

Syllabus for: (name of class) POLSC-10-E7059	
Semester & Year:	Spring 2015
Course ID and Section Number:	POLSC-10-E7059
Number of Credits/Units:	3.0
Day/Time:	MW 1:15PM- 2:40PM
Location:	HMHU110
Instructor's Name:	Kevin Murray
Contact Information:	Office location and hours: Associate Professor Office MW 2:40pm – 3:40pm or by Appt. Email: kevin-murray@redwoods.edu
Course Description (catalog description as described in course outline):	
<p>This course covers the structure and functions of the American National, State, and local governments including relations among the nation, tribes, and the state of California. Emphasis is placed on the development of democratic institutions through historical and contemporary studies. Students have the opportunity to learn what has shaped the United States Constitution, and its amendments. We will also explore current political challenges and controversies facing the Nation and California. Students have the opportunity to learn more about national politics through a mock political election and congressional simulation. Based on those lessons, students can consider their future role in a democratic government. This course meets the requirement in "US Constitution and California state and local government" as established by the California legislature.</p>	
Student Learning Outcomes (as described in course outline) :	
<u>Course Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):</u>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthen your academic skills of writing, reading, and time management. 2. Enhance your critical thinking skills in acquiring a broad base of knowledge and applying those skills to solve complex issues 3. Expand your vocabulary 4. Develop your ability to apply new concepts 5. Learn to navigate the college system and make use of campus resources 6. Acquire effective public speaking skills 7. Appreciation for and understanding of an expanded world perspective by engaging respectfully with a diverse range of individuals, communities, and viewpoints 8. As part of becoming a success in your chosen profession, this social science course is also designed to help you take responsibility for identifying personal goals and practice lifelong learning 9. Pursue social justice, environmental responsibility, and improve economic conditions in workplaces and communities 10. Apply the discipline-specific vocabulary, principles, methodologies, value systems and ethics employed in social science inquiry, to a specific instance 	

11. Explain and critically analyze human, social, economic, and political issues from the respective disciplinary perspectives by examining them in contemporary as well as historical setting and in a variety of cultural contexts
12. Illustrate how human, social, political, and economic institutions and behavior are inextricably interwoven
13. Students will be able to explain the Constitutional institutions, structure, processes, and functions of government set up by the California and Federal constitution, and explain how those institutions historically evolved
14. Distinguish the key philosophies of the framers of the U.S. Constitution
15. Demonstrate an understanding of the nature and operation of major U.S. political institutions and processes
16. Identify the liberties, rights, and responsibilities of citizens under the political system established by the U.S. Constitution
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19. Students will be able to define, cite and analyze: The Bill of Rights· The 1st ten amendments and the compromises of 1787. Famous Supreme Court decisions vis a vis the Bill of Rights. How Judges Make Law· judicial activism versus judicial restraint· The clash between individual rights and the rights of the community
20. Students will be able to differentiate between civil rights and liberties; define each and evaluate American democracy in its protection of and expansion of the rights. Recognize the significance of the 14th Amendment as an augmentation to the Bill of Rights. Discuss and analyze how rights have impacted minorities and women, namely, African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, Native American, women, the elderly, the disabled.
21. Students will be able to define federalism, identify the major Supreme Court decisions the have contributed to its evolution, contrast the powers of the national government with those of the states, recognize and explain the role of the states in modern federalism and discuss the operation of and institutions of California's state and local government vis a vis the national government and discuss supremacy.
22. Students will be able to define and discuss the functions of: Interest Groups, PACs, political parties, the media, and other organizations in both national and state 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 DSPPS.

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://redwoods.edu/District/Board/New/Chapter5/AP%205500%20Conduct%20Code%20final%2002-07-2012.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 of the Redwoods homepage.

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.

