

US Government and Politics

Semester & Year:	Spring 2015
Course ID and Section Number:	POLSC 10 D7458
Number of Credits/Units:	4.5 TLU's / 3 units
Day/Time:	1/20/15 to 5/12/15; T/TH 3:40pm – 5:05pm
Location:	DM 29 (Del Norte Campus)
Instructor's Name:	Eli Naffah
Contact Information:	Email: eli-naffah@redwoods.edu
Office Hours:	By Request
Course Description (catalog description as described in course outline): US Government and Politics addresses 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) : <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain the history and philosophy of the Constitution, politics, and government in the United States. 2. Identify the major provisions of the California and US constitutions. 3. Compare the three branches of the California and US governments, and related political institutions. 4. Outline the relationship between the states and national government (i.e. federalism). 5. Analyze contemporary issues facing California and the US systems 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 Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the college catalog and on the college website.	
Faculty Initiated Drop: Note that students may be dropped from the class for inactivity and insufficient participation in the class (i.e. not taking exams, not submitting course work, etc.)	
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.	

American Government, Brief Version, 2nd Edition
(Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2011);

and

Gerston, Larry and Christensen, Terry *California Politics and Government, 12th or 13th Edition* (Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2013 or 2015)

Grading:

Class Participation	20%	Written Assignments/Reports (2)	30%
Mid-Term Exam	25%	Final Exam	25%

1. Class Participation: All students will be expected to participate in answering and commenting on discussion questions in class. This is an opportunity for all students to discuss political issues, and to express their opinions. An open forum for political discussion means that all students should feel free to express their opinions and respect the opinions of others.
2. Written Assignments (Reports): There are two (2) written assignments (reports) that should be between 3-6 typed pages (double-spaced). The written assignments (reports) are identified in the syllabus. Further details on the requirements for each written assignment (report) are attached to the syllabus.
3. Mid-Term Exam: The exam will cover course materials (reading assignments, lecture notes, discussion topics, etc) addressed through Lesson 14. The exam is 90 minutes (1 1/2 hours) long, consisting primarily of multiple-choice, true-false, and short-answer essay questions.
4. Final Exam: The exam will cover course materials (reading assignments, lecture notes, discussion topics, etc) addressed after Lesson 15. The exam is 90 minutes (1 1/2 hours) long, consisting primarily of multiple-choice, true-false, and short-answer essay questions.

Class Calendar

- 1/20 *Classes Begin*
- 1/30 *Last day to Drop & Receive Refund*
- 1/30 *Last day to Drop Without a "W"*
- 2/3 *Census Date*
- 4/3 *Last day for Student Initiated Withdrawal (W)*
- 4/3 *Last day for Faculty Initiated Withdrawal (W)*
(due to insufficient class participation)
- 5/12 *Classes End*

Course Syllabus

Please note that the following course syllabus may be subject to change!

Text 1 [US]: Dautrich, Kenneth and Yalof, David *American Government, Brief Version, 2nd Edition* (Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2011)

Text 2 [CA]: Gerston, Larry and Christensen, Terry *California Politics and Government, 12th or 13th Edition* (Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2013 or 2015).

Please note for Text 2 [CA] to read either 12e or 13e assignments, depending on your edition.

