

Syllabus for U.S. Government and Politics – Klamath Trinity Instructional Site

Semester & Year	Fall 2017
Course ID and Section #	POLSC-10-K2626
Instructor's Name	Nicola Walters
Day/Time	Friday 9:00 – 12:10
Location	HTEC Room 1
Number of Credits/Units	3

Contact Information	<i>Office location</i>	HTEC Room 1
	<i>Office hours</i>	Friday 8:30 – 9:00, 12:10 – 12:40, or by appointment
	<i>Phone number</i>	505-577-3528
	<i>Email address</i>	nicola-walters@redwoods.edu

Textbook Information	<i>Title & Edition</i>	1. By The People (3 rd Edition) 2. Democracy For The Few (9 th Edition)
	<i>Author</i>	1. James A. Morone, Rogan Kersh 2. Michael Parenti
	<i>ISBN</i>	1. 978-0190298890 2. 978-0495911265

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

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 530-625-4821 Ext 23.

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. Contact the CR KT Office for specific information at (530) 625-4821.

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

Syllabus for U.S. Government and Politics – Klamath Trinity Instructional Site

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 at: <http://www.redwoods.edu/board/Board-Policies/Chapter-5-Student-Services>. 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 the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. The Student Code of Conduct (AP 5500) is available on the College of the Redwoods website at: <http://www.redwoods.edu/board/Board-Policies/Chapter-5-Student-Services>. 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 Klamath Trinity Instructional Site:

Please review the responsibilities of, and procedures used by, the College of the Redwoods, Klamath-Trinity Instructional Site (KTIS) to communicate to faculty, staff, students and the general public during an emergency. It is the responsibility of College of the Redwoods, Klamath-Trinity Instructional Site (KTIS) to protect life and property from the effects of emergency situations within its own jurisdiction.

1. In the event of an emergency, communication shall be the responsibility of the district employees on scene.
 - a. Dial 911, to notify local agency support such as law enforcement or fire services.
 - b. If safe to do so, notify key administrators, departments, and personnel.
 - c. If safe to do so, personnel shall relay threat information, warnings, to ensure the school community is notified.
 - d. Contact Jolene Gates 530-625-4821 to notify of situation.
 - e. Contact Hoopa Tribal Education Administration office 530-625-4413
 - f. Notify Public Safety 707-476-4111.
2. In the event of an emergency, the responsible district employee on scene will:
 - a. Follow established procedures for the specific emergency as outlined in the College of the Redwoods Emergency Procedure Booklet.
 - b. Lock all doors and turn off lights if in lockdown due to an active shooter or similar emergency.
 - c. Close all window curtains.
 - d. Get all inside to safe location Kitchen area is best internal location.
 - e. If a police officer or higher official arrives, they will assume command..
 - f. Wait until notice of all is clear before unlocking doors.
 - g. If safe to do so, move to the nearest evacuation point outside building (Pooky's Park), directly behind the Hoopa Tribal Education Building.
 - h. Do not leave site, unless it has been deemed safe by the person in command.

College of the Redwoods is committed to equal opportunity in employment, admission to the college, and in the conduct of all of its programs and activities.

POLSC 10: US Government & Politics
Fall 2017 Course Syllabus

Course Introduction:

Welcome to U.S. 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. 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. 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:

By The People (3rd Edition), James A. Morone & Rogan Kersh, ISBN 978-0190298890.

Democracy For The Few (9th Edition), Michael Parenti, ISBN 978-0495911265

Handouts distributed in class.

