

Syllabus for US Government and Politics– Eureka Campus

Semester & Year	Spring 2017	
Course ID and Section #	POLSC-10 E0929	
Instructor's Name	Joe Brookshire	
Day/Time	T/Th 11:40 AM – 1:05	
Location	AJ 108	
Number of Credits/Units	3.0	
Contact Information	<i>Office location</i>	
	<i>Office hours</i>	before / after class and by appointment
	<i>Phone number</i>	707 476 3070
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Textbook Information	<i>Title & Edition</i>	1. American Government: Power & Purpose Brief 13 th (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. 978-0-393-26419-7 2. 978-0-393-93839-5
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 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); 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 707-476-4280.		
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.		

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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 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.

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 13th (2014 Election update) Edition,

Authors: Lowi, Ginsberg, Shepsle, and Ansolabehere. ISBN 978-0-393-26419-7

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

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

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 11:40 and goes until 1:05. Please observe these times. Students who miss one third of class time will be automatically dropped. Students may attend only the section in which they are registered.
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, other readings - in short, everything that we cover in class. They are short essay, identifications, multiple-choice, true/false, or a mix of these. The two lowest scores (or two missed quizzes) are dropped at the end of the semester. There are no make-ups. Let me know in advance if you need to take a quiz early. Quizzes are given at the start of class. Late arrivals will miss the quiz. Double Quizzes (2X) count as two.

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

The Midterm - 25% 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 **Thursday, 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; topics and concepts explored throughout the course may be reflected in the essay section.

The format is similar to the midterm in that it includes essay writing as well as quiz-like questions. Be absolutely certain to reserve **Tuesday, May 9 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: 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.

Tuesday	Thursday
Jan. 17 Overview	Jan. 19 “Government”
Jan. 24 Quiz US Ch. 1 <i>CA pages 1-15</i> //Constitution	Jan. 26 The Constitution Assignment #1 due
Jan. 31 Quiz US Ch. 2; <i>CA Ch 2: 19-40</i> //Federalism	Feb. 2 Federalism
Feb. 7 Quiz US Ch. 3; <i>CA Ch 9:203-233, 237-238</i> Congress	Feb. 9 Legislatures Assignment #2 due
Feb. 14 Legislatures	Feb. 16 Legislatures
Feb. 21 Quiz US Ch. 5; <i>CA Ch 5 107-131</i> Chief Executive	Feb. 23 Chief Executive Assignment #3 due
Feb. 28 Quiz US Ch. 6; <i>CA Ch 6 135-148</i> Bureaucracy	March 2 Bureaucracy
March 7 Public Policy	March 9 Midterm (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 Court Cases Judicial Branch	March 30 Courts
April 4 Judicial Systems	April 6 Judicial Systems
April 11 Quiz US chapter 8, Cases; <i>CA Ch 7</i> Opinion	April 13 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
May 9 Tuesday, May 9 Final 10:45	(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.