

Syllabus Cover Sheet for POLSC 12 – State & Local Politics – Eureka Campus

Semester & Year	Spring, 2017	
Course ID and Section #	POLSC12 – E1863/D1864	
Instructor's Name	Gary A. Sokolow	
Day/Time	MW 8:30 AM-9:55 AM	
Location	LRC105/DN 28	
Number of Credits/Units	3.0	
Contact Information	<i>Office location</i>	AJ 108
	<i>Office hours</i>	T 10AM-11AM or by appointment
	<i>Phone number</i>	707-476-4540
	<i>Email address</i>	Via Canvas
Textbook Information	<i>Title & Edition</i>	Governing States & Localities –5th Ed.
	<i>Author</i>	Smith & Greenblatt
	<i>ISBN</i>	978-1-4377-3512-3
Course Description		
<p>An introduction to state and local politics and government with emphasis on California. Students will examine the structure and political processes of state and local governments. Some of the specific topics include the three branches of state government, local governments, current issues in state and local politics, California political history, and the California Constitution</p>		
Student Learning Outcomes		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain the relationship between the national and state/local governments (federalism). 2. Describe the functions of the three branches of state government and their interaction with one another. 3. Analyze contemporary issues facing state and local governments. 4. Describe the functions of local units of government (e.g. cities, counties, special districts) and their relationship to state governments. 5. Chart the historical role of individual citizens, interest groups, the mass media, and political parties in the formation and operation of state and local governments 		
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:

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Eureka Campus - LRC 105
Del Norte Campus – DN 28

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COURSE HOME PAGE

redwoods.instructure.com

ASSIGNMENTS SUBMISSION PAGE

www.turnitin.com

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An introduction to state and local politics and government with some emphasis on California. Specific topics include governors, state legislatures, state courts, local governments, current issues in state and local politics, California political history, and the California Constitution.

ATTENDANCE: Class attendance is required because there will be materiel and discussions in the class, which will not come from the textbook. There is more to the course than merely reading the textbook. Classroom discussion and small group work are *important* parts of the course.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

- *Governing States and Localities, 5th Edition*; Smith, Greenblatt & Vaughn, CQ Press (2015)
- *GOVERNING Magazine* (Free Web-Based Version)

CLASS GRADES AND EXAMS:** The course grade will be composed of the following:

- Three Exams: 75%
- Weekly Discussion Questions: 10%
- Class participation/attendance: 15%

The exams, which are to be completed outside of class, will require a limited amount of research. The proper use of standard English, which includes grammar, spelling, and punctuation is part of the grade of all written work.

A grade of "F" on any one exam **or on the class participation/attendance **or** the weekly questions category will result in an "F" grade for the entire course.

Instructor-Initiated Class Withdrawal Policy: -- "*Excessive Absences*" – defined as missing *six or more* class sessions. This means that if you miss *six or more* class sessions, I may withdraw you from the class.

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%

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

CLASS SCHEDULE – ASSIGNED READINGS:

At the end of each class, the reading assignment for the next class will be announced and posted on our MyCR website. Most of the reading assignments will come from your textbook. Occasionally, class handouts will be posted on-line and/or distributed, to be read as part of the course work. Please bring these items with you to the class meeting where they will be discussed.

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 class experience is both meaningful and interesting to all concerned.

Instructor Expectations:

Punctuality -- Students should make every effort to arrive several minutes before class. Tardiness disrupts the learning and teaching process for the instructor and students. It is rude to habitually be late for class.

Leaving Early -- Students should stay for the entire class. Often, important material is covered at the end of the class period and assignments for the following class period may be made at that time.

Attentiveness -- Students should stay awake and be attentive for the class period. If one is too tired to attend class, it is best not to come. Drowsing off is embarrassing both for the student concerned and the instructor.

Talking in Class /Cell Phones & Pagers– The passing of notes or talking to other students outside of class discussion is both disruptive to the learning process and rude to other students and the instructor. Turn off or set on “silent”, all cell phones and pagers.

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 another source, whether or not credit is given to that source. This includes

the work of fellow students. *If a student is found to have plagiarized the work of another, the penalty which the instructor may impose ranges from a failing grade for the particular assignment to a failing grade for the entire course.*

Student Expectations:

Punctuality – Students have every right to expect that the instructor will arrive on time or shortly before the class begins.

Civility – Students have a right for the instructor to treat them with respect both in and out of the classroom and to ensure that all students have an opportunity to express their opinions on relevant matters during the class period.

Classroom environment – The instructor will make every attempt to make the classroom experience useful, comfortable, and interesting for the student