Expectations:

1. U.S. Government and Politics is a participatory subject. It is learned not only by reading and writing, but also through discussion and debate. For this reason, attendance is important. As you would with any other missed appointment, call or email me if you will be absent for a class. Additionally, coming to class late is disruptive to the classroom environment - please be on time.
2. Students are expected to take the midterm and the final on the scheduled dates. Assignments are due in class.
3. Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices when in class. Laptops/iPads are permitted for note taking and other classroom uses, but **not** for surfing the web or multitasking. If you use your laptop for purposes outside of this course, I will prohibit you from bringing it to class.
4. Academic dishonesty is taken very seriously and will not be tolerated. Violations of cheating, plagiarism, collusion, abuse of resource materials, computer misuse, etc. will be dealt with according to the procedures and sanctions outlined by the College of the Redwoods.
5. This class provides a unique opportunity to discuss politics in a classroom setting. Because of the subject matter, we will be discussing perspectives, beliefs, and values, entwined in the subject of American politics. I ask that we honor the rights of each other to explore these challenging concepts in a safe, thoughtful, respectful, and courteous environment. Inappropriate behavior will result in consequences as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

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

Assignments & Grading:

Syllabus for U.S. Government and Politics – Klamath Trinity Instructional Site

1. **Participation – 50 pts.** Be prepared to contribute to class discussions, group work, and daily activities. You will be answering questions about the readings in class and working in groups to reflect on the material. This requires close reading and note taking.
2. **Weekly News Article Analysis – 200 pts.** In addition to your required reading each week, you will be responsible for finding a news article and writing a short analysis. These are 20 points each and you will complete 10 total. Each week you will summarize an article pertaining to American politics and how it influences the current debate on that subject. **Applying the concepts from the readings will strengthen your analysis.** You can use information from past article summaries if you want to focus on one topic throughout the semester. Each week you will have to use a different media source for the articles. Some weeks it will be your choice and other weeks will be set. My goal for these assignments is encourage you to critically engage different news sources - determining credibility, bias, and potential implications. To receive full credit: 1. The news article must focus on local, state, national, or international political issues and be stapled to your analysis 2. It must be turned in on time 3. Each summary should be about 1 page (or 250-300 words), double spaced, Times New Roman font, 12 point font.
3. **Midterm - 200 pts.** The midterm will cover the first few chapters of *By The People* and *Democracy For The Few*. It will include multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions.
4. **Final Research Paper – 250 pts.** The research paper should be 5-7 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 assigned books 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 race politics, immigration, healthcare, minimum wage, foreign policy, etc. You will be submitting a rough draft before the final paper. This rough draft will be peer reviewed during class and is worth an additional 50 points. Please plan accordingly.

Grading:

Class Participation = 50 points

News Analysis = 200 points

Midterm Exam = 150 points

Final Research Paper Rough Draft = 50 points

Final Research Paper = 250 points

Total Semester Points = 700 points

A = (94-100%); A- = (90-93%)

B+ = (87-89%); B = (83-86%); B- = (80-82%)

C+ = (77-79%); C = (73-76%); C- = (70-72%)

D+ = (67-69%); D = (60-66%)

F= (≤ 59%)

Refer to the Course Schedule for due dates for each assignment, as well as the Assignment Details for more information on these assignments. Each student is responsible for completing all assignments and activities as specified by the instructor. **Due dates and assignments may be subject to change.**

Syllabus for U.S. Government and Politics – Klamath Trinity Instructional Site

Schedule: Please have the day's assignments read before class. Your ability to participate and do well in this class depends on staying caught up on the readings.

Date	Topic	Reading and Assignments
Friday, September 1	Introduction to the course The Spirit of American Politics	In-class introduction to By the People: Chapter 1
Friday, September 8 (Last day to drop)	Ideas that Shape America	By the People: Chapter 2 DFTF: Chapter 1 News Analysis: New York Times
Friday, September 15	The Constitution and Federalism	By the People: Chapter 4 DFTF: Chapter 2 News Analysis: Washington Post
Friday, September 22	Civil Liberties and Civil Rights	By the People: Chapter 5 & 6 News Analysis: CNN
Friday, September 29	Political Behavior	DFTF: Chapter 12 News Analysis: BBC
Friday, October 6	Political Participation	By the People: Chapter 8 DFTF: Chapter 10 News Analysis: Al Jazeera
Friday, October 13		Midterm
Friday, October 20	Mass Media	By the People: Chapter 9 DFTF: Chapter 13