

Syllabus POLSC-10 – Del Norte Education Center		
Semester & Year	Spring 2016	
Course ID and Section #	POLSC-10-D9521	
Instructor's Name	Will Meriwether	
Day/Time	MW 10:05-11:30	
Location	DM29	
Number of Credits/Units	3.0	
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
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Textbook Information	<i>Title & Edition</i>	Understanding American Politics and Government 2012 Election Edition
	<i>Author</i>	John J. Coleman
	<i>ISBN</i>	9780205950041
Course Description		
A course addressing 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		
<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 Constitution. 3. Compare the three branches of California and US Government, and related political institutions. 4. Outline the relationship between the states and national government (ie. federalism). 5. Analyze contemporary issues facing California and the US system 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 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		

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at: www.redwoods.edu/district/board/new/chapter5/documents/AP5500StudentConductCodeandDisciplinaryProcedureRev1.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/AP5500StudentConductCodeandDisciplinaryProcedureRev1.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.

US Government & Politics Spring 2016 3 Units

Welcome to US Government & Politics, POLSC 10. The goal of this course is to give students a relevant understanding of how our complex government operates by describing the basic ideas, structure, and influences on our government and how politics work. This course addresses both philosophic roots and the contemporary operation of American national, state, and local governments. Specific topics include constitutional development, federal-state relations, and the rights and obligations of citizens under both the federal and the California constitutions. We also explore factors that influence our government: elections, political parties, the media, public opinion, and special interest groups. Students become familiar with policies, domestic and foreign, and how they are made. This course analyzes what, exactly, is American “politics”. We discuss news events and connect them with the foundations, institutions, and political systems of our government.

Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Explain the history and philosophy of the Constitution, politics, and government in the US;
2. Identify the major provisions of the California and US Constitutions;
3. Compare the three branches of California and US Government, and related political institutions;
4. Outline the relationship between the states and national government (ie. federalism); and
5. Analyze contemporary issues facing California and the US system of government.

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

Texts: Understanding American Politics and Government 2012 Election Edition, John J. Coleman and Kenneth M. Goldstein, Pearson Publishing. ISBN: 9780205950041

Guide to California Government, League of Women Voters of California Education Fund; 15 edition. 978-0963246516

Grading:

4 Exams: 100 pts. Each	400 pts.
1 research paper 100 pts.	100 pts
1 persuasion paper 100 pts.	100 pts.
Class Discussion 50 pts.	50 pts.
Weekly News summaries 10 pts. Each	150 pts.
Total: 800 pts	

Exams: There will be four exams that cover multiple chapters and themes. These exams will include multiple choice and 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 textbook are required. The research paper should discuss the history of one public policy issue currently being discussed at the national level, and the impact that the policy decision will have on competing interests. For example Social Security reform on those currently elderly and those that will draw Social Security in the future. Examples of topics include immigration, healthcare, minimum wage, foreign policy, etc.

Persuasion Paper:

The United States Constitution has a built in mechanism for change, the Amendment process. Currently politicians and groups are discussing altering the Constitution to declare that artificial entities such as businesses are not people as well as the right of Congress to limit campaign spending. A draft proposal can be viewed here: <https://movetoamend.org/wethepeopleamendment>

In 3-4 pages, typed, double spaced, Times New Roman size 12 font, attempt to persuade your state legislator into accepting the proposed Amendment or rejecting the proposed amendment either in full or only portions of the Amendment. A minimum of 4 scholarly sources outside of the textbook are required. Some examples would be the proposed Amendment itself, the Supreme Court opinion Citizens United v. FEC, and OpenSecrets.org.

Weekly News Summaries:

Each week students will summarize an article pertaining to American Politics and how it influences the current debate on that subject. You can use information from past article summaries if you want to focus on one topic throughout the semester. Each week students will have to use a different media source for the articles. Some weeks it will be your choice and other weeks it will be my pick. My goal for these assignments is to identify the differences between legitimate news organizations and blogs which pose as news organizations but often use only one or two lines of news and then the rest use only their opinion. To receive full credit the article must be turned in on time and focus on state, national, or international political issues.

Week 1: NY Times nytimes.com

Week 2: Washington Post washingtonpost.com

Week 3: The Economist economist.com

Week 4: The Atlantic theatlantic.com

Week 5: CNN cnn.com

Week 6: Fox News foxnews.com

Week 7: Al-Jazeera America america.aljazeera.com

Week 8: BBC bbcnews.com

Week 9: Time time.com

Week 10: Reuters reuters.com

Week 11-Week 15 You can pick your own news organization. If you go to huffingtonpost.com and scroll all the way to the bottom of the page there is a list of news organizations to give you some ideas of which to use if you can't think of any on your own. I would also encourage you to find a website that depicts

itself as a news website but is merely used for partisan gain and highlight how the organization spins the article for at least one of the weeks.

Class Discussion:

Students will also be graded on class participation. Participation is not judged by merely showing up to class but taking an active role in discussions and debates.

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-10		10:05-11:30 DM 29	
Week 1	18-Jan	No School	
	20-Jan	Introduction	
Week 2	25-Jan	US Chapter 1	
	27-Jan	US Chapter 2	
Week 3	1-Feb	US Chapter 3	
	3-Feb	US Chapter 3	
Week 4	8-Feb	US Chapter 4/Exam 1	
	10-Feb	Chapter 7	
Week 5	15-Feb	No School	
	17-Feb	US Chapter 7	
Week 6	22-Feb	US Chapter 8	CA Chapter 1
	24-Feb	US Chapter 9	CA Chapter 3
Week 7	Feb-29	US Chapter 10	
	2-Mar	US Chapter 10	
Week 8	7-Mar	US Chapter 11	
	9-Mar	US Chapter 11/Exam 2	
Week 9	14-19 March Spring Break		
Week 10	21-Mar	US Chapter 12	

	23-Mar	US Chapter 12	
Week 11	28-Mar	US Chapter 13	CA Chapter 5
	30-Mar	US Chapter 13	
Week 12	4-Apr	US Chapter 14	CA Chapter 4
	6-Apr	US Chapter 14/Persuasion Paper Due	
Week 13	11-Apr	US Chapter 15	CA Chapter 16
	13-Apr	US Chapter 16	
Week 14	18-Apr	US Chapter 16/Exam 3	
	20-Apr	US Chapter 5	
Week 15	25-Apr	US Chapter 6	
	27-Apr	US Chapter 6/Research Paper Due	
Week 16	2-May	US Chapter 17	CA Chapter 10&11
	4-May	US Chapter 18	
Finals Week	9-13 May		