

POLSC 10 – US GOVERNMENT & POLITICS – COVER SHEET	
Semester & Year:	SPRING 2014
Course ID and Section Number:	POLSC -10 E4982
Number of Credits/Units:	3.0 units
Day/Time:	TTh 2:50-4:15 PM
Location:	HU 110
Instructor's Name:	G. Sokolow
Contact Information:	Office location and hours: AJ 106 – By appt. or after class Phone: (See Syllabus) Email: through MyCR
Course Description (catalog description as described in course outline): 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.	
Student Learning Outcomes (as described in course outline) :	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the history and philosophy of the Constitution, politics, and government in the United States. • Identify the major provisions of the California and US Constitution. • 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. 	
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 may 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.	

COURSE SYLLABUS

Professor Gary A. Sokolow

Office: AJ 106

Office Hours: By Appointment or after class

Telephone: 444-8630 (home)*

E-mail: via MyCR webpage

COURSE HOME PAGE:

mycr.redwoods.edu

EXAM SUBMISSION PAGE:

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 (i.e. federalism).
- Analyze contemporary issues facing California and the US system of government.

Once or twice per week, I'll ask you to write a class discussion question based on the assigned readings, on a 3x5 index card and bring it to class. The cards will be collected at the beginning of the class. No late cards will be accepted. We'll then discuss many of those questions in class. The grades assigned for your questions depends on how complete they are. Merely asking the definition of a term already given in the assigned readings, e.g. "What is a filibuster?", is not acceptable.

*Every third week or so, I will post a "question of the day" (QD) exercise on the website and either alone or with one classmate, you will need to analyze it and post a detailed response. The QDs will cover two to three weeks of class material. You may also work alone on these items. *Only one member* of the team need post the group's response to the question of the day. The QD's will be submitted to the Turnitin.com website. If you work with a classmate, both of you will be given the same grade for the QD response.*

I will look both for quantity and quality when I grade your responses to the QD exercises and exams. 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 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 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 and QDs. *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](tel: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 and Turnitin 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.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Keeping the Republic- 6th Edition , Barbour & Wright; Publisher: CQ Press; ISBN-13: 978-1-4522-2016-1

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

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|---|--------------|
| ✓ Three Exams | 60% of grade |
| ✓ Five Short Essays – “Question of the Day” | 15% of grade |
| ✓ Class Participation/Attendance | 10% of grade |
| ✓ Discussion “Cards” | 15% of grade |

A failing grade (<61%) on **any one exam **or** the total QD **or** the Class Participation/Attendance **or** Discussion Card grading categories will result in an "F" grade for the entire course.

Instructor-Initiated Class Withdrawal Policy: -- "*Excessive Absences*" – defined as missing *more than* six class sessions. This means that if you miss *more than* the six classes, I will withdraw you from the class.

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.

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 1: claiming any work of another person as your own without attribution to the true author, or 2: taking a substantial portion (approximately 25% or more) of your assignment from another source, regardless of whether 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