Syllabus: National and State Constitutions

Course Information

Course Title: National and State Constitutions
Room: Online (Live via Zoom and online discussion)
Course Prefix/Number: POS 210 1
Semester: Summer 2022
Class Days/Times: Class is from 6:00-8:30PM, each Tuesday and Thursday, except for scheduled holidays. Students are also required to check in to Canvas several times each week to participate in forum discussions and receive the latest on assignments.
Credit Hours: 3

Instructor Information

Name: David Beeksma
Phone/Voice Mail: (520) 236-8796
E-mail: dbeeksma@tocc.edu
Office location: Online
Office hours: Students may contact instructor by e-mail at any time. Phone and video calls will be scheduled as needed.

Course Description

Principles and procedures of national and state constitutions. Includes major principles of American and Arizona constitutionalism, historical and legal environments of the United States and Arizona constitutions, structures, powers, and responsibilities of United States government, structures of Arizona government, civil liberties and civil rights in the United States, and constitutional change. POS 210 satisfies the requirement for teacher certification.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will –

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the principles of constitutionalism as applied within the U.S., Arizona, and Tohono O'odham systems.
2. Describe the development of the U.S., Arizona, and Tohono O'odham constitutions.

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3. Apply critical-thinking skills in assessing constitutional and public policy issues; consider and evaluate multiple perspectives, including Himdag, in a constitutional context.
4. Exercise, refine, and demonstrate skills in research, analysis, and writing.
5. Understand the interdisciplinary nature of the study of political science and recognize differences in approach between science, philosophy, history, and economics to political and governmental questions.

Course Structure

The course will fuse lecture and online activities to provide students with maximum opportunities to engage with one another, the instructor, and assigned course material.

Writing is a major component of the course.

Writing assignments emphasize critical inquiry – including gathering, interpreting, and evaluating information appropriate to the area of study – through attention to the process of writing. Practice of various strategies, such as focusing ideas, drafting, revising, critical reading and research using outside sources, support the writing process.

The capstone for the course is a research paper on a topic from a list of subjects provided by the instructor. The paper will be 5 to 7 pages in length (~ 1,250 to 1,750 words), be double spaced, and include a cover page and bibliography (not included in page count).

Students will also participate in weekly forums that develop and assess their research, reasoning, and writing skills, as well as promoting collaboration and cooperation with classmates.

Students will be invited to respond to a discussion question from the instructor each week. Responses should be 250 to 500 words in length, not counting reference lists. Initial responses are due no later than 11:59 PM Arizona time each Friday.

Following their initial posts, students will respond to the posts of at least two of their classmates. Responses should include direct questions, offer additional sources of information, or provide a new perspective on the topic being discussed. Responses should be between 100 and 250 words and are due no later than 11:59 PM Arizona time each Sunday.

Course Learning Materials and Textbook Information

The Everything U.S. Constitution Book: An easy-to-understand explanation of the foundation of American government by Ellen M. Kozak. Published by Adams Media (2011), ISBN-10: 1440512744.

Understanding the Arizona Constitution, 2nd Edition, by Toni McClory. Published by University of Arizona Press (2010), ISBN-10: 0816529442.

Supplemental reading materials, including digital copies of the U.S., Arizona, and Tohono O'odham constitutions, will be posted to the forum or files section.

Courses Outline and Important Dates

Week 1: Introduction, Constitutionalism, the Articles of Confederation

Preface and Chapter 1 of *The Everything U.S. Constitution Book*

Week 1 Online Discussion (Introductions and Week 1 Forum)

