COURSE SYLLABUS

Please read the following course syllabus carefully, especially the course dates, times and location. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to communicate with the IDEAL Program office, your academic advisor, or the instructor.

The IDEAL degree-completion program is designed with the adult learner in mind. Adult learners approach learning with specific goals, want to be able to directly apply new learning to their work and personal lives, and tend to learn best when the coursework is problem-centered so that they are actively engaged in the learning process. In addition, adults bring rich and varied experience to the classroom, which becomes a valuable learning resource for other students.

The IDEAL Program assumes joint responsibility in the learning process. The activities and assignments in the courses build on the shared experience of all learners in each class. This is why each student’s preparation, participation and interaction in class activities and discussions are critical to the success of each course. The accelerated format of each course requires a significant amount your time outside the classroom to prepare for and complete the course assignments. This varies between students and courses; however, students typically spend nine-twelve hours per week on course material.

To participate in the IDEAL Program, it is expected that you will do the following:
1. Attend every class session. Be on time.
2. Obtain the required course materials prior to the first class session.
3. Complete the first assignment prior to the first class session and all subsequent assignments to the best of your ability.
4. Participate in the class discussions and demonstrate respect and consideration to the instructor and other students when they express themselves in discussion.

If you cannot perform these four expectations, it is recommended that you drop the course. We look forward to your academic success in each course and the ultimate completion of your degree.
Course No. & Title:  PSCI 101 RB2, American Government
Semester and Term:  SPRING 2015
Time:  6pm – 10pm
Campus Location:  Stamford

Course Description:  The Constitution. Structure and function of the national government: proper citizenship, civil rights, elections, and party organizations.
Prerequisite Courses:  None
Course Code:  LA, SS, SsC

Instructor & contact information:
Professor AJ Di Mattia, B.A., M.B.A., LL.M., J.D.
Email:  dimattia@bridgeport.edu as a secondary:  ajdimattiaesq@gmail.com

Required Textbook:

To order textbooks, go to the bookstore website at  http://bridgeport.textbooktech.com/
Select IDEAL Campus and login to the bookstore. Select the course and follow instructions.

Learning Outcomes:
Upon completion of this course the student should be able to:

- Identify key components in the U.S. Constitution, including separation of powers and checks-and-balances
- Understand American Federalism and its evolution over time
- Differentiate between political parties, interest groups and individual thoughts and ideologies
- Recognize the importance of public opinion, voting and political activism
- Understand the role the media plays in U.S. elections and governance
- Identify the key players in and primary functions of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Branches of the federal government
- Recognize the role both the federal bureaucracy and the federal judiciary plays in American governance
- Identify, understand and appreciate the evolution of basic Constitutional civil rights and liberties
First Assignment Prior to the First Class:

Textbook chapters 1, 2, 3 - Constitutional Principals

Assignments:
SECOND CLASS
Textbook chapters 4, 5, 6 - the Political Process

THIRD CLASS
Textbook chapters 7, 8, 9 - the Political Process (continued)

FOURTH CLASS
Textbook chapters 10, 11, 12 - the Political Process (concluded); Policy Making Institutions

FIFTH CLASS
Textbook chapters 13, 14, 15 & 16 – Policy Making Institutions concluded; Rights & Liberties

Description of Weekly Sessions:
Lecture coupled required student participation

Grading Criteria:

FOUR FOUR (4) WEEKLY TESTS; FINAL EXAM

At the start of the second, third, fourth and fifth class sessions, students will take a twenty (20) minute long test consisting of twenty (20) various true-false, multiple-choice, and fill-in-the-blank questions.

GRADING OF THE FOUR WEEKLY TESTS:

The four (4) tests shall be graded based on the following scale: 100% to 96%=A; 95% to 90%= Aˉ; 89% to 85%=B+; 84% to 80%=B; 79% to 75%=Bˉ; 74% to 70%=C+; 69% to 65%=C; 64% to 60%=Cˉ; 59% to 55%=D+; 54% to 50%=D; 49% to 45%=Dˉ; 44% to 0%=F.

THE FINAL EXAM

Toward the end of the fifth and final class session, Prof. Di Mattia will distribute the course final exam and will review the final exam’s detailed instructions and mandatory requirements. The final exam shall consist of eight (8) essay questions, from which students will have the choice of selecting and answering two (2). Students will be
required to write their final exam essay answers “on their computer” and return them, by
e-mail, to Prof. Di Mattia by a certain date and time to be announced on the final evening
of class.

**GRADING OF FINAL EXAM ESSAY ANSWERS:**

The grade for a final exam answer will be based on:

(1) identification and discussion of all of the issues raised in the question;
(2) thoroughness of the discussion and analysis of those issues & concepts; and
(3) attention to spelling, use of language (grammar) and overall readability.

