

Syllabus Cover Sheet for: POLSC 12 – STATE & LOCAL POLITICS	
Semester & Year:	FALL 2015
Course ID and Section Number:	POLSC 12 – STATE & LOCAL POLITICS E8211; D8486; K8613
Number of Credits/Units:	3.0
Day/Time:	TTh – 10:05 AM – 11:30 AM
Location:	Eureka – LRC105; Del Norte – DN 28; K-T Site
Instructor's Name:	Gary Sokolow
Contact Information:	Office location and hours: AJ 106 (Eureka) by appt. Phone: 707-476-4540 Email: via Canvas
Course Description (catalog description as described in course outline): An introduction to state and local politics and government with emphasis on California. Students will examine the structure and political processes of state and local governments. Some of the specific topics include the three branches of state government, local governments, current issues in state and local politics, California political history, and the California Constitution.	
Student Learning Outcomes (as described in course outline) :	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the relationship between the national and state/local governments (federalism). • Describe the functions of the three branches of state government and their interaction with one another. • Analyze contemporary issues facing state and local governments. • Describe the functions of local units of government (e.g. cities, counties, special districts) and their relationship to state governments. • Chart the historical role of individual citizens, interest groups, the mass media, and political parties in the formation and operation of state and local governments. 	
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.	
<p>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</p> <p>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.</p>	
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.	

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Eureka Campus - LRC 105
Del Norte Campus – DN 28
Klamath-Trinity Campus

Professor Gary A. Sokolow

Office: AJ 106

Office Hours: By Appointment

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COURSE HOME PAGE

instructure.redwoods.edu

EXAM SUBMISSION PAGE

www.turnitin.com

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An introduction to state and local politics and government with some emphasis on California. Specific topics include governors, state legislatures, state courts, local governments, current issues in state and local politics, California political history, and the California Constitution.

ATTENDANCE: Class attendance is required because there will be materiel and discussions in the class, which will not come from the textbook. There is more to the course than merely reading the textbook. Classroom discussion and small group work are *important* parts of the course.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

- *Governing States and Localities, 5th Edition*; Smith, Greenblatt & Vaughn, CQ Press (2015)
- GOVERNING Magazine (Free Web-Based Version)

CLASS GRADES AND EXAMS:** The course grade will be composed of the following:

- Six Essays: 75%
- Weekly Discussion Questions: 10%
- Class participation/attendance: 15%

The essays, which are to be completed outside of class, will require a limited amount of research. The proper use of standard English, which includes grammar, spelling, and punctuation is part of the grade of all written work.

A grade of "F" on two or more essays **or on the class participation/attendance **or** the weekly questions category will result in an "F" grade for the entire course.

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

COURSE 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%

The "incomplete" grade status will not be assigned except under extraordinary circumstances.

CLASS SCHEDULE – ASSIGNED READINGS:

At the end of each class, the reading assignment for the next class will be announced and posted on our MyCR website. Most of the reading assignments will come from your textbook. Occasionally, class handouts will be posted on-line and/or distributed, to be read as part of the course work. Please bring these items with you to the class meeting where they will be discussed.

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:

Punctuality -- Students should make every effort to arrive several minutes before class. Tardiness disrupts the learning and teaching process for the instructor and students. It is rude to habitually be late for class.

Leaving Early -- Students should stay for the entire class. Often, important material is covered at the end of the class period and assignments for the following class period may be made at that time.

Attentiveness -- Students should stay awake and be attentive for the class period. If one is too tired to attend class, it is best not to come. Drowsing off is embarrassing both for the student concerned and the instructor.

Talking in Class /Cell Phones & Pagers– The passing of notes or talking to other students outside of class discussion is both disruptive to the learning process and rude to other students and the instructor. Turn off or set on "silent", all cell phones and pagers.

Plagiarism – Plagiarism is defined as claiming any work of another person as your own without attribution to the true author. It *also* includes taking a substantial portion (approximately 25% or more) of your assignment from another source, whether or not 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 particular assignment to a failing grade for the entire course.*

Student Expectations:

Punctuality – Students have every right to expect that the instructor will arrive on time or shortly before the class begins.

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 during the class period.

Classroom environment – The instructor will make every attempt to make the classroom experience useful, comfortable, and interesting for the student