College of the Redwoods

Kevin Lyle Murray
Politics 10
American Government
MW 1:15pm – 2:40pm
HMHU, Room 110

Office Hours: MW 2:40pm – 3:40pm or by Appt.
Office: Associate Professor Office
Phone: TBA
Email: murrayhighlander@yahoo.com
Spring Semester, 2015

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Required Text Books and Readings

Christensen, Terry	<i>California Politics and Government</i> Wadsworth, Cengage Learning, 2014
Schmidt, Steffen	<i>American Government and Politics Today</i> Cengage Learning, 2014-15 Edition
Various Authors	Assigned articles relative to current events

Exams

Midterm	30 points
Final	30 points
Term Paper	20 points
Simulation	20 points

The midterm and final exams are short essay response, paragraph response, and multiple choice. Each student will receive an exam outline. The exam outline will detail the material covered on each exam. Make-up exams are only allowed in case of a medical or family emergency. In addition, a failed midterm exam (69 or lower) can be retaken with the highest possible re-take score of a 70C. Make-up exams are administered during the next scheduled exam.

Exams are based on a collection of terms, process, and concepts associated with class lectures. In an introductory politics course, we are learning about the Terms (vocabulary of this field), Process (how things are done and thus the application of many of these terms –or how things are not done), and Concepts (the idea behind a given action- or justification, philosophy, goal, political ideal, or control).

Mock Election and Congressional Simulation

Your Team Project involves forming political parties, a mock Presidential election, and a subsequent Congressional simulation. It is a hands-on group-work model designed to challenge your knowledge on Terms, Process, and Concepts. In addition, a chance to replicate, as near as possible, the world of national politics in terms of balancing various competing interests and achieving desired political goals. We will also consider State and local issues.

Following an individual review of the various Political Parties in the United States (Republicans, Democrats, Peace and Freedom, Independents, Libertarians, Social Democrats, Socialists, Communists, and others) you will self-select to a group you most identify with. If no group meets with your current political convictions, then you may start your own political party (minimum membership is at least 2 colleagues). Each Political Party will form a platform on the following 10 issues: immigration, education, health care, energy, environment, national security, employment, housing, domestic security, and hand gun control, race relations. There may be other issues added relative to current events (for example, Ebola Protocols). Each political party will present a brief twenty-minute power point history presentation on their Political party (date formed, famous leaders, movements, and current platform). Thereafter, each party will provide a copy of their own platform to competing members in advance of a presidential election. We will then elect a President from one of the political parties. Following the election members from all parties will be divided into two political chambers – the House and the Senate. Duplicating current conditions, the House will be controlled by a majority of Republicans members. There will be a weighted voting process. All other party members will be distributed between the two chambers. Both chambers will have the responsibility of attempting to pass legislation in all ten-areas amendable to both major and minor parties. The president will exercise his/her options. A maximum budget will be established for all bills and should not exceed that amount unless authorized by Congress. Group grades are based on several variables: complexity of platform, public speaking skills, visual power point presentation, and number of bills passed or blocked depending on the goals of your party and membership. The elected President enjoys 5 points extra credit. The House Speaker, House Minority leader, and Senate Majority and Senate Minority leader(s) enjoy 2 points extra credit.

Each Political Party will compose a Project Report and public presentation on their political party. The Project Report will include a Cover Sheet, Table of Contents, Content, Works Cited, Appendix (Agenda, Minutes, Contract, Contact List, Roles, and a Power Point hard copy). All elements will be explained in class.

Term Paper

Each student will compose an individual research paper. The purpose of your paper is to explore a single issue unique to the Nation or state of California. You will be required to recommend a solution and compose a state bill, create a non-profit, or other program to respond to your selected topic. The term paper will include a Cover Sheet, Table of Contents, Content, Works Cited, Appendix (diagrams, reports). All elements will be explained in class. Your term paper shall not exceed 5 pages, double space, minimum five sources, and MLA format. Late papers: unless a family or medical emergency, all late papers are dropped a full letter grade per day following the term paper due date (Tuesday March 10th 2015, 3:00pm in class)

Attendance and Class Participation

Adult college students are here voluntarily; thus one is not penalized for non-attendance on lecture days. The same is not necessarily true for in-class simulation days. If absent, it is highly recommended you have a colleague take notes for you. Some material on the exams only comes from in-class lectures. In addition, I have noted a high correlation between one's attendance and mastering the course material.