Based on these three criteria, the final exam answer will be given both a numerical and a
letter grade in the range described above in “Grading of the Four Weekly Tests.”

**GRADE FOR THE COURSE:**

The student’s grade for the course shall be the combined average of (i) the student’s
overall average on their four weekly tests— which shall be worth 45% of the student’s
overall final course grade; and the student’s final exam grade, also worth 45% of the
student’s course grade, calculated as follows:

\[
\text{Preliminary grade for the course} = \frac{\text{Overall weekly test score average} + \text{final exam score}}{2}
\]

The student will receive a grade for their class participation, worth 10% that will be used
to adjust, upward or downward, the student’s preliminary course grade, to arrive at the
student’s ultimate grade for the course.

**Letter Grading Scale:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of Points Earned</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100-96</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95-90</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>89-85</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>84-80</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>79-75</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>74-70</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
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<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>59-55</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>54-50</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>49-45</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<td>Below 45</td>
<td>F</td>
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**ACADEMIC POLICIES**

**Attendance Policy**
Classroom attendance is an integral part of the academic experience; therefore, students are expected to attend all class sessions. If an absence is unavoidable, the student, prior to class, should communicate with the instructor. Arrangements should be made at that time for submission of any missed assignments. It is also expected that students arrive on time and not leave until the class is dismissed. Tardiness will result in a reduced grade for the course. If you cannot attend every class session you should consider dropping the course.

**IMPORTANT:**
- Missing one class session will drop the final grade by one letter grade (for example if a student earns a grade of “B” in the course, the final grade would be a “C”).
- Missing two or more class sessions will be cause for a failing grade.
- Note: For 15-week courses; missing two class sessions will result in a letter grade drop and three or more will cause a failing grade.

**Drop Procedures**
To drop a course, you must complete and submit a Schedule Change Request Form. The form can be accessed at the IDEAL Course Schedule webpage: [http://www.bridgeport.edu/academics/continuinged/ideal-academic-degree-programs-and-certificates/ideal-course-schedule/](http://www.bridgeport.edu/academics/continuinged/ideal-academic-degree-programs-and-certificates/ideal-course-schedule/).

Please print and complete the form and fax the form to the IDEAL Office: 203-576-4537. Prior to dropping a course, the student should contact their IDEAL Academic Advisor to understand the implications to financial aid and/or degree plan progress.

Please review the drop fees and tuition refunds at the Academic Calendar; accessed at the IDEAL Course Schedule webpage (same link above).

**Cell Phones**
Cell phones must be turned off (or placed on “vibrate”) while in the classroom. A cell phone call is disruptive and disrespectful to the other students in the class.

**Academic Dishonesty**
The IDEAL program prohibits all forms of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty is normally defined as, but not limited to, the following two categories:

Cheating – Using inappropriate sources of information in an assignment or on a test. The following are examples of cheating taken from real student experiences:

*Case #1:* A student is enrolled in an introductory psychology course. He has co-workers who have taken the same course. As the end of the course approaches, he wonders how he will find the time to get the research paper finished, and asks one of his co-workers for help. His co-worker hands him a research paper that he submitted in a similar course. The student makes minor modifications to the paper, and submits it under his own name.

*Case #2:* A student enrolled in a humanities course is unsure about how to structure an essay. She is doing research on the World Wide Web, and comes across an essay written by a student from another university. Using her computer mouse, she copies and pastes the essay into her word processor. She goes to great lengths to re-word the paper in her own style, but essentially leaves the content and organization the same.
Plagiarism – Intentional as well as unintentional failure to acknowledge sources as well as the use of commercially available so-called “research papers” without full recognition of the source. Presenting as one’s own, the ideas, words, or products of another. The following are examples of plagiarism taken from real student experiences:

Case #3: A student is conducting research for a Civil War research paper. He has reviewed work on the Internet. Finding helpful information, he has summarized his findings without citing his sources. He believes that minor paraphrasing is all that is necessary.

Case #4: A student is writing a paper that requires her to address specific topics and problems in the assigned course textbook. She takes the information directly from the textbook with slight modification, without giving any citation. She thinks that since it is the course textbook, she doesn’t have to use quotations or citations.

Academic dishonesty applies to all courses, assignments or exams completed by students and submitted as their own original work, whether in person or by electronic means. The University does not tolerate cheating in any form. It is a serious breach of conduct with serious consequences. Instructors have the right to determine the appropriate penalty for academic dishonesty in their own courses; generally, however, such acts will result in a failing grade for the assignment and/or the course. The penalty for subsequent acts of academic dishonesty may include expulsion.