Week 2: The Structure & Purposes of the Constitution

No Class Monday - Memorial Day – 30 May

Chapter 2-3 of *The Everything U.S. Constitution Book*

Week 2 Online Discussion

Instructor provides recommended topics for Research Paper

Last Day to Drop Classes for Full Refund - 31 May

Take Home Quiz #1 – Due 11:59 PM, Sunday

Week 3: The Three Branches

Instructor provides Take Home Quiz

Chapter 4-6 of *The Everything U.S. Constitution Book*

Week 3 Online Discussion

Submit topic for Research Paper – Due Sunday

Week 4: The Bill of Rights and the Amendment Process

Juneteenth - 19 June

Chapter 7-10 of *The Everything U.S. Constitution Book*

Week 4 Online Discussion

Mid-Term Quiz – Due 11:59 PM <u>Sunday</u>

<u>Week 5: Controversy and Conflict</u>

Chapter 11-13 of *The Everything U.S. Constitution Book*

Week 5 Online Discussion

Extra Credit Challenge #1 (Optional)

<u>Week 6: The Arizona Constitution</u>

Chapter 1-3, 5-7 of *The Everything U.S. Constitution Book*

Week 6 Online Discussion

Final day to withdraw from class: 28 June

Take Home Quiz #2 – Due 11:59 PM <u>Sunday</u>

<u>Week 7: Tribal Constitutions</u>

No Class Monday – Independence Day

Read Tohono O'odham Constitution – available under class Files section

Week 7 Online Discussion

<u>Week 8: The Future of the U.S. Constitution</u>

Review online resources in weekly module

Week 8 Online Discussion

Research Paper – Due by 11:59 PM <u>Sunday, 17 July</u>

Evaluations and Grading & Assignments:

Your grade will be determined by the following -

Students will have an opportunity to earn up to 1,000 points during the course. Points will be awarded as follows -

Two Take Home Quizzes: 20% (200 points – 100 points per quiz)
Mid-Term Quiz: 20% (200 points)
Research Paper: 40% (400 points)
Forums and In-Class Participation: 20% (200 points)

These will be totaled and converted to an overall percentage that will determine your final grade.

90 and above is an A
80 - 89 is a B
70 - 79 is a C
60 - 69 is a D
Under 60 is Failing

Note: Students will have an opportunity to participate in two optional Extra Credit Challenges. These are not required; however, students that wish to take them on may earn up to 50 points of extra credit per challenge.

Himdag Cultural Component

Constitutions represent a promise between people and the government they chose to represent them. They are based on mutual respect, cooperative action, consensus, and a commitment to community.

A greater understanding of the constitutions of the U.S., Arizona, and Tohono O'odham Nation reinforces as is reinforced by Himdag.

Students will have an opportunity to:

Reflect on how these constitutions complement and, at times, conflict with Himdag: T-Wohocudadag.

Consider the impact of constitutions and other social compacts on the physical, spiritual, and emotional health of the people they support: T-Apedag.

Examine the connection between respect and the rights and privileges of citizenship: T-Pi:k Elida.

Work with classmates, sharing skills, practicing teamwork, and building a sense of community: I-We:mta.

Policies and Expectations

Attendance Policy (Re: face-to-face, synchronous-virtual, or Flex courses)
You are expected to arrive to class on time and be prepared to participate in each class period. Four unexcused absences may result in a letter grade of "F" or an instructor withdrawal "FW" (*see* 45th-Day Instructor Withdrawal policy). You may request to be excused from class for religious observances and practices, for illness, for school or work-related travel or for personal or family emergency. If you will be absent, please notify the instructor as soon as possible.

Attendance Policy (Re: asynchronous online classes)
You are expected to complete all learning activities, participation in class, assignments and quiz by the due dates listed in the course syllabus. Four consecutive missed due dates may result in a letter grade of "F" or an instructor withdrawal "FW" (*see* 45th-Day Instructor Withdrawal policy). You may request to be excused from class for religious observances and practices, for illness, for school or work-related travel or for personal or family emergency. If you will be absent, please notify the instructor as soon as possible.

