

Syllabus Cover Sheet for *US GOVERNMENT & POLITICS*

Semester & Year	Fall 2016	
Course ID and Section #	POLSC 10 – V0209	
Instructor's Name	Gary Sokolow	
Day/Time	O/L	
Location	O/L	
Number of Credits/Units	3.0	
Contact Information	<i>Office location</i>	AJ 106
	<i>Office hours</i>	None
	<i>Phone number</i>	707-476-4540
	<i>Email address</i>	Via Canvas
Textbook Information	<i>Title & Edition</i>	1. American Government -5 th Edition; 2. California Politics – 4 th Edition
	<i>Author</i>	1. Korbel; 2. Van Vechten
	<i>ISBN</i>	1. 978-0982324172; 2. 978-1483375595
Course Description		
<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>		
Student Learning Outcomes		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the history and philosophy of the Constitution, politics, and government in the United States. • Identify the major provisions of the US and California constitutions. • Compare the three branches of California and US Government, and related political institutions. • Outline the relationship between the states and national government (i.e. federalism). • Analyze contemporary issues facing California and the US system of government. 		
Special Accommodations		
<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 Disabled Students Programs and Services. Students may make requests for alternative media by contacting DSPS at 707-476-4280.</p>		
Academic Support		
<p>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.</p>		
Academic Honesty		

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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 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

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). 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 if you have any questions.

ON-LINE COURSE SYLLABUS

Professor Gary A. Sokolow
Office: AJ 106
Office Hours: By Appointment
Telephone: 444-8630 (home)*
E-mail: via Canvas webpage

COURSE HOME PAGE:***redwoods.instructure.com******AFTER SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THIS CLASS, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO:***

- Explain the history and philosophy of the Constitution, politics, and government in the United States.
- Identify the major provisions of the US and California constitutions.
- Compare the three branches of California and US Government, and related political institutions.
- Outline the relationship between the states and national government (i.e. federalism).
- Analyze contemporary issues facing California and the US system of government.

WEB SITE/EXAMS

The exams will contain detailed instructions for exam completion and the electronic submission of them via Canvas to the *Turnitin.com* website. The exams are “paperless”. Therefore, you will not need to give me a hard (paper) copy of them. They are “take-home” essay exams. You will have one week to complete each of them. I will grade them in the Turnitin site, where you can then see both your grades and my comments typed directly on them. *If the exams are turned in late, they will be assessed a late grade penalty of my choosing. Employment issues, child care, computer issues, etc. are **not** excuses for the submission of any late work. Plan ahead.*

If you are experiencing computer glitches or problems with the Canvas site, either contact me at my home phone number* listed above or E-mail me directly and/or the College of the Redwoods help desk – **its@redwoods.edu** or call them at **707.476.4160**. A live person will respond for help during regular business hours, Monday-Friday. Before contacting me however, I suggest you first try to solve the problem with the help of the guides posted in our course Canvas folder or the help menus.

Please note that once you log in to Canvas, there is a fairly extensive on-line help menu keyed to each feature (tool) of our website. I will help you with computer/technical issues if I can, but my main expertise is in teaching the course, not computer issues. For professional computer-technical assistance, please visit the following website: <http://www.redwoods.edu/departments/distance/tutorials/>.

** I spend very little time in my office. While on campus, I am either in the classroom teaching or in meetings of one kind or another. I am available after class or by appointment. Other than this, I work from my home. Therefore, the best way to reach me is usually via e-mail through the Messages tool of our Canvas course webpage. By E-mailing me through our Canvas website, rather than sending me a direct E-mail via the main CR website (@redwoods.edu), I can better keep track of all of your e-mail messages. When you E-mail me, leave me*

a contact phone number as well. If the matter is too urgent or complicated to be handled via E-mail, than by all means call me at home and leave a call-back number where I can return your call as soon as possible.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

American Government - Your Voice, Your Future – 5th Edition, Korbel; Yolo Learning Solutions; ISBN: 978-0982324172

California Politics:A Primer – 4th Edition, Van Vechten; Sage/CQ Press; ISBN: 978-1483375595

COURSE GRADE: The course grade** will be composed of the following four parts:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| ✓ Three Exams | 80% of grade |
| ✓ Discussion Questions | 20% of grade |

Instructor-Initiated Class Withdrawal Policy: -- “Excessive Absences” – defined as missing *more than three discussion quesetions*. If the student failed to complete four or more questions cards, the instructor may withdraw the student from the class.

A failing grade (<61%) on any one exam **or the discussion question cards category will result in an “F” grade for the entire 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%

An “incomplete” grade will not be assigned except under extraordinary circumstances.

ASSIGNMENTS :

Every week there will be a reading assignment and homework. The homework will consist of writing and posting to our course website, responses to a weekly discussion question/topic. The reading assignment will typically consist of reading a chapter from each of two textbooks. Occasionally, you may be expected to read news stories on current events, in addition to the textbook readings. As part of your homework, you will be expected to watch a thirty to forty-five minute video each week which will summarize the subject of that particular week’s assignments. All of the work you need to do each week will be posted in the “modules” section of our Canvas course website.

The class session work will be based on the assigned readings and the question cards. The reading assignments and questions/topic postings should be completed by the class deadline. You will have three essay exams to complete, each of which will be posted in the modules section of our course site. Directions for their completion and submission to Canvas/Turnitin for grading will be provided.

By Monday morning (8:00 AM) of every week, a new weekly “module” will be posted on our course website. It will contain all of the reading assignments, videos to view, questions to respond to and discuss with classmates, and every five weeks, an exam to complete.

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 on-line class experience is both meaningful and interesting to all concerned.

Instructor Expectations:

- 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 other sources, whether or not credit is given to those sources. This includes the work of fellow students. *If a student is found to have plagiarized the work of others, the penalty which the instructor may impose ranges from a failing grade for the assignment to a failing grade for the entire course.*
- Netiquette - In participating in an on-line format, it is expected that all students treat each other with respect. This includes no personal attacks on any other class member or the instructor. I expect that you may disagree with the views of your classmates from time to time, but such disagreements may be expressed in a respectful manner. It is good to remember that we all bring to the class a broad array of life experiences and much of it is valuable.

Student Expectations:

- Punctuality – Students have every right to expect that the instructor will offer timely feedback to the discussion questions, crime scenarios, and the grading of exams. The instructor will respond to phone calls and E-mails within 48 hours -- sooner if possible.
- Civility – Students have a right for the instructor to treat them with respect both in and out of the virtual classroom and to ensure that all students have an opportunity to express their opinions on relevant matters.
- Virtual Classroom environment – The instructor will make every attempt to make the virtual classroom experience useful, comfortable, and interesting.

In compliance with equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that you may require as a student with a disability. Students are encouraged

to contact Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSP&S) , 707-476-4280, for disability verification and for determination of reasonable academic accommodations.

The syllabus is subject to change upon advanced notice via class announcement and posting on our Canvas course website.