

POLSC 10 – US GOVERNMENT & POLITICS – COVER SHEET	
<b>Semester &amp; Year:</b>	SPRING 2013
<b>Course ID and Section Number:</b>	<a href="#">POLSC -10 V3258</a>
<b>Number of Credits/Units:</b>	3.0 units
<b>Day/Time:</b>	On-line
<b>Location:</b>	
<b>Instructor's Name:</b>	G. Sokolow
<b>Contact Information:</b>	Office location and hours: None Phone: (See Syllabus) Email: through MyCR
<b>Course Description (catalog description as described in course outline):</b> A course addressing both the philosophic roots and the contemporary operation of American national, state, and local government. Specific topics include constitutional development, federal-state relations, and the rights and obligations of citizens under both the federal and the California constitutions.	
<b>Student Learning Outcomes (as described in course outline) :</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain the history and philosophy of the Constitution, politics, and government in the United States.</li> <li>• Identify the major provisions of the California and US Constitution.</li> <li>• Compare the three branches of California and US Government, and related political institutions.</li> <li>• Outline the relationship between the states and national government (ie. federalism).</li> <li>• Analyze contemporary issues facing California and the US system of government.</li> </ul>	
<b>Special accommodations:</b> College of the Redwoods complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please present your written accommodation request at least one week before the first test so that necessary arrangements can be made. No last-minute arrangements or post-test adjustments will be made. If you have a disability or believe you might benefit from disability related services and may need accommodations, please see me or contact Disabled Students Programs and Services. Students may make requests for alternative media by contacting DSPS.	
<b>Academic Misconduct:</b> Cheating, plagiarism, collusion, abuse of resource materials, computer misuse, fabrication or falsification, multiple submissions, complicity in academic misconduct, and/ or bearing false witness will not be tolerated. Violations will be dealt with according to the procedures and sanctions proscribed by the College of the Redwoods. Students caught plagiarizing or cheating on exams will receive an "F" in the course.	
The student code of conduct is available on the College of the Redwoods website at: <a href="http://www.redwoods.edu/District/Board/New/Chapter5/Ap5500.pdf">http://www.redwoods.edu/District/Board/New/Chapter5/Ap5500.pdf</a>	
College of the Redwoods is committed to equal opportunity in employment, admission to the college, and in the conduct of all of its programs and activities.	

**ON-LINE COURSE SYLLABUS**

Professor Gary A. Sokolow  
Office: AJ 106  
Office Hours: By Appointment  
Telephone: 444-8630 (home)\*  
E-mail: via MyCR webpage

**COURSE HOME PAGE -- [mycr.redwoods.edu](http://mycr.redwoods.edu)**  
**EXAM SUBMISSION PAGE -- [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)**

**AFTER SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THIS CLASS, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO:**

- Explain the history and philosophy of the Constitution, politics, and government in the United States.
- Identify the major provisions of the California and US constitutions.
- Compare the three branches of California and US Government, and related political institutions.
- Outline the relationship between the states and national government (ie. federalism).
- Analyze contemporary issues facing California and the US system of government.

**WEB SITE/CLASS PARTICIPATION/ EXAMS/CHAT ROOM:** Regular and timely participation in the class is essential. A substantial part of the course grade involves responding to posted discussion questions and analyzing the Question of the Day (QD) exercises. Any e-mails or phone calls to me will generally be responded to within a day (Sundays excluded).

*Every week, I will post on the discussion board, one question about the chapter material and you will be expected to respond in a meaningful way. Typically, the question will deal with material in the textbook, the video lecture, and other assigned readings. You can earn up to ten points for each post. Six points are for your main response. The remaining four points are for responding to two of your classmates' posts.*

*Every third week, I will post a "question of the day" exercise on the website and your team of two or three classmates will need to analyze it and post a detailed response. The QDs will cover about three weeks of course material. The first week of class I will ask all of you to find one or two class partners. The two or three members of each team will remain in the same*

team for the entire semester. Each team will then discuss the question of the day amongst themselves. *Only one member* of the team need post the group's response to the question of the day. All team (group) members will be given the same grade for the team response to the QD. Collaboration with at least one other student on the QDs is required.

