

Dr. Brent M. Eastwood, PhD
Fall 2009
Tuesdays and Thursdays
9a-10:15a
Westside Building 1
Room 108

**Central New Mexico Community College
Communication, Humanities & Social Sciences**

Political Science 1110/ Understanding The Political World

I. General Information

Instructor: Dr. Brent M. Eastwood, PhD	Course/Section: 1110/ 301
Office: WS 201, Cubicle 5	Term: Fall 2009
Office Hours: Tues. and Thurs 8:30a-9a	Credit Hours: 3
Phone: 224-5346	Email: beastwood@cnm.edu

II. **Course Description**

This course is an introduction to the discipline of political science, and a broad survey of politics and government and public policy in the world. The course emphasizes how people can understand their own political system, and those of other nations. Emphasis in the course is placed upon the political and governmental behavior of institutions, processes, and political actors in the world. The course includes a general survey of political theory and political philosophy, and political values.

III. **Textbook/Materials (Required)**

Understanding the Political World, James N. Danziger, Pearson/Longman, 9th Edition, 2009. ISBN: 978-0-205-64459-9

IV. **Course Objectives - Students will**

- Construct an academically-sound foundation, using critical thinking methods, for further undergraduate study in political science.
- Use critical thinking methods (reading, writing, oral communication) in order to analyze political processes, ideologies, institutions, and systems in the political world.
- Use critical thinking methods to analyze governmental institutions, structures, policies, and political behavior in the political world.

- Survey political thought, theories, ideas, and values.
- Use case studies as an analytical tool in order to think critically about political and governmental issues and problems.

V. Course Requirements/Attendance

All students must complete the following:

- Two Pop Quizzes given at random times during the semester.
- One mid-term exam.
- One 4-5 page term paper (A topic sheet will be given after the mid-term exam).
- One final examination. It is a Communication, Humanities & Social Sciences policy that all courses require final evaluations.

In accordance with the CNM attendance policy (CNM catalog 25-26), "students enrolled for credit or audit are expected to attend all class sessions... A student with excessive absences (15% of total class hours) may be dropped from the course/class." **After missing three classes, you lose five points off your final grade for any other class absence. Late arrivals and early departures will be discussed on an individual basis and could affect your grade.**

Reading assignments must be completed prior to class. Deadlines must be met.

In the event CNMCC closes during finals week, finals scheduled for that day/time will be rescheduled to the first non-exam day available, at the same time the same location as originally scheduled.

VI. Grading

Grading for this course will follow the CNM grading scale: 90-100%=A; 80-89%=B; 70-79%=C; 60-69%=D; below 60%=F.

Grades for this course are earned and derived from a point system. Points are awarded for each exam, the term paper, and pop quizzes. There will be a maximum number of possible points for each exam, the term essay, and other assignments.

- Two Pop Quizzes X 10 pts. = 20 pts (one pop quiz on a Thursday of my choice before Midterm Exam and one pop quiz on a Thursday after Midterm).
- Midterm Exam = 60 pts.
- 4-5 Page Term Paper = 40 pts.
- Final Exam = 80 pts.
- Total = 200 pts.

There will be a maximum number of possible points for the course; your course grade is calculated by dividing the number of total points earned by the maximum number of

possible points for the course (e.g., 170 divided by 200=85.0% = B

VII. Other Comments on Course Syllabus

- Additional Information About Course Requirements and Procedures
 - **ASK QUESTIONS and STOP ME** if you do not know what I am saying.
 - Talk to me after class or at office hours and ask for help.

- Suggestions for Improving Your Academic Performance
 - Attend all classes, take good notes, READ the textbook, and you may want to study in groups.

- Keep up with current events in New Mexico, U.S. and around the world
 - Read the Albuquerque Journal
 - CNN.com
 - Reuters.com
 - BBC.com
 - If you have a smart phone, add these as an app and read about the day's events
 - Join groups, become friends or become fans on Facebook on pages that deal with politics. Follow people on Twitter that offer political information.

VIII. Reading Schedule and Other Assignments

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1	Tues. Sept. 1	Intro to Course	Opening Lecture
	Thurs. Sept. 3	Chapter 1; pp. 4-23	
2	Tues. Sept. 8	Finish Ch. 1 and start Ch. 2	
	Thurs. Sept. 10	Chapter 2; pp. 26-48	
3	Tues. Sept. 15	Chapter 3; pp. 54-77	
	Thurs. Sept. 17	Chapter 3; pp. 54-77	
4	Tues. Sept. 22	Chapter 4; pp. 82-105	
	Thurs. Sept. 24	Chapter 4; pp. 82-105	Pop Quiz (I will pick one Chapter from weeks 1-4)
5	Tues. Sept. 29	Chapter 5; pp. 110-131	
	Thurs. Oct. 1	Chapter 5; pp. 110-131	
6	Tues. Oct. 6	Chapter 6; pp. 136-159	
	Thurs. Oct. 8	Chapter 6; pp. 136-159	
7	Tues. Oct. 13	Chapter 7; pp. 164-199	
	Thurs. Oct. 15	Chapter 7; pp. 164-199	Midterm Review
8	Tues Oct. 20	Study for Exam Chapter 1-7	Midterm Exam Over Chapter 1-7

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Comments</u>
	Thurs. Oct. 22	Go Over Midterm; Ch. 8	Begin Reading Ch. 8 pp. 204-226
9	Tues. Oct. 27	Finish Ch. 8; Start 9	Hand Out Paper Assignment
	Thurs. Oct. 29	Finish Ch. 9; pp. 232-254	Finish Reading Chapter 9 pp
10	Tues. Nov. 3	Chapter 10; pp. 260-287	
	Thurs. Nov. 5	Chapter 10; pp. 260-287	
11	Tues. Nov. 10	Chapter 11; pp. 292-321	
	Thurs. Nov. 12	Chapter 11; pp. 292-321	Pop Quiz (I will pick one Chapter from weeks 8-11)
12	Tues. Nov. 17	Chapter 12; pp. 325-354	
	Thurs. Nov. 19	Chapter 12; pp. 325-354	Term Paper Due
13	Tues. Nov. 24	Chapter 13; pp. 359-289	
	Thurs. Nov. 26	Thanksgiving	NO CLASS
14	Tues. Dec. 1	Chapter 14; pp. 394-431	
	Thurs. Dec. 3	Chapter 14; pp. 394-431	
15	Tues. Dec. 8	Chapter 15; pp. 435-466	
	Thurs. Dec. 10	Chapter 15; pp. 435-466	Last Day of Class; Review for Final Exam
7:30a-9a	Thurs. Dec. 17	Final Exam on Ch. 1-15	Final Exam on Ch. 1-15

Syllabus is subject to change at professor's discretion.

Please do not record audio or video of professor's lectures. If you need an audio tape of the lecture, we can make arrangements.

No use of cell phones or laptop computers during exams.

No texting or Internet surfing during class.

No foul language in class.

No "bullying" other students, causing conflicts, or other disruptions in class.