


**WASHTENAW COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**PLS 112 – Introduction to American  
Government**

**Section #Y1 – CRN#93915 - 3 Credits**  
**Friday - 9:00 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.**

**Main Campus - Room: GM 316**

**Course Starts: 09/23/2016      Course Ends: 12/16/2016**

**Fall 2016**

<b>Instructor: Michael Murphy</b>	<b>E-mail: <a href="mailto:memurphy@wccnet.edu">memurphy@wccnet.edu</a></b> Please put - <b>(PLS 112)</b> - in the Subject Box If I don't respond after 24 hours – send another message.
<b>Home Phone: (517) 655 –3589</b> <b>Main Office: (734) 477 – 8715</b>	<b>Website:</b> <a href="http://courses.wccnet.org/~memurphy/">http://courses.wccnet.org/~memurphy/</a> 
<b>QR Code</b>	
<b>Main Campus Office: GM300</b>	<b>Office Time: Meet before class</b>

**Required Textbook:**

**[AMERICAN GOVT.+POL.TODAY'15-16,TEXT](#)**

By **FORD** EDITION: 17TH 16

PUBLISHER: CENGAGE L ISBN: 9781285860435

Or

**[AMERICAN GOVT.+POL.TODAY,13-14 ED.-TEXT](#)**

By **SCHMIDT** EDITION: 16TH 14

PUBLISHER: CENGAGE L ISBN: 9781133602132

## I. Course Description:

Our quality of life in the United States is dependent upon our citizens understanding of our political system. With understanding, comes our ability to participate and, ultimately, keep democracy and freedom alive in the United States. Citizens are the lifeblood of any democracy.

### What is Political Science?

Political science is the academic discipline that attempts to understand and explain politics and government. Politics can be defined in a number of ways; among the more popular modern definition is - deciding who gets what, when, and how. Thus, how we divide our societies resources.

Courses in Political Science lead to good citizenship and enhanced democracy.

Also, courses in Political Science may also lead to professional careers in areas such as teaching, law, government work, journalism, or becoming an elected official.

## II. Policies of the Course:

### A. General Statement:

You need to follow all of the class policies and turn in all work by the due dates in order to be successful in this course.

### B. Attendance:

Attendance will be taken each class day via a sign-in sheet at the front of the classroom.

No points are awarded for class attendance.

Please be aware, that students who attend and participate in class discussions and take detailed notes tend to do better in this class than those who don't attend class regularly.

- Lecture material will not be repeated in any form for any reason.
- Lecture material will supersede any outdated textbook material for all exams during the semester.
- Throughout the semester you will be tested on **many facts and statistics** that won't be covered in the textbook or online materials – only via weekly lectures.

### Course Workload:

The average student will have to put in about 10 hours a week into this class.

Most of this time will be spent completing the assigned readings and working on the class projects. You need to have read the textbook material before it is discussed in class. Otherwise it will make it difficult for you to understand the material.

\*\* The assigned readings and due dates are listed on the course calendar.

### C. Class Participation:

Students must be prepared to participate in all class discussions.

If you have questions about the material, you're probably not alone - don't be embarrassed - ask!

All I ask is that you raise your hand and I will call on you after I have completed my thought.

### Open Discourse Class Policies:

A major part of every student's college experience involves the exchange of ideas. It is very important that the classroom provide a forum for open and safe dialogue. In order to achieve this goal, students should keep the following in mind during class discussions:

1. Respect the ideas and opinions of your instructor and colleagues. The market place of discussion can be a rich source of learning but only if the discussions are conducted in a respectful manner. There will be many different viewpoints among us. We should enjoy the diversity we find among our colleagues and seek to learn from it.
2. The reverse of respect is disrespect. This will not be tolerated. Disrespect may be displayed in many ways, e.g. inappropriate comments, rude sounds, references to the opinion giver's mental capacity or lack thereof, etc. A very common form of disrespect is the private conversations which students carry on among themselves while other students or the teacher are talking. These types of behavior should be avoided in that it hurts everyone in the classroom.
3. Religious, ethnic, racial, sexist, sexual preference and other derogatory comments are not acceptable and must be avoided at all costs. It is especially critical that students follow this rule of thumb during discussion of contemporary "hot button" issues.
4. Personal attacks are not allowed in this class.
5. Profanity is not acceptable. While it may be common among friends, the classroom environment is not the place for profanity.
6. In order to ensure that all individuals wishing to participate in open discussions can do so, it is important that students refrain from **monopolizing** or attempting to dominate the discussion. This statement is not intended to discourage participation but rather to facilitate everyone's participation.
7. Cell phones are very disturbing to students as well as faculty when they go off in class. Please respect the academic process by turning your cell phone off or putting it on the silent mode when you enter the classroom. Also, please refrain from sending and/or receiving text messages on your cell phone during class.