Incomplete Policy
Incomplete (I) grades are not awarded automatically. The student must request an "I" from the instructor who can choose to award an Incomplete only if all three of the following conditions are met:
      1. The student must be in in compliance with the attendance policy.
      2. The student must have unavoidable circumstance that would prohibit the student from completing the course.
      3. The student must have completed over 75% of the course requirements with at least a "C" grade.
Incompletes are not a substitute for incomplete work due to frequent absences or poor academic performance. Incomplete grades that are not made up by the end of the ninth week of the following semester will be automatically changed to an F if the agreed upon work, as stipulated on the written form signed by the instructor and the student when the I grade is awarded, is not completed.

45th-Day Instructor Withdrawal Policy "FW" (Re: face-to-face, synchronous-virtual, or Flex courses)
Students who have missed four (4) consecutive classes, has not submitted any assignments, nor taken any quizzes by the 45th - day census report, due on [insert date of 45th - day found in Academic Calendar on TOCC website] are assumed NOT to be participating in the class and may be withdrawn at the faculty member's discretion. After the 45th - day census, if a student needs to stop attending a course, they must withdraw from the course (*see* Student Withdrawal Policy).

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45th-Day Instructor Withdrawal Policy "FW" (Re: asynchronous online classes)
Students who have missed four (4) consecutive course due dates for learning activities, participation, assignments, quizzes, exams, by the 45th - day census report, due on [date of 45th - day found in Academic Calendar on TOCC website] are assumed NOT to be participating in the class and may be withdrawn at the faculty member's discretion. After the 45th - day census, if a student needs to stop attending a course, they must withdraw from the course (*see* Student Withdrawal Policy).

Student Withdrawal Policy "W"
Students may withdraw from class at any time during the first two-third of the semester without instructor permission and without incurring any grade penalty. Please be sure to withdraw yourself by [withdrawal deadline date found in Academic Calendar on TOCC website] if you do not expect to complete the class, otherwise you may receive an "F" letter grade for the course. For more information on the student withdraw process email admissions@tocc.edu.

Special Withdrawals (Y) Grade
The "Y" grade is an administrative withdrawal given at the instructor's option when no other grade is deemed appropriate. Your instructor must file a form stating the specific rationale for awarding this grade. "Y" grades are discouraged since they often affect students negatively. Your instructor will not award a "Y" grade without a strong reason.

Equal Access Statement/Disability Accommodations
Tohono O'odham Community College seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. The College will comply with all applicable regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to ensure an equal educational opportunity. This process includes self-identifying as a student with a disability, providing supporting documentation of their disability, and being approved for services through the Disability Resources Office (DRO).It is the student's responsibility to make known to their instructor(s) the student's specific needs within the context of each class in order to receive appropriate accommodations. We will work together in order to develop an accommodation plan specifically designed to meet the individual student's requirements.

For more information or to request academic accommodations, please contact: Anthony Osborn, TOCC Disabilities Resource Coordinator, aosborn@tocc.edu, or 520-383-0033 for additional information and assistance.

Title IX
Tohono O'odham Community College encourages each student to have the knowledge and skills to be an active bystander who intervenes when anyone is observed or being harassed or endangered by sexual violence. Sexual discrimination and sexual violence can undermine students' academic success and quality of life on campus and beyond. We encourage students

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who have experienced or witnessed any form of sexual misconduct to talk about their experience and seek the support they need.

Confidential support and academic advocacy can be found with: Student Services Title IX Coordinator/Counselor, Alberta Espinoza, M.Ed. located in I-We:mta Ki: Room 18. Phone 520-383-0033 email: aespinoza@tocc.edu

Conduct: Bias, Bullying, Discrimination and Harassment
Tohono O'odham Community College faculty and staff are dedicated to creating a safe and supportive campus environment as a core value. Harassment based on age, class, color, culture, disability and ability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and expression, immigration status, marital status, political ideology, race, religion/spirituality, sex, sexual orientation, and tribal sovereign status will not be tolerated.

General Policies:

Students are expected to attend each class, arriving on time, except in the case of an excused emergency.

Students will contact the instructor prior to absences, coming late to class or leaving early.

