

## Syllabus for US Government and Politics– Eureka Campus

<b>Semester &amp; Year</b>	Spring 2016	
<b>Course ID and Section #</b>	POLSC-10-E9695	
<b>Instructor's Name</b>	Joe Brookshire	
<b>Day/Time</b>	M/W 10:05AM – 11:30AM	
<b>Location</b>	HUM 110	
<b>Number of Credits/Units</b>	3.0	
<b>Contact Information</b>	<i>Office location</i>	
	<i>Office hours</i>	before class and by appointment
	<i>Phone number</i>	707 476 3070
	<i>Email address</i>	joe-brookshire@redwoods.edu
<b>Textbook Information</b>	<i>Title &amp; Edition</i>	1. American Government: Power & Purpose Brief 13 <sup>th</sup> (2014 Election update) Edition 2. Governing California in the 21st Century, 5th Edition,
	<i>Author</i>	1. Lowi, Ginsberg, et al. 2. Anagnoson, et al.
	<i>ISBN</i>	1. <b>978-0-393-26419-7</b> 2. <b>978-0-393-93839-5</b>
<b>Course Description</b>		
<p>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</p>		
<b>Student Learning Outcomes</b>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explain the history and philosophy of the Constitution, politics, and government in the US;</li> <li>2. Identify the major provisions of the California and US Constitutions;</li> <li>3. Compare the three branches of California and US Government, and related political institutions;</li> <li>4. Outline the relationship between the states and national government (ie. federalism);</li> <li>5. Analyze contemporary issues facing California and the US system of government.</li> </ol>		
<b>Special Accommodations</b>		
<p>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 <a href="#">Disabled Students Programs and Services</a>. Students may make requests for alternative media by contacting DSPS at 707-476-4280.</p>		
<b>Academic Support</b>		
<p>Academic support is available at <a href="#">Counseling and Advising</a> and includes academic advising and educational planning, <a href="#">Academic Support Center</a> for tutoring and proctored tests, and <a href="#">Extended Opportunity Programs &amp; Services</a>, for eligible students, with advising, assistance, tutoring, and more.</p>		

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### 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/or exam 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/AP5500StudentConductCodeandDisciplinaryProcedureSrev1.pdf](http://www.redwoods.edu/district/board/new/chapter5/documents/AP5500StudentConductCodeandDisciplinaryProcedureSrev1.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; and 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](http://www.redwoods.edu/district/board/new/chapter5/documents/AP5500StudentConductCodeandDisciplinaryProcedureSrev1.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.

### Emergency Procedures for the Eureka campus:

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

([http://www.redwoods.edu/Eureka/campus-maps/EurekaMap\\_emergency.pdf](http://www.redwoods.edu/Eureka/campus-maps/EurekaMap_emergency.pdf)). 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 Incident Commander or campus authorities. (CR's lower parking lot and Tompkins Hill Rd are within the Tsunami Zone.)

**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 at 707-476-4112 or [security@redwoods.edu](mailto:security@redwoods.edu) if you have any questions.

POLSC 10 E9695  
MW 10:05 – 11:30 HU 110

Joe Brookshire  
joe-brookshire@redwoods.edu  
Office hours: before class & by appt.

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:** American Government: Power & Purpose, Brief 13<sup>th</sup> (2014 Election update) Edition,  
Authors: Lowi, Ginsberg, Shepsle, and Ansolabehere. ISBN **978-0-393-26419-7**

Note; the previous Brief 13<sup>th</sup> edition would also be acceptable: ISBN 978-0-393-92246-2

Governing California in the 21st Century, 5th Edition, by Anagnoson, and others, ISBN **978-0-393-93839-**

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Both of these texts are published by W.W. Norton and are available as ebooks.

Handouts distributed in class.

**Expectations:**

1. On-time attendance is expected throughout the semester. Class begins at 10:05 and goes until 11:30. Please observe these times. Students who miss one third of classes will be automatically dropped.
2. Students are expected to take the midterm, the final, and quizzes on the schedule dates. Three assignments are required which are to be submitted in class before or on their specific dates. Do not submit these by email.
3. 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.
4. US Government & Politics is one of the most engaging classes offered at CR. It is a place where we can get together and discuss American politics. I consider this to be a rare and invaluable opportunity. Therefore, I ask all of us to honor the rights of others and to help maintain our class as a forum for thoughtful, respectful, and courteous true discussion. Inappropriate behavior will result in consequences as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

Note: students with appropriate paperwork from DSPS should notify the instructor of accommodations they may require. Please do so as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made.