*I will look both for quantity and quality when I grade your responses to both the discussion questions and QD exercises. Merely writing comments such as "I agree" or "I don't really know", etc. are not sufficient responses. Merely cutting and pasting or copying verbatim, material from the textbook (or other sources) is by itself, also an insufficient response. In the body of the discussion questions and QDs, I will post both a due date and a minimum length 'word count' within the text of the questions. No late responses will be accepted for the weekly questions or QDs, regardless of the reason.*

*Every fifth week, an exam will be posted. Each of these tests will be of the "take-home" variety and you will have one week to complete them. The second and third exams are cumulative. The exams will be available for viewing and downloading under the "lessons" and/or "resources" areas of our course webpage. Any late submission of exams is subject to a grade penalty of my choosing.*

The exams will contain detailed instructions for their completion and the electronic submission of them to the *Turnitin.com* website. The exams are "paperless". Therefore, you will not need to give me a hard (paper) copy of your exam. I will grade the exams in the Turnitin site, where you can then see both your grade and my comments typed directly on the tests. After the tests are graded electronically via Turnitin, I will post the grades to your MyCR Gradebook. The Turnitin site will always be open for the submission and viewing of exams. *However, any exams turned in late will be assessed a late grade penalty of my choosing. Employment issues, child care, computer issues, etc. are not excuses for the submission of any late work. **Plan ahead.***

If you are experiencing computer glitches or problems with the myCR site, either contact me at my home phone number\* listed above or E-mail me directly and/or the College of the Redwoods help desk – **its@redwoods.edu** or call them at **707.476.4160**. Before contacting me however, I suggest you first try to solve the problem with the help of the guides or the help menus.

Under the “Resources>Help Folder” section of our website, you will find several documents which will guide you in the use of the MyCR, Turnitin, and Tegrity websites. Please note that once you log in to MyCR, there is a fairly extensive on-line help menu keyed to each feature (tool) of our website. I will help you with computer/technical issues if I can, but my main expertise is in teaching the course, not computer issues. For professional computer-technical assistance, go to the MyCR Support Portal: <http://support.redwoods.edu/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=15056> A guide to this site is also posted under the “resources” section of our web page.

*\* During the school year, I spend very little time in my office. I am typically either in the classroom teaching my face to face classes or in meetings of one kind or another. Other than this, I work from my home. Therefore, the best way to reach me is usually via e-mail through the Messages tool of our MyCR course webpage. By E-mailing me through our MyCR website, rather than sending me a direct E-mail via the CR website, I can better keep track of all of your e-mail messages. When you E-mail me, leave me a contact phone number as well. If the matter is too urgent or complicated to be handled via E-mail, than by all means call me at home and leave a call-back number where I can call you as soon as possible.*

*MyCR Live Chat Room Sessions* – The first day of class (**Saturday, January 12**) I will be available live via the chat room from **9:00 – 10:30 PM** and again on **Monday, January 14** from **10:00 -11:00 AM**. After those two sessions, I will leave the chat room open 24/7 so anyone, any time, can chat in the room with one another. Keep in mind that the chat room is public, which means that anyone enrolled in the class can read and write chat messages. During these two sessions, if you want to send me a private E-mail (via MyCR) do so, and I will be on the lookout for them. Of course you may contact me at any other time as well.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:**

*Keeping the Republic- 5<sup>th</sup> Brief Edition* , Barbour & Wright; Publisher: CQ Press; 5th edition  
ISBN-13: 978-1452220154

**COURSE GRADE:** The course grade\*\* will be composed of the following four parts:

✓ Three Exams

60% of grade

- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| ✓ Five Short Essays – “Question of the Day” | 15% of grade |
| ✓ Weekly Discussion Questions               | 23% of grade |
| ✓ Two Civic Literacy Quizzes                | 2% of grade  |

\*\*A failing grade (<61%) on **any one** exam **or** the total question of the day category **or** the total weekly chapter discussion category will result in an “F” grade for the entire course.

**GRADING SCALE:**

A	=	>95% - 100%
A-	=	>90% - 95%
B+	=	>85% - 90%
B	=	>82% - 85%
B-	=	>80% - 82%
C+	=	>75% - 80%
C	=	>70% - 75%
D	=	61% - 70%
F	=	<61%

***An “incomplete” grade will not be assigned except under extraordinary circumstances.***

***SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS - Posted every Monday at 8:00 AM: (subject to change as posted in the “Lessons” area of the MyCR course webpage)***

***Every Week***, check the ‘Lessons’ Section in the navigation area of the MyCR course webpage. There you will find several things\*\*\*:

1. The weekly textbook reading assignment which will cover up to two chapters of the textbook. We will not necessarily cover all of the chapters of the textbook in this course. Also, any news articles/class handouts as part of the assignments will be posted under 'Lessons.'
2. A narrated weekly Powerpoint/website lecture, available through the "Tegrity" button on the navigation menu.
3. Links/directions to the discussion board questions and questions of the day exercises to which you will need to respond to in a timely manner.
4. Link to the exams -- You can download and print a copy of the exams

*\*\*\*All items, e.g. lectures, exams, or other items are also found in the "Resources" or "Discussion Forums" section of our course webpage.*

Below, you will find the schedule for the class. Again, every week there will be assigned readings from the textbook and/or class handouts posted on our website, a narrated PowerPoint lecture to watch and listen to, and a weekly discussion question to respond to. Every other week there will also be a Question of the Day exercise to analyze with one or more people in your group. Over the course of the summer term there are two exams to take. The lessons, complete with reading assignments and lectures will be posted no later than 8:00 AM every Monday of the course term. If there are class handouts as well as textbook readings, they will be also posted under the lesson for that week.

