critical Thinking and Cognitive Dissonance and The Soft Sciences are Often Harder Than the Hard (in Blackboard)

Reading Assignment: Geer, et al, Chapter 1-3 and lecture notes. The United States Constitution and Amendments, 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 17th at noon

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

Weeks 3 and 4: June 25-July 8

Exam I: Covers All Materials in Weeks I and II. Exam I will post on Tuesday, June 25th at noon and must be completed by Thursday, June 27th at noon.

Reading Assignment: Geer, et al, Chapters 4 and 5 and lecture notes.

Blackboard Papers (Due date: No later than Monday, July 8th at noon).

Weeks 5 and 6: July 9-22

Exam II: Covers All Materials in Weeks III and IV. Exam II will post on Tuesday, July 9th at noon and must be completed by Thursday, July 11th at noon.

Reading Assignment: Geer, et al, Chapters 9, 12, 13 and 15 and lecture notes.

Blackboard Papers (Due date: No later than Monday, July 22rd at noon).

Weeks 7 and 8: July 23-August 7th

Exam III: Covers All Materials in Weeks V and VI. Exam III will post on Tuesday, July 23rd at noon and must be completed by Thursday, July 25th at noon.

Reading Assignment: Geer, et al, Chapters 6, 7, 8, 10 and 11 and lecture notes.

Watch Video: *Free Speech for Sale* (in Blackboard)

Blackboard Papers (Due date: No later than Monday, August 5th at noon).

Exam IV: Covers All Materials in Weeks VII and VIII. Exam IV will post on Tuesday, August 6th at noon and must be completed by WEDNESDAY, August 7th at 11:59 p.m.