Syllabus for: US Government & Politics	
Semester & Year:	Fall 2013
Course ID and Section Number:	POLSC 10 E3797
Number of Credits/Units:	3.0
Day/Time:	MW 2:40 – 4:15
Location:	HU 110
Instructor's Name:	Joe Brookshire
Contact Information:	Office location and hours: before and after class Phone: 707 476 3070 Email: joe-brookshire@redwoods.edu

Course Description: The goal of this course is to give students a relevant understanding of how our complex government operates by describing the basic ideas, structure, and influences on our government and how politics work. This course addresses both philosophic roots and the contemporary operation of American national, state, and local governments. Specific topics include constitutional development, federal-state relations, and the rights and obligations of citizens under both the federal and the California constitutions.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to

1. Explain the history and philosophy of the Constitution, politics, and government in the US;

2. Identify the major provisions of the California and US Constitutions;

3. Compare the three branches of California and US Government, and related political institutions;

4. Outline the relationship between the states and national government (ie. federalism); and

5. Analyze contemporary issues facing California and the US system of government.

Special accommodations: 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.

Academic Misconduct: 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: http://www.redwoods.edu/District/Board/New/Chapter5/Ap5500.pdf

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.

US Government & Politics   Fall 2013   3 Units

POLSC 10 E3797   Joe Brookshire
MW 2:50 – 4:15   HU 110   joe-brookshire@redwoods.edu
                                                            Office hours: before and after class

Welcome to US Government & Politics, POLSC 10. The goal of this course is to give students a relevant understanding of how our complex government operates by describing the basic ideas, structure, and influences on our government and how politics work. This course addresses both philosophic roots and the contemporary operation of American national, state, and local governments. Specific topics include constitutional development, federal-state relations, and the rights and obligations of citizens under both the federal and the California constitutions. We also explore factors that influence our government: elections, political parties, the media, public opinion, and special interest groups. Students become familiar with policies, domestic and foreign, and how they are made. This course analyzes what, exactly, is American "politics". We discuss news events and connect them with the foundations, institutions, and political systems of our government.

Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:
1. Explain the history and philosophy of the Constitution, politics, and government in the US;
2. Identify the major provisions of the California and US Constitutions;
3. Compare the three branches of California and US Government, and related political institutions;
4. Outline the relationship between the states and national government (ie. federalism); and
5. Analyze contemporary issues facing California and the US system of government.

Format; The class is a combination of lecture, discussion, and activities.

Texts: American Government: Power & Purpose, Brief 12th 2012 Election Update Edition,
       ISBN **978-0-393-92189-2** Authors: Lowi, Ginsberg, et al.

       Governing California in the 21st Century, 4th Edition ISBN **978-0-393-91915-8**
Both texts are published by W.W. Norton and are available at the CR campus bookstore. The American Government text is available as an ebook.

       Handouts distributed in class

Expectations:
1. On-time attendance is expected throughout the semester. Class begins at 2:50 and goes until 4:15. Please observe these times. Students who miss one third of classes will be automatically dropped.

2. Students are expected to take the midterm, the final, and quizzes on the schedule dates. Five assignments are required which are to be submitted in class before or on their specific dates. Do not submit these by email.

3. 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.

4. US Government & Politics is one of the most engaging classes offered at CR. It is a place where we can get together and discuss American politics. I consider this to be a rare and invaluable opportunity. Therefore, I ask all of us to honor the rights of others and to help maintain our class as a forum for thoughtful, respectful, and courteous true discussion. Inappropriate behavior will result in consequences as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct, see (http://www.redwoods.edu/District/Board/New/Chapter5/Ap5500.pdf

Note: students with appropriate paperwork from DSPS should notify the instructor of accommodations they may require. Please do so as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made.

