

Syllabus for POLSC-1– Del Norte Education Center		
Semester & Year	Spring 2016	
Course ID and Section #	POLSC-1-D9680/ POLSC-1 E9696	
Instructor’s Name	Will Meriwether	
Day/Time	MW 8:30-9:55	
Location	Del Norte: DA1 Eureka: LRC105	
Number of Credits/Units	3	
Contact Information	<i>Office location</i>	E3
	<i>Office hours</i>	MW: 1:30-2:30 TH 10:00-11:00
	<i>Phone number</i>	707-465-2370
	<i>Email address</i>	William-meriwether@redwoods.edu
Textbook Information	<i>Title & Edition</i>	Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Political Issues 19th edition
	<i>Author</i>	William J. Miller
	<i>ISBN</i>	978-1-259-34270-7
Course Description		
An introduction to current controversies in US politics. Students will become familiar with contemporary issues, critique different viewpoints, and construct policy solutions while learning about constitutional principles and government institutions.		
Student Learning Outcomes		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and critique major contemporary political issues in American politics. 2. Describe the role of US political institutions in contemporary political problems. 3. Analyze how responses to political issues differ from the local, state, national, and international level. 4. Construct policy solutions to political problems. 		
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 at 707-464-2352.		
Academic Support		
Academic support is available at Counseling and Advising and includes academic advising and educational planning, Academic Support Center for tutoring and proctored tests, and Extended Opportunity Programs & Services , for eligible students, with advising, assistance, tutoring, and more.		
Academic Honesty		
In the academic community, the high value placed on truth implies a corresponding intolerance of scholastic dishonesty. In cases involving academic dishonesty, determination of the grade and of the student’s status in the course is left primarily to the discretion of the faculty member. In such cases, where the instructor determines that a student has demonstrated academic dishonesty, the student may receive a failing grade for the assignment and may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. The Student Code of Conduct (AP 5500) is available on the College of the Redwoods website at: www.redwoods.edu/district/board/new/chapter5/documents/AP5500StudentConductCodeandDisciplinaryProcedu		

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[resrev1.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 website.

Disruptive Classroom Behavior

Student behavior or speech that disrupts the instructional setting will not be tolerated. Disruptive conduct may include, but is not limited to: unwarranted interruptions; failure to adhere to instructor's directions; vulgar or obscene language; slurs or other forms of intimidation; physically or verbally abusive behavior. In such cases, where the instructor determines that a student has disrupted the educational process, a disruptive student may be temporarily removed from class. In addition, he or she may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. The Student Code of Conduct (AP 5500) is available on the College of the Redwoods website at:

www.redwoods.edu/district/board/new/chapter5/documents/AP5500StudentConductCodeandDisciplinaryProcedureSrev1.pdf

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Emergency Procedures for the Del Norte campus:

Please review the campus evacuation sites, including the closest site to this classroom (posted by the exit of each room). The Crescent City campus emergency map is available at

(<http://www.redwoods.edu/District/Maps/dnmap.asp>). For more information on Public Safety, go to <http://redwoods.edu/safety/> In an emergency that requires an evacuation of the building:

- Be aware of all marked exits from your area and building.
- Once outside, move to the nearest evacuation point outside your building:
- Keep streets and walkways clear for emergency vehicles and personnel.
- Do not leave campus, unless it has been deemed safe by the campus authorities.

RAVE – College of the Redwoods has implemented an emergency alert system. In the event of an emergency on campus, you can receive an alert through your personal email, and/or phones at your home, office, and cell. Registration is necessary in order to receive emergency alerts. Please go to <https://www.GetRave.com/login/Redwoods> and use the “Register” button on the top right portion of the registration page to create an account. During the registration process you can elect to add additional information, such as office phone, home phone, cell phone, and personal email. Please use your CR email address as your primary Registration Email. Your CR email address ends with “redwoods.edu.” Please contact Public Safety, [707-476-4112](tel:707-476-4112), security@redwoods.edu, if you have any questions.

Political Controversies Spring 2016

Welcome to Political Controversies. This course will examine the American political sphere using opposing argument case studies in several key areas. Some of those areas include the functions of democracy, majority rule and minority rights, civil rights and civil liberties, federalism, the separation of powers, and public policy issues. Throughout the semester we will be actively engaging in discussion about topics from the textbook as well as news analysis group projects.

Format: The class is a combination of lecture, discussion, and activities.