Grading Scale:

90-91 A-; 92-98 A; 99-100 A+ 80-81 B-; 82-87 B; 88-89 B+ 70-71 C-; 72-77 C; 78-79 C+ 60-61 D-; 62-67 D; 68-69 D+ 59 or below F

An Incomplete grade is issued only in emergency circumstances. Students are expected to refer to the College of the Redwoods on-line site or handbook to determine if they are eligible to request an "I". Assuming the student request for an I is within the prescribed deadline date of any given semester, please present the appropriate paper work for the professor to fill out, sign, and forward to the records administrator.

Class Format and Conduct

Students are expected to have read the required material in advance of class discussions. In addition, we will all maintain a professional and cordial deportment throughout the term. Alternative viewpoints are welcomed as they represent one's current understanding on any topic. This course is designed to develop your critical thinking skills and in some cases challenge our worldviews so that we possess a wider lens to appreciate other perspectives. At the same time, this is a course designed to crate committed citizen leaders seeking solutions to complex sociopolitical challenges in our ever-evolving political system and society. Please refer to the College of the Redwoods Code of Conduct with respect to responsibilities and consequences for violating said provisions at <http://www.redwoods.edu/district/board/new/chapter5.pdf>

Disability Statement

Students with Disabilities: Persons who wish to request disability-related accommodations would contact the Student Disability Resource Center

Add/Drop Policy

Students are responsible for knowing the College policy, procedures, and schedule for dropping and adding classes.

Emergency Evacuation Policy

Please review the evacuation plan for the classroom. We will review the appropriate shelter in place policy as well as campus notifications via text and loud speakers

Academic Honesty Policy

With respect to academic integrity, all work naturally must be your own. Deviation from this policy requires I void out one's score on a given exam or project. Please refer to the Student Hand Book for additional protections and responsibilities while a student at College of the Redwoods.

Health and Safety Information

Do you think you may have a health concern that may affect your ability to attend class or concentrate on coursework; stress, sleep difficulties, anxiety, depression, and concern for a troubled friend/student, finances, and work? If so, please make an appointment with a confidential CR Counselor.

Tips for Academic Success

I recommend the use of our CR writing lab, tutors, and forming study groups. For all students (and in particular first year students) a Time Management chart, customized for each semester, should be created. The Time

Management chart in addition to one's monthly, weekly, and daily planner can prove an invaluable organizational tool to track on-going assignments for all courses while maintaining a balanced lifestyle.

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Class Schedule (Subject to revision with fair notice)

<u>Week of</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings/Assignments</u>
1/19	Introduction and Elections	Chapter 9, Schmidt
1/26	Interest Groups and Political Parties	Chapter 7, Schmidt
2/2	Public Opinion, Socialization, Media (Census Day)	Chapter 6, Schmidt
2/9	Congress	Chapter 9, Schmidt
2/16	Presidency	Chapter 10, Schmidt
2/23	Judiciary	Chapter 12, Schmidt
3/2	US Foreign Policy	Chapter 14, Schmidt
3/9	MIDTERM	In Class Lecture
3/16	The Constitution/Federalism (Spring Break)	Chapters 1-3, Schmidt
3/23	Constitution/Federalism/Civil Liberties	Chapters 1-4, Schmidt
3/30	Civil Rights	Chapter 5, Schmidt
4/6	Domestic and Economic Policy	Chapter 13, Schmidt
4/13	California Politics: a primer	Chapter 1, Christensen
4/20	CA Executive and Legislature	Chapters 7 and 5, Christensen
4/27	CA Courts, Direct Democracy, Budget	Chapters 6, 2, 8, Christensen
5/4	In- Class Simulation	
5/11	FINAL	