

Syllabus for: Political Science: US Government and Politics	
Semester & Year:	Fall 2015
Course ID and Section Number:	POLSC 10 V7977
Number of Credits/Units:	4.5 TLU's / 3 units
Day/Time:	8/23/15 to 12/12/15
Location:	Online
Instructor's Name:	Eli Naffah
Contact Information:	Email: eli-naffah@redwoods.edu
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 of the Redwoods	
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.	

Texts Required:

Dautrich, Kenneth and Yalof, David ***The Enduring Democracy, 4th Edition***
(Boston: Cengage Learning, 2016);

and

Gerston, Larry and Christensen, Terry ***California Politics and Government, 13th Edition***
(Boston: Cengage Learning, 2016)

Grading:

Weekly Discussion Forums (10) 25% Written Assignments/Reports (2) 25%

Mid-Term Exam 25% Final Exam 25%

1. **Weekly Discussion Forums:** All students will be expected to participate in answering and commenting on discussion questions for any 10 of the 15 weeks. This is an opportunity for all students to discuss the weekly political questions, 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) is provided in *Assignments* section Online.
3. **Mid-Term Exam:** The exam will cover course materials (reading assignments, lecture notes, discussion topics, etc) addressed through Lesson 10. 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 11. The exam is 90 minutes (1 1/2 hours) long, consisting primarily of multiple choice, true-false, and short-answer essay questions.

Class Calendar

8/22 *Classes Begin*

9/4 *Last day to Drop & Receive Refund*

9/4 *Last day to Drop Without a "W"*

9/8 *Census Date*

10/30 *Last day for Student Initiated Withdrawal (W)*

10/30 *Last day for Faculty Initiated Withdrawal (W)*
(due to insufficient class participation)

12/12 *Classes End*

Course Syllabus

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

Text 1 [US]: Dautrich, Kenneth and Yalof, David *The Enduring Democracy*, 4th Edition (Boston: Cengage Learning, 2016)

Text 2 [CA]: Gerston, Larry and Christensen, Terry *California Politics and Government*, 13th Edition (Boston: Cengage Learning, 2016)

<u>Week</u>	<u>Lecture</u>	<u>Reading Assignments in Textbooks</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Week 1:	Lecture 1	Introduction to Political Science/US Government & Course Outline (<i>covered in Lecture 1 only, no textbook pages</i>). <u>Note that all Lectures found Online under Lessons in the Files section, see the drop down column to the far left.</u>	(8/23-8/29)
	Lecture 2	<u>US</u> : Chapter 1, The More Things Change...The More They Stay the Same (pages 5-23); <u>CA</u> : Chapter 1 (pages 1-4).	
Week 2:	Lecture 3	<u>US</u> : Chapter 2, The Founding and the Constitution (pages 28-53); <u>CA</u> : Chapter 2 (pages 24-30).	(8/30-9/5)
	Lecture 4	<u>US</u> : Chapter 3, Federalism (pages 58-75); plus pgs. C7-C8, Section 10; and pgs. C11-C12, Article IV; <u>CA</u> : Chapter 9 (pages 123-133).	
Week 3:	Lecture 5	<u>US</u> : Chapter 4, Civil Liberties (pages 80-107); plus pgs. C15-C18, Amend. I-X; and pg. C19, Amend. XIV, Sec. 1.	(9/6-9/12)
Week 4:	Lecture 6	<u>US</u> : Chapter 5, Civil Rights, Equality, & Social Movements (pages 112-141) ; plus pg. C19, Amend. XIII.	(9/13-9/19)
Week 5:	Lecture 7	<u>US</u> : Chapter 6, Congress (pages 146-172); plus pgs. C2-C7, Sec. 1-9; pgs. C12-C13, Art. 5; pg. C20, Amend. XIV; pg. C21-22, Amend.XVII; and pg. C27, Amend. XXVII; <u>CA</u> : Chapter 10 (pages 141-142); Chapter 5, The Legislature (pages 59-75).	(9/20-9/26)
Week 6:	Lecture 8	<u>US</u> : Chapter 7, The Presidency (pages 178-205); plus pgs. C8-C10, Art. II; pgs. C18-C19, Amend. XII; pgs. C22-C23, Amend. XX; pg. C24, Amend. XXII; and pgs. C25-C26, Amend. XXV;	(9/27-10/3)

		<u>CA</u> : Chapter 10 (pages 139-141); Chapter 7, The Executive Branch (pages 91-106)	
Week 7:	Lecture 9	<u>US</u> : Chapter 8, The Federal Bureaucracy (pages 210-233).	(10/4-10/10)
Week 8:	Lecture 10	<u>US</u> : Chapter 9, The Judiciary (pages 238-267); plus pgs. C10-C11, Art. III; pg. C13, Art. VI; and pg. C18, Amend. XI; <u>CA</u> : Chapter 6, California Law (pages 77-90).	(10/11-10/17)
		MID-TERM EXAM	(10/16-10/19)
Week 9:	Lecture 11	<u>US</u> : Chapter 10, Public Opinion (pages 272-295).	(10/18-10/24)
		<i>REPORT: On Attendance of a City Council or County Board of Supervisors Meeting. (See Assignment 1 Online under Assignments section in the drop down column to the far left).</i>	Due 10/25
Week 10:	Lecture 12	<u>US</u> : Chapter 11, Interest Groups (pages 300-319); <u>CA</u> : Chapter 4, Interest Groups (pages 45-58).	(10/25-10/31)
Week 11:	Lecture 13	<u>US</u> : Chapter 12, The Media and American Politics (pages 324-347); <u>CA</u> : Chapter 3 (pages 40-44) .	(11/1-11/7)
		<i>REPORT: On Viewing 3-4 Episodes of "The McLaughlin Group" on PBS. (See Assignment 2 Online under Assignments section in the drop down column to the far left).</i>	Due 11/8
Week 12:	Lecture 14	<u>US</u> : Chapter 13, Political Parties (pages 352-369); <u>CA</u> : Chapter 1 (pages 4-8); Chapter 2 (pages 17-24).	(11/8-11/14)
	Lecture 15	<u>US</u> : Chapter 13, Voting (pages 369-388); plus pg. C21, Amend. XV; C22, Amend. XIX; C24-C25, Amend. XXIII-XXIV; and C26, Amend. XXVI.	
Week 13:	Lecture 16	<u>US</u> : Chapter 14, Campaigns and Elections (pages 394-425); <u>CA</u> : Chapter 3 (pages 31-40).	(11/15-11/21)

Week 14:	Lecture 17	<u>US</u> : Chapter 15, American Domestic Policy (pages 430-443); <u>CA</u> : Chapter 8, Taxing and Spending (pages 107-122); Chapter 1 (pages 9-15); Chapter 9 (pages 133-138).	(11/22-11/28)
	Lecture 18	<u>US</u> : Chapter 15, American Domestic Policy (pages 443-455); <u>CA</u> : Chapter 10 (pages 142-153).	
Week 15:	Lecture 19	<u>US</u> : Chapter 16, American Foreign Policy (pages 460-483).	(11/29-12/5)
Week 16:		FINAL EXAMINATION	(12/7-12/10)