Unexcused late arrivals or early departures will count against attendance record.

Class participation and preparation are essential to student success. Students must read textual material, prepare for projects, complete required research as stated on the course schedule.

Students are expected to come to class prepared for class and having done any preliminary work required as per the course schedule.

Students are expected to stay in class and work diligently throughout the whole time. Sleeping, frequent/continued exiting from the class during the class period will constitute one absence.

No cell phone use is allowed during class. Use of cell phones during class, unless permitted by instructor, is a violation of the T-So:son.

Failure to submit an assignment results in a grade of zero.

Classroom Behavior:
Visitors may be only allowed at class sessions or on field trips with instructor approval, visitor's safety and behavior are the responsibly of the student.

Possession of drugs, alcohol or firearms on college property is illegal.

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Food and beverages are allowed in classrooms at discretion of the instructor.

Cellphones should be turned off during class, unless the instructor is allowing students to use their tools (calculator, internet access).

Students creating disturbances that interfere with the conduct of the class or the learning of others will be asked to leave.

Student behavior is also detailed in student handbook under Student Code of Conduct Violations

Late Coursework:
Students must contact the instructor if they believe they will be unable to participate in the course for more than one week and are responsible for making up required classwork. Failure to inform the instructor of a late submission or a late submission without cause (e.g. illness, family emergency) will result in a reduction of one letter grade for each week the coursework is delayed. All late assignments must be submitted no later than one week after the end of the course to be considered for credit.

Academic Integrity:
Violations of scholastic ethics are considered serious offenses by Tohono O'odham Community College, the Student Services Department, and your instructor. Students may consult the TOCC Student Handbook sections on student code of conduct, scholastic ethics, and the grade appeal procedure. Copies are available at Tohono O'odham Community College.

All work done for this class must be your own, or the original work of your group. While you may discuss assignments with other class members, the final written project must be original. You may use work from books and other materials if it is properly cited. Copying from a book or other source without proper reference will result in an "F" for the assignment and, at the instructor's discretion, may lead to an "F" for the course. If you are uncertain about proper citations, ask your instructor or the librarian.

Course Feedback:
Assignments will be graded and returned to the students promptly, typically within a week of submission. E-mail and phone messages will be returned within two days. A student or the instructor may request a student conference at any time during the semester. Quarterly grade reports will be provided to each student, either in person, by email or via the electronic system of Canvas.

Technical Requirements for Online Learning

Software capabilities:
● Ability to run Google Chrome Version 78+

● Updated virus protection, if using PC or Mac. (TOCC recommends the free Windows Defender for Windows machines)
● Security: Must have a password/passcode (login) to access the device. This is responsible computing. Students will be bound by the TOCC IT Policy related to passwords, security, and appropriate usage.

Is there specific software that needs to be installed?
● TOCC recommends installing the Google Chrome browser as it works well with G Suite. Students collaborate with Google Docs and Microsoft 365 on a regular basis.

Can I use Alternative Browsers?
● Firefox, Internet Explorer, Opera, and other unlisted browsers will not be supported.

Which Operating System should the device run?
The decision for the student's device is a matter of personal preference, but the device needs to be able to run the Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, or Apple Safari Browser. Devices can run Windows, Mac OS, or Chrome OS if the minimum requirements listed here:

● Operating System:
  ○ Windows 8.1, 10
  ○ MacOS 10.11 or Higher
  ○ Chrome Version 78 or Higher
● Battery life: 5 hours
● Startup time: No longer than 120 seconds
● Wireless: Integrated
● Keyboard: Integrated, but can be wireless
● Audio: Headphone jack with headphones/earbuds
● Microphone: Integrated
● Camera: Integrated
● Processor: 1.6 GHZ or faster 64-bit processor
● Memory: 4 GB RAM or higher
● Disk Space: 16gb GB or higher
● Screen Size: 10 inches or larger
● Monitor Resolution: 1024 x 768

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