

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 101**  
**AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT**

Westfield State University

Professor Y. Hugh Jo

### **C. Course Materials**

*The Democratic Debate* by Miroff, Seidelman, Swanstrom, and De Luca is required for this course. To purchase/rent the book, go to the campus bookstore's website <http://www.westfieldstate.bncollege.com/> or call 413 579 3103.

Miroff, Bruce, Raymond Seidelman, Todd Swanstrom, and Tom De Luca. 2015. *The Democratic Debate: American Politics in an Age of Change* (6<sup>th</sup> Edition). Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning.

### **D. Course Outline and Schedule**

Week One: Founding of the United States

The Independence War

The Constitutional Convention and Shaping of the US Government

The Federalists vs. the Anti-federalists

Reading Assignment: Miroff, Seidelman, Swanstrom, and De Luca (MSSD), Chapter 2

Week Two: The American Political System

Congressional Oversight

Presidential Powers

Checks and Balances

Reading Assignment: MSSD, Chapters 11 and 12

Week Three: The Judiciary and Civil Liberties

The Federal Court System

The Supreme Court in History

The Bill of Rights and Civil Liberties

Reading Assignment: MSSD, Chapter 14

Week Four: Electoral Campaigns and Interest Groups

Interest Groups & Lobbying

Money and Political Campaigns

Voter Participation

Reading Assignment: MSSD, Chapters 5

Week Five: Policymaking in America

Social Welfare Policy – Social Security and Medicare

Budget Deficits and Government Debt

The Tea Party & Occupy Wall Street

Reading Assignment: MSSD, Chapter 17

Week Six: America and the Healthcare Reform

Problems in the US Healthcare System

Healthcare in Other Countries

The Obama Healthcare Reform

Reading Assignment: MSSD, Chapter 3