More information on how to recognize plagiarism can be found at this site: http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/plagiarism_test.html

Ethics Statement of Confidentiality
An integral component of an IDEAL course is student and faculty expression of personal experiences for the purpose of facilitating coursework. Students enrolled in the program are expected to honor confidentiality as it pertains to student disclosure. Shared information, comments, or opinions expressed by another student or the faculty member during the course of classroom discussion should never be used in a manner which is intended to humiliate, embarrass, harass, damage, or otherwise injure other students in their personal, public, or business lives. In addition, confidentiality must be upheld by not disclosing any information that would identify any particular individual.

ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER

The Academic Resource Center is available for IDEAL students seeking help in their studies. The Center is staffed by writing professionals and peer tutors. More information can be found at: http://www.bridgeport.edu/pages/2209.asp The Center is located on the 5th Floor of the Wahlstrom Library. Make an appointment or walk-in: Telephone: 203-576-4290. Online Tutoring is available at: www.etutoring.org. To use this free service you must have a UBNet account.

Obtaining a UBNet Account
Every registered student should obtain a UBNet Account. The account allows you to access MyUB; the portal for grades, library services, Canvas online learning system. Also, the account allows you access to computers in the Library and computer labs, and provides an email account in which the University sends out information. Go to: http://www.bridgeport.edu/ubnet - Click on “New UBNet Account” and follow the instructions.
The @bridgeport.edu email address is the official email the University uses to send information to you. You can have your bridgeport.edu email forwarded to any other private email account you use. Following the activation of your UBNet account (takes 24 hours), login at: http://www.bridgeport.edu/email and click on “forwards” at the top of the page. Follow the directions to forward email messages to your other account.

Accessing Your Grades & Schedule Online
The WebAdvisor online information system allows students to search for available classes, check grades, view semester class schedule and verify your personal profile. Grades are generally posted 2-3 weeks following the end of a course. To access WebAdvisor, login in to MyUB and follow the WebAdvisor menu on the right. If you are carrying a financial balance, access to WebAdvisor will be restricted.

Using the Library
Access to the Digital Library is through MyUB. On the MyUB home, in the central column, click on “myEureka Digital Library.” Research tools available:
- Search for books held at the library.
- Search the online databases for your academic field; business, counseling, human services, psychology, etc.
- Send questions to the Reference Librarian for assistance in research topics and searching strategy.

Using Computers
Open access computer labs are available at three locations:
- Bridgeport – 1st floor of the Wahlstrom library. Check library hours of operation at: http://www.bridgeport.edu/library.
- Stamford – Room D; Check open hours at: http://www.bridgeport.edu/stamford
- Waterbury – Computer Lab; Check open hours at: http://www.bridgeport.edu/waterbury

Course Cancellations
Any emergency necessitating the canceling of courses will be announced by the University through the Emergency Notification Telephone Line, (203) 576-4159. Please call this number for information on course cancellations. Also, information will be posted under “Latest News” on the UB home page, (www.bridgeport.edu). Canceled classes will be made up either the week following the end of the course or in consultation between the instructor and the students as to day and time availability. Course cancellations are also announced on television and radio stations.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bridgeport Campus Security</td>
<td>(203) 576-4911</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ubsecurity@bridgeport.edu">ubsecurity@bridgeport.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bursar</td>
<td>(203) 576-4692</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bursar@bridgeport.edu">bursar@bridgeport.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cashier</td>
<td>(203) 576-4682</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cashier@bridgeport.edu">cashier@bridgeport.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Aid</td>
<td>(203) 576-4568</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sfs@bridgeport.edu">sfs@bridgeport.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registrar</td>
<td>(203) 576-4635</td>
<td><a href="mailto:registrar@bridgeport.edu">registrar@bridgeport.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Notification Phone</td>
<td>(203) 576-4159</td>
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<tr>
<td>IDEAL Office</td>
<td>(203) 576-4800</td>
<td><a href="mailto:idealinfo@bridgeport.edu">idealinfo@bridgeport.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bridgeport</td>
<td>126 Park Avenue Bridgeport, CT 06604</td>
<td>(203) 576-4800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stamford</td>
<td>5 Riverbend Drive Stamford, CT 06750</td>
<td>(203) 358-0700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterbury</td>
<td>84 Progress Lane Waterbury, CT 06705</td>
<td>(203) 573-8501</td>
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Directions to IDEAL Campus locations [http://www.bridgeport.edu/pages/2260.asp](http://www.bridgeport.edu/pages/2260.asp)

To fill out your financial aid report to the Federal Government, please go online to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). The school code for the University of Bridgeport is 001416.

Federal Student Aid Information: 1-800-433-3243