#### **D. Student Conduct:**

The Board of Trustee Policy 4095 provides information on overall Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct Code including Academic Dishonesty:

##### Academic Dishonesty

All forms of academic dishonesty including but not limited to collusion, fabrication, cheating, and plagiarism will call for discipline.

Collusion is defined as the unauthorized collaboration with any other person in preparing work offered for individual credit.

Fabrication is defined as intentionally falsifying or inventing any information or citation on any academic exercise.

Cheating is defined as intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise.

Plagiarism is defined as the appropriation of any other person's work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one's own work offered for credit.

The full policy is available at <http://www.wccnet.edu/trustees/policies/4095/>.

#### **E. Late Policy for the Campaign Project:**

If an assignment is turned in after the due date, 10 percent will be deducted for each class day the assignment is late – **No Exceptions**.

- Be on time, allow extra time for problems – illness, computer dies, run out of ink, virus etc...

**F. No Extra Credit** is available in this class.

**G. Make up Exams:**

Make up exams are only available to students who didn't take the regular scheduled exam.

A make up exam will only be available at the Testing Center office if I receive a written request.

Any exam that is not taken on the assigned class date will have to complete a 5 question essay exam. Each essay question will have several sub-parts in addition to the main question. You have to write a minimum of 2 single-spaced handwritten pages per question for a total of 10 single-spaced handwritten pages for each makeup exam. A corresponding percentage of points will be deducted if the essay is short of the page length requirement. Example if you only write 1 page per question you can only earn a maximum of 50% of the possible points.

\* No exceptions: The make up exam is more difficult than the original scheduled exam, in that you will not receive a study guide like the regular in class exams.

**H. Accommodations:**

If you have a documented disability or used an IEP in high school, contact Learning Support Services as soon as possible to discuss accommodations. Learning Support Services is located in room LA 104.

**I. Withdraw and Incomplete:**

The policy for withdrawing and receiving an incomplete is described in detail in the W.C.C. catalog.

**Withdraw:** Students wishing to drop this course are responsible for withdrawing themselves via the MyWCC registration webpage.

**Incomplete:** The student must initiate a request for an incomplete. The instructor may assign an "I" grade at the student's request when all of the following conditions are met:

1. The student is unable to complete the course for some good and serious reason (for example, incapacitating illness, legal involvement that cannot be rescheduled, or changing work obligation)
  2. The student has demonstrated successful progress in class; and the student has completed at least 75 percent of the course work.
- All incompletes must be finished by the end of the next regular semester.

**III. Evaluation Criteria:**

All exams will be given only on scheduled exam days. If you arrive late on exam day you will only have the time remaining on that day. If you don't show up for the in class exam you will either receive a zero for the exam or you can take the harder all essay makeup exam. Follow the make up exam rules stated on this page.

\*\*Exam dates and homework due dates are listed on the course calendar\*\*

**Note** - Check the online grade page for your current grade in the class.

<http://courses.wccnet.org/~memurphy/>

<b>Graded Assignments:</b>		<b>Points</b>		
4 Exams (200 points each)	800 points	1000 – 930	100 – 93%	A
Final Exam	100 points	929 – 900	92 – 90%	A-
		899 – 870	89 – 87%	B+
Campaign Project	100 points	869 – 830	86 – 83%	B
		829 – 800	82 – 80%	B-
		799 – 770	79 – 77%	C+
Total	1000 points	769 – 730	76 – 73%	C
		729 – 700	72 – 70%	C-
		699 – 670	69 – 67%	D+
		669 – 630	66 – 63%	D
		629 – 600	62 – 60%	D-
		599 – 0	59 – 0%	F

**Overall Course Grades will be determined at the end of the semester based on the above scale.**

- 1. Exam #1 – Covers Chapters 1 - 3** - (worth 200 points of your final grade in the class):  
The exam will be made up of short answer, fill in the blank and short essay questions.
- 2. Exam #2 – Covers Chapters 4 - 8** - (worth 200 points of your final grade in the class):  
The exam will be made up of short answer, fill in the blank and short essay questions.
- 3. Exam #3 – Covers Chapters 9 - 12** - (worth 200 points of your final grade in the class):  
The exam will be made up of short answer, fill in the blank and short essay questions.
- 4. Exam #4 – Covers Chapters 13 – 18** - (worth 200 points of your final grade in the class):  
The exam will be made up of short answer, fill in the blank and short essay questions.
- 5. Final Exam – Covers Chapters 1 - 18** - (worth 100 points of your final grade in the class):  
The exam will be made up with questions from Exam #1 – Exam #4.
- 6. Campaign Report** - (worth 100 points of your final grade in the class):  
You will receive an additional handout describing the assignment.

