

# POLS 205 / 34098

## Contact information

**Instructor:** Dr. Anika Leithner

**Email Address:** [anika\\_leithner@cuesta.edu](mailto:anika_leithner@cuesta.edu)

**Office Location/ Hours:** Zoom link and hours to be announced in class

### Instructor Contact Expectations:

The best and fastest way to contact me is email. I will generally respond to your emails within 24 hours during weekdays only. During busy times of the semester, the response time may increase to 48 hours. On weekends, I will do my best to get back to you ASAP but I cannot guarantee an expeditious response.

### Course Environment:

This online course will be using a Web-based Learning Management System Canvas as the method to disseminate information. Canvas provides the framework for the course including PowerPoint presentations, student data files, the tools to receive and send course materials, and a grade book. Using the communication tools, you can communicate using e-mail, and you can share materials and ideas with other course participants via the discussion forums and groups.

This course will consist of asynchronous instruction, which means you will spend your time working asynchronously on modules and other assignments throughout the week. (Please note: synchronous class meetings will be recorded and can be viewed asynchronously, if a student is prevented from attending "live.")

### Class Opens / Accessing Canvas:

Prior to the Monday classes start, you will receive an email to your my.Cuesta.edu address providing you with a reminder that class will be starting and log in procedures for Canvas, the learning management system (LMS) used to deliver course content. You can access Canvas by logging into MyCuesta, then clicking on the Resources Tab, then clicking on Canvas in the Online Learning Channel, or by typing the Canvas address (<https://cuesta.instructure.com/>) into your browser address bar. Do not bookmark / favorite the canvas site after your login, or you will get an error message next time you try to log in. You must access the canvas log in directly.

If you are not familiar with logging into canvas, please refer to the [Canvas Quick Reference Guide](#). Once logged into Canvas you will be directed on where to get started. Be sure to read all the direction on the course home page.

If you are having difficulty logging into Canvas after the beginning of the semester and need assistance please email me or technical support at this email address: [support@my.cuesta.edu](mailto:support@my.cuesta.edu).

### Online Learning:

If you have never taken an online class or this is your first experience with Canvas, please be patient with yourself. Online classes are not inherently easier, although they may be much more convenient for many students. You should expect to spend at least as much time, if not more on this course as you would on a course that meets face to face. Since there is no lecture component, much of this time will be self-directed and there will be a substantial amount of reading, viewing, studying, and writing required. This course is completely online using Canvas; all coursework (discussions, assignments, quizzes) is submitted online. There are no face-to-face meetings. Please be prepared to spend 8 - 12 hours per week on coursework for this class

IS an ONLINE CLASS FOR YOU?

- First, go to the [Online Readiness Resources](#) to take a "self-assessment". There are many resources that were designed to help you understand the basis for an online class and the skills necessary for success. (If the tutorials do **NOT** describe you, then taking this class online is **NOT** for you and I strongly suggest that you drop the online class and enroll in a traditional classroom section.)

## Regular Effective Contact Policy:

Regular and Effective Instructor Contact will be met through weekly instructor initiated threaded discussion forums; weekly announcements to students; timely and effective feedback on student assignments; email, phone or messaging to individuals; and virtual office hours.

I will try my best to respond to e-mails within 24 hour of receiving them (except on weekends and holidays). Please plan to check your e-mails at least two to three times per week. I will be sending regular reminders and updates about the course.

## Course Description

Presents an introduction to the institutions, operation, and policy outputs of the American political system at the national, state, and local levels. The structures and functions of American government will be explored in the context of their historical development and their relation to political power and interest today.

For the official course description and course outline of record please go to [CurricUNET](#)

## Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should:

1. Describe the structure and function of the federal and state judiciaries.
2. Explain the political and non-political characteristics of federal courts.
3. Explain and evaluate arguments about the use of judicial review.
4. Apply philosophical and jurisprudential arguments incorporating liberty, government authority, individual responsibility, and punishment.
5. Apply philosophical and jurisprudential arguments involving civil liberties and civil rights.
6. Describe the roles and obligations of the different actors within the legal system/process.
7. Explain the differences between original and appellate jurisdiction.

## Text Book and Materials

Neubauer, D.W., S.S. Meinhold Judicial Process: Law, Courts, and Politics in the United States (current/e). Wadsworth Publishing Co., Boston (2019)

Please note that this textbook does not cover all the content we will be discussing this semester.

Additional information will be provided during class, so please be prepared to take notes as some of the exam questions will be based on lectures as opposed to the textbook readings.

## Technical Support

Cuesta students are encouraged to direct all technical support inquiries to [support@my.cuesta.edu](mailto:support@my.cuesta.edu). If you are having issues with Canvas, you should contact the Canvas Support Hotline at (877) 921-7680, or click on the help button on the Canvas Navigation to report a problem.

If you are having difficulty viewing the course or logging in, it may be because you are not using the correct url: <https://cuesta.instructure.com/> or you are using your phone or using an unsupported browser.

Your learning environment is best accessed from a desktop or laptop computer, using Firefox or Chrome. This may solve your problem! Please review the [browser requirements and minimum computer specifications](#) at:

## Accommodations:

This course is designed using an accessible Learning Management System, and course materials have been created with ADA compliance in mind. If you have a disability and might need accommodations in this class such as extended time on exams or other resources. Please contact the instructor as soon as possible so that you can receive appropriate accommodations in a timely manner. You should also contact [DSPS \(Disabled Student Programs & Services\)](#) at 805-546-3148 or

## College & Course Policies:

**Academic Honesty Policy:** [Identify your course specific academic honesty policy]. In addition to my course policy, please note all students attending San Luis Obispo County Community College District at any district site and when representing Cuesta College in any off-campus activity, assume an obligation to conduct themselves in an acceptable manner compatible with the Student Code of conduct. Please review the [Cuesta College Student Code of conduct](#) at:

**Add / Drop Policy:** [Identify your course-specific add/drop policy] In addition to my policy, please review the Cuesta policy for drops

- [Add Policy](#)
- [Drop Policy](#)

**Waitlist Policy:** [Identify your course-specific waitlist procedures]. In addition to my course specific procedures, please review [Cuesta's waitlist procedure and instructions](#):

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