**Grading:**

**1. Frequent Quizzes – 30%** Quizzes are based on the texts, lectures, discussions, activities, videos: everything that we cover in class. They are short essay, multiple-choice, true/false, identification or a mix of these. There are no make-ups. Quizzes are given at the very start of class. Late arrivals will miss the quiz. Let me know in advance if you need to take a quiz early Double Quizzes (2X) count as two. The two lowest scores (or two missed quizzes) are dropped at the end of the semester.

**2. Exams - 50%** -are primarily essay tests. They may include some questions that are of a quiz-like style.

Midterm 25% **The Midterm** covers Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 13 in the American Government text and sections of the California text. It is an essay exam, but also has some of the types of questions that are found on quizzes. **Reserve Wednesday, March 9.**

Final Exam 25% **The Final** covers chapters 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 of the American Government text, sections of Governing California, and discussions held over the course. Its scope is somewhat cumulative in the essay section. The format is similar to the midterm.

Be absolutely certain to **reserve Wednesday, May 11 at 10:45** for our final.

**3. Papers – 20%** Three papers are assigned and are expected to be submitted in class on or by the scheduled dates. Late submissions lose points. See instructions of each for details.

**Scales:** This section of US Government & Politics uses the following grading scale:

A = 92 to 100      B+ = 87 to 89.4      C+ = 77 to 79.4      D = 59.5 to 69.4      F = Below 59.5  
 A- = 89.5 to 91.9      B = 82 to 86.9      C = 72 to 76.9  
 B- = 79.5 to 81.9      C- = 69.5 to 71.9

**Extra Credit** – Independent extra credit assignments are not available for this class. However, points earned in activities go toward raising your midterm or final scores.

**Schedule:** Classes will be held each day as indicated except for January 18 and February 15. Please take note of any and all changes announced in class or posted on Canvas. The symbol || indicates that day’s discussion topic. US indicates the American Government text, and *italicized Ca* indicates the California text.

Mondays	Wednesdays
Jan. 18 No class – Martin Luther King Day	Jan. 20 “Government”
Jan. 25 Government, Constitution	Jan. 27 Quiz US Ch. 1, <i>CA:1-15</i>   Constitution
Feb. 1 Constitutions continued	Feb. 3 Quiz US Ch. 2; <i>CA Ch 2: 19-40</i> Federalism + Assignment #1 Due
Feb. 8 Federalism continued	Feb. 10 Quiz US Ch. 3; <i>CA Ch 9: 203-233, 237-238</i>
Feb. 15 No Class – President’s Day	Feb. 17 Legislative Branch + Assignment #2 Due
Feb. 22 Quiz US Ch. 5; <i>CA Ch 5:107-131</i>   Chief Executive	Feb. 24 Chief Executive
Feb. 29 Quiz US Ch. 6; <i>CA Ch 6: 135-148</i>    Bureaucracy	Mar. 2 Bureaucracy + Assignment #3 Due,
March 7 Public Policy	March 9 <b>Midterm</b> (including US Ch. 7; <i>CA Ch 6: 148-155</i> and part of US Ch. 13)
Spring	Break
March 21 Civil Liberties	March 23 Civil Rights
March 28 Quiz US Ch 4   Judicial Branch, Court Cases	March 30 Judicial Branch, Court Cases
April 4 Judicial Systems	April 6 Judicial Systems
April 11 Quiz US chapter 8; Cases, <i>CA Ch7</i>	April 13 , Opinion, Media
April 18 Elections	April 20 Elections
April 25 2X Quiz US Chs 9, 10, <i>CA Ch 3: 60-64, Ch 4:77-81, 90-103</i>	April 27 Political Parties
May 2 2X Quiz, US Ch 11, <i>CA Ch 4: 70-77, 81-84</i> <i>CA Direct Democracy Review Ch 2: 32-39, Ch 3: 57, Ch 4: 85-87</i>	May 4 Interest Groups
<b>Wednesday, May 11 Final 10:45</b> (Including US Ch 12, <i>CA Ch 3: 45-60, 65</i> )	

Thank you for your presence, your interest, and your contributions to this class.