## Homework Paper Guidelines:

- Your paper must be properly work cited using – (MLA).
- The paper must be typed in **double-space** using (10-12 point type). The pages must have no more than a one inch margin on all sides. You must have a cover page, with the topic centered in the middle of the page and your name, class, date and instructors name in the lower right corner of the page.
- A paper that is short of the page length requirement will lose 20 percentage points per page that its short of the page length requirement. Thus, if you're one page short of the page length requirement the highest grade you could earn would be 80% for the assignment.
- If you turn in the paper late, you will lose 10 percentage points per class day that the assignment is late. **No exceptions.**

### **Academic Dishonesty:**

If I catch you cheating, you will, at a minimum, will earn a failing grade on the project. What constitutes academic dishonesty? Think of it this way. Anything you turn in for a grade must represent both your knowledge of the material and your efforts. If it fails to meet either of those criteria, I would consider it to be a case of academic dishonesty.

### **Writing Requirements:**

This means that spelling, punctuation, grammar, organization, presentation, and clarity of expression are all legitimate grading criteria. If you do not currently own a writing guide, now would be a good time to go out and get one.

## **IV. Sexual Misconduct/Title IX Disclosure:**

Washtenaw Community College seeks to provide an environment free of sexual misconduct. If you are, or have been, the victim of sexual misconduct on campus or within a WCC educational program or activity – contact the Ombudsman office at [ombudsman@wccnet.edu](mailto:ombudsman@wccnet.edu).

Information on sexual misconduct prevention, awareness, reporting methods, and victim resources are available from the WCC website at:

<http://www.wccnet.edu/consumer-information/sexual-misconduct/>

Dear Student;

While I want you to feel comfortable coming to me with issues you may be struggling with or concerns you may be having, please be aware that I have reporting requirements that are part of my job responsibilities at Washtenaw Community College.

For example, if you inform me of an issue of sexual assault, sexual misconduct, or gender discrimination - I am required to bring it to the attention of the institution's Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Coordinator. If you would like to talk to either of those individuals directly, they can be reached at:

Linda Blakey  
 VP of Student and Academic Services & WCC Title IX Coordinator  
[lblakey@wccnet.edu](mailto:lblakey@wccnet.edu)

Larry Aeilts  
 Dean/Ombudsman & WCC Deputy Title IX Coordinator  
[laeilts@wccnet.edu](mailto:laeilts@wccnet.edu)  
 or  
[ombudsman@wccnet.edu](mailto:ombudsman@wccnet.edu)

Information on all reporting options for issues of sexual assault, sexual misconduct, or gender discrimination (including confidential reporting options) is available at:

<http://www.wccnet.edu/consumer-information/sexual-misconduct/>

### **Report a Concern**

The WCC Care Team can receive online reports from any member of the campus community regarding any concern at:

[https://publicdocs.maxient.com/reportingform.php?WashtenawCC&layout\\_id=4](https://publicdocs.maxient.com/reportingform.php?WashtenawCC&layout_id=4)

or use the *Report a Concern* link from the WCC home page.

### **V. Pregnant Students:**

The College recommends that pregnant students be proactive in communicating their situation with their instructor and WCC support offices. Pregnant students should contact the Ombudsman office ([ombudsman@wccnet.edu](mailto:ombudsman@wccnet.edu)) as soon as possible if they encounter medical situations that are impacting their ability to attend classes. Options for adjustments become limited with time.

Pregnant students should contact Learning Support Services to discuss accommodations, if needed, during their pregnancy. Additional information is available at:

<http://www.wccnet.edu/services/ombudsman/pregnant-student-rights/>

### **Lactation Room**

In support of our students and employees who are nursing mothers, a lactation room is available for your use. The room offers a secure and private place for the mother to express milk for their nursing children.

Students may make arrangements to use the lactation room by contacting:

Student Resources Center (SRC) on the second floor of the Student Center building or via phone at 734-677-5105.

Additional information is available at:

<http://www.wccnet.edu/services/ombudsman/lactation-room/>

### **VI. Safety & Security:**

Your safety and security is important to us. Here are some important safety tips for the upcoming semester. Also watch your WCC email for safety tips throughout the semester.

- **Emergency Notification Service:** We encourage you to sign up for the Emergency Notification Service in *MyWCC*. You will receive timely notifications if the College is closed due to weather or other emergency.
- **Fire:** If there is a fire or other reason a building needs to be evacuated, the fire alarm will ring. Exit the building using the nearest stairway. Do not use elevators. Make sure you stay at least 150 feet from the building until the all clear signal is given.

- **Tornado:** If a tornado warning is issued for the WCC campus area, the tornado siren will activate outside and an emergency message will broadcast throughout campus. Please seek shelter in the closest room/area designated as a tornado shelter. If you are unable to find a marked tornado shelter, seek shelter in an inner hallway or restroom, away from exterior windows.
- **Property Security:** Do not leave laptop computers, smart phones, tablets or other valuables unattended. If parking on campus, roll up your windows, lock your doors and keep personal belongings out of sight.
- Call Campus Safety (734-973-3411 or 3411 from a College house phone) to report any suspicious activity or safety concern.