Textbooks:

Miller, William J. *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Political Issues* 19th edition (McGraw-Hill, 2015). ISBN: 978-1259342707

Alexander, Michelle. *The New Jim Crow*. (The New Press, 2010). ISBN: 978-1595586438

Grading:

4 Exams: 100 pts. Each	400 pts.
1 research paper 100 pts.	100 pts
8 Group News Summaries 25pts each	200 pts.
Class Discussion 100 pts.	100 pts.
Total:	800 pts

Exams: There will be four exams that cover multiple chapters and themes. These exams be essay based questions and will involve questions from the textbook, classroom lecture, and reading assignments given during class. Exams will be given over Blackboard.

Research Paper:

In addition to class participation, quizzes, and exams, a research paper is also required. The research paper should be 6-8 pages in length, typed, double spaced, with a cover page and works cited page (not counted in the page length requirement), using APA citations. A minimum of 6 scholarly sources outside of the book *The New Jim Crow* are required. The research paper should discuss at least one area in which race relations have been impacted in the last several years. Topic examples include economic prospects of minority groups, mass incarceration, police brutality, the drug war, etc.

Group News Summaries:

Approximately every two weeks the class will be responsible for providing news updates. Groups will be assigned on the first day with the possibility of reordering the groups after each presentation. Each person in the group is responsible for their own topic that corresponds to the larger group topic. For example one topic area, the primary election, could be broken into sections within the group of Democratic and Republican primary elections and further broken down into candidates. The four topic areas include: the primary election, economic news, national news of importance, and international news of importance. Each student is required to present their information and submit at least a one page summary of their

assigned topic for each presentation. Informative news organizations include: washingtonpost.com, economist.com, theatlantic.com, nytimes.com, foreignpolicy.com, wsj.com, bbcnews.com, npr.com, etc.

Class Discussion:

This class is designed to incorporate discussion and points will be based off attendance and participation in the topics of the day. It is important to arrive in class prepared (by reading the chapter before the day), and gaining information to support the topic area assigned. A good resource to use for this course is procon.org

Expectations:

1. Show up to class on time and be prepared to participate in the lecture and discussion that day.
2. Be courteous not only to myself but to your fellow classmates. One can disagree and debate without it becoming personal.
3. Late assignments will not be accepted. There is one exception to this rule, I understand that life happens and I will offer a one day grace period for one assignment for the entire course. I am giving you the due dates for each assignment in the syllabus so you can plan accordingly.
4. No cheating, plagiarism, etc. View the school policy on academic misconduct.
5. Challenge yourself. One of the hardest things in the world to do is admit when one is wrong (I am guilty of this myself), but in order to learn we have to accept that we don't know everything and some of our preconceived ideas may be wrong. Just as I intend to challenge you, I ask that if you feel I am wrong you have the right to challenge me but just as I will bring facts to my discussions if you think that I am wrong bring with you facts from reputable sources not emotions.

Schedule

POLSC-1		8:30-9:55 DA1	News Sections
Week 1	18-Jan	No School	Primary Election
	20-Jan	Introduction	Economic News
Week 2	25-Jan	Unit 1.1	National News
	27-Jan	Unit 1.3	International News
Week 3	1-Feb	Unit 1.4	
	3-Feb	News Updates	
Week 4	8-Feb	Unit 2.1	
	10-Feb	Unit 2.2/Exam 1	
Week 5	15-Feb	No School	
	17-Feb	News Updates	
Week 6	22-Feb	Unit 2.3	
	24-Feb	News Updates	
Week 7	Feb-29	Unit 2.4	
	2-Mar	Unit 3.1	
Week 8	7-Mar	Unit 3.2/Exam 2	
	9-Mar	News Updates	
Week 9	14-19 March Spring Break		

Week 10	21-Mar	Unit 3.4	
	23-Mar	News Updates	
Week 11	28-Mar	Unit 3.6	
	30-Mar	Unit 3.7	
Week 12	4-Apr	Unit 4.2/Exam 3	
	6-Apr	News Updates	
Week 13	11-Apr	Unit 4.3	
	13-Apr	Unit 4.4	
Week 14	18-Apr	Unit 4.5	
	20-Apr	News Updates	
Week 15	25-Apr	Unit 4.6/Exam 4/Research Paper Due	
	27-Apr	New Jim Crow	
Week 16	2-May	New Jim Crow	
	4-May	News Updates	
Finals Week	9-13 May		