### **Week One:**

1. Introductions of Students and Instructor – Discussion Board
2. Review *Orientation* and *First Week* lectures – Tegrity
3. Read Chapter 1 of the textbook
4. Respond to *Week One Discussion Question* – Discussion Board

5. Complete Civics Literacy "Pre-Quiz"

**Week Two:**

1. Read chapter 2 of the textbook
2. Review Week Two Lecture
3. Respond to Week Two Discussion Question

**Week Three:**

1. Readings To Be Assigned
2. Review Week Three Lecture
3. Respond to Week Three Discussion Question
4. Look at the First Question of the Day (QD)

**Week Four:**

1. Readings To Be Assigned
2. Review Week Four Lecture
3. Respond to Week Four Discussion Question
4. With partner(s) – Respond to the First Question of the Day

**Week Five:**

1. Readings To Be Assigned
2. Review Week Five Lecture

3. Respond to Week Five Discussion Question
4. **EXAM ONE POSTED**

**Week Six:**

1. Readings To Be Assigned
2. Review Week Six Lecture
3. Respond to Week Six Discussion Question
4. Look at the Second Question of the Day
5. **EXAM ONE DUE**

**Week Seven:**

1. Readings To Be Assigned
2. Review Week Seven Lecture
3. Respond to Week Seven Discussion Question
4. With partner(s) – Respond to the Second Question of the Day

**Week Eight:**

1. Readings To Be Assigned
2. Review Week Eight Lecture
3. Respond to Week Eight Discussion Question



**Week Nine:**

1. Readings To Be Assigned
2. Review Week Nine Lecture
3. Respond to Week Nine Discussion Question
4. Look at the Third Question of the Day

**Week Ten:**

1. Readings To Be Assigned
2. Review Week Ten Lecture
3. Respond to Week Ten Discussion Question
4. With partner(s) – Respond to the Third Question of the Day
5. **Exam Two Posted**

**Week Eleven:**

1. Readings To Be Assigned
2. Review Week Eleven Lecture
3. Respond to Week Eleven Discussion Question
4. **Exam Two Due**

**Week Twelve:**

1. Readings To Be Assigned
2. Review Week Twelve Lecture
3. Respond to Week Twelve Discussion Question
4. Look at the Fourth Question of the Day

**Week Thirteen:**

1. Readings To Be Assigned
2. Review Week Thirteen Lecture
3. Respond to Week Thirteen Discussion Question
4. With partner(s) – Respond to the Fourth Question of the Day

**Week Fourteen:**

1. Readings To Be Assigned
2. Review Week Fourteen Lecture
3. Respond to Week Fourteen Discussion Question

**Week Fifteen:**

1. Readings To Be Assigned
2. Review Week Fifteen Lecture
3. Respond to Week Fifteen Discussion Question

4. Look at Fifth Question of the Day
5. **Exam Three Posted**

**Week Sixteen (Finals Week):**

1. With Partners – Respond to Fifth Question of the Day
2. Complete Civics Literacy “Post-Quiz”
3. **Exam Three Due**

## **Code of Conduct**

### **Preface:**

The purpose of this code is to ensure that both the instructor and students are mindful of the rights and responsibilities of each other. Additionally, adherence to this code will help ensure that the class experience is both meaningful and interesting to all concerned.

### **Instructor Expectations:**

- Plagiarism – Plagiarism is defined as claiming any work of another person as your own without attribution to the true author. It also includes taking a substantial portion (approximately 25% or more) of your assignment from another source, whether or not credit is given to that source. This includes the work of fellow students. *If a student is found to have plagiarized the work of another, the penalty which the instructor may impose ranges from a failing grade for the assignment to a failing grade for the entire course.*
- Netiquette - In participating in an on-line format, it is expected that all students treat each other with respect. This includes no personal attacks on any other class member or the instructor. I expect that you may disagree with the views of your classmates from time to time, but such disagreements may be expressed in a respectful manner. It is good to remember that we all bring to the class a broad array of life experiences and much of it is valuable.

## **Student Expectations:**

- Punctuality – Students have every right to expect that the instructor will offer timely feedback to the discussion questions, crime scenarios, and the grading of exams. The instructor will respond to phone calls and E-mails within 48 hours, sooner if possible.
- Civility – Students have a right for the instructor to treat them with respect both in and out of the classroom and to ensure that all students have an opportunity to express their opinions on relevant matters.
- Classroom environment – The instructor will make every attempt to make the virtual classroom experience useful, comfortable, and interesting.

*In compliance with equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that you may require as a student with a disability. Students are encouraged to contact Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSP&S) , 707-476-4280, for disability verification and for determination of reasonable academic accommodations.*

***Syllabus subject to change upon advanced notice***