Grading:
1. Frequent Quizzes – 25% Quizzes are based on the texts, lectures, discussions, activities, videos: <u>everything</u> that we cover in class. They are short essay, multiple-choice, true/false, identification or a mix of these. Double Quizzes (2X) count as two. There are no make-ups. Let me know in advance if you need to take a quiz early. Quizzes are given at the start of class on Mondays, except for Sept. 4*. Late arrivals will miss the quiz. The two lowest scores (or two missed quizzes) are dropped at the end of the semester. Third and fourth missed quizzes can receive credit, but no grade, upon successful and timely completion of CA text writing assignments.

2. **Exams - 50%** -are primarily essay tests. They may include some questions that are of a quiz-like style.
Exam #1 10% The first essay exam covers only the first five class sessions.
Exam #2 20% **The Midterm** covers Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 13 in the American Government text
        and sections of the California text. It is similar to Exam #1 in that is an essay exam, but also
        has some of the types of questions that are found on quizzes. **Reserve Wednesday, October 16.**
Final Exam 20% **The Final** covers chapters 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 14 of the American Government text,
        sections of Governing California, and discussions held over the course. Its scope is somewhat
        cumulative; topics and concepts explored throughout the course may be reflected in the essay section.
        The format is similar to the midterm in that it includes essay writing as well as quiz-like questions.
        Be absolutely certain to **reserve December 9 at 3:15** for our final.

3. Papers – 25%   Five papers are assigned and are expected to be submitted in class on or by the scheduled dates. Late submissions lose points. See instructions of each for details.

Scales: This section of US Government & Politics uses the following grading scale:
        A = 92 to 100   B+ = 87 to 89.4   C+ = 77 to 79.4   D = 59.5 to 69.4   F = Below 59.5
        A- = 89.5 to 91.9   B = 82 to 86.9   C = 72 to 76.9
                                B- = 79.5 to 81.9   C- = 69.5 to 71.9
Extra Credit – Independent extra credit assignments are not available for this class. However, points earned in
        activities go toward raising your midterm or final scores.
Schedule: We try to follow the schedule below, however, we may need to make some adjustments during the
        semester. Classes will be held each day as indicated except for September 2 and November 11.
Please take note of any and all changes announced in class or posted on MyCR Announcements.

Mondays	Wednesdays
August 26 Overview	28 Types of governments, terms
Sept. 2 No class – Labor Day	Sept. 4 **Paper #1** due plus Quiz US Ch. 1, *CA pages 1-14 *
Sept. 9 Constitutions	Sept. 11 Constitutions
Sept. 16 Exam #1 + Quiz US Ch. 2; *CA Ch 2, pages 17-33*	Sept. 18 **Paper #2** due
Sept. 23 Quiz US Ch. 3; *CA Ch 9, pages 179-199*	Sept. 25 Congress
Sept. 30 Quiz US Ch. 5; *CA Ch 5, pages 97-115*	Oct. 2 **Paper #3** due
Oct. 7 Quiz US Ch. 6; *CA Ch 6, pages 119-129*	Oct. 9 Executive Branch
Oct. 14 Quiz US Ch. 7; *CA Ch 6, pages 130-136*	Oct. 16 **Exam #2** (Midterm)
Oct. 21 Civil Liberties	Oct. 23 **Paper #4** due
Oct. 28 Quiz US Ch 4, *CA Ch 10, pages 217-230*	Oct. 30 Judicial Branch
Nov. 4 Quiz US Ch 8, *CA Ch 7, pages 139-154*	Nov. 6 **Paper #5** due
Nov. 11 No class – Veteran's Day	Nov. 13 Public Opinion & Media
Nov. 18 Quiz US Ch 9, *CA Ch 4, pages 66-71, Ch 3, 50-53*	Nov. 20 Elections
Nov. 25 Quiz US Ch 10, *CA Ch 4, pages 74-93 +review 27-31*	Nov. 27 Parties and Interest groups
Dec. 2 2X Quiz US Ch 11, *CA Ch 4, pages 59-66, 71-74* with US Ch 12, *CA Ch 3 pages 37-50, 54*	Dec. 4 Foreign Policy
December 9 **Final Exam 3:15**	

Thank you for your presence, your interest, and your contributions to this class.