Week 1:	Lesson 1:	Introduction to Political Science & Course Outline.	(1/20-1/22)
	Lesson 2:	<u>US</u> : Chapter 1, Perspectives on American Government; <u>CA</u> : Chapter 1 (pages 1-4).	" "
Week 2:	Lesson 3:	<u>US</u> : Chapter 2, Founding & the Constitution; <u>CA</u> : Chapter 2 (12e:pages 22-28) (13e:pages 24-30).	(1/27-1/29)
Week 3:	Lesson 4:	<u>US</u> : Chapter 3, Federalism.	(2/3-2/5)
	Lesson 5:	<u>US</u> : Federalism (continued); plus pgs. C8-C9, Section 10; and pgs. C13-C14, Article IV; <u>CA</u> : Chapter 9 (12e:pages 119-129) (13e:pages 123-133).	" "
Week 4:	Lesson 6:	<u>US</u> : Chapter 4, Civil Liberties; plus pgs. C17-C21, Amend. I-X; and pg. C23, Amend. XIV, Sec. 1.	(2/10-2/12)
	Lesson 7:	<u>US</u> : Chapter 5, Civil Rights, Equality, & Social Movements, plus pgs. C22-C23, Amend. XIII.	" "
Week 5:	Lesson 8:	<u>US</u> : Chapter 6, Congress.	(2/17-2/19)
	Lesson 9:	<u>US</u> : Congress (continued); plus pgs. C2-C8, Sec. 1-9; pgs. C14-C15, Art. 5; pg. C23, Amend. XIV; pg. C25, Amend.XVII; and pg. C31, Amend. XXVII; <u>CA</u> : Chapter 10 (12e:pages 137-139) (13e:pages 141-142); Chapter 5, The Legislature.	" "
Week 6:	Lesson 10:	<u>US</u> : Chapter 7, The Presidency.	(2/24-2/26)
	Lesson 11:	<u>US</u> : The Presidency (continued); plus pgs. C9-C12, Art. II; pgs. C21-C22, Amend. XII; pgs. C26-C27, Amend. XX; pg. C28, Amend. XXII; and pgs. C29-C31, Amend. XXV; <u>CA</u> : Chapter 10 (12e:pages 135-137) (13e:pages 139-141); Chapter 7, The Executive Branch.	" "
Week 7:	Lesson 12:	<u>US</u> : Chapter 8, The Federal Bureaucracy.	(3/3-3/5)
	Lesson 13:	<u>US</u> : Chapter 9, The Judiciary.	" "
Week 8:	Lesson 14:	<u>US</u> : The Judiciary (continued); plus pgs. C12-C13, Art. III; pg. C15, Art. VI; and pg. C21, Amend. XI; <u>CA</u> : Chapter 6, California Law.	(3/10)
		MID-TERM EXAM (3:40-5:05 PM)	(3/12)

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			/16 – 3/21)	
Week 10:	Lesson 15:	<u>US</u> : Chapter 10, Public Opinion.		(3/24-3/26)
		<i>ASSIGNMENT/REPORT 1: On Attendance of a City Council or County Board of Supervisors Meeting.</i>		
	Lesson 16:	<u>US</u> : Chapter 11, Interest Groups; <u>CA</u> : Chapter 4, Interest Groups.		" "
Week 11:	Lesson 17:	<u>US</u> : Chapter 12, The Media and Politics.		(3/31-4/2)
	Lesson 18:	<u>US</u> : The Media and Politics (continued); <u>CA</u> : Chapter 3 (12e:pages 37-42) (13e:pages 40-42).		" "
		<i>ASSIGNMENT/REPORT 2: On Viewing 3-4 Episodes of "The McLaughlin Group" on PBS.</i>		
Week 12:	Lesson 19:	<u>US</u> : Chapter 13, Political Parties; <u>CA</u> : Chapter 1 (pages 4-8); Chapter 2 (12e:pages 15-22) (13e:pages 17-24).		(4/7-4/9)
	Lesson 20:	<u>US</u> : Chapter 14, Voting and Participation; plus pgs. C24, Amend. XV; C26, Amend. XIX; C28-C29, Amend. XXIII-XXIV; and C31, Amend. XXVI.		" "
Week 13:	Lesson 21:	<u>US</u> : Chapter 15, Campaigns and Elections.		(4/14-4/16)
	Lesson 22:	<u>US</u> : Campaigns and Elections (continued); <u>CA</u> : Chapter 3 (12e:pages 29-37) (13e:pages 31-40).		" "
		Political Campaign Insights; 2016 Presidential Candidates; President vs. Congress Status.		(4/21)
Week 14:	Lesson 23:	<u>US</u> : Chapter 16, American Economic Policy.		(4/23-4/28)
	Lesson 24:	<u>US</u> : American Economic Policy (continued); <u>CA</u> : Chapter 8, Taxing and Spending; Chapter 1 (12e:pages 8-14) (13e:pages 9-15); Chapter 9 (12e:pages 129-134) (13e:pages 133-138).		" "
Week 15:	Lesson 25:	<u>US</u> : Chapter 17, American Social Policy; <u>CA</u> : Chapter 10 (12e:pages 139-149) (13e:pages 142-153)		(4/30)
Week 16:	Lesson 26:	<u>US</u> : Chapter 18, American Foreign Policy.		(5/5-5/7)
Week 17:		FINAL EXAMINATION (3:15-5:15 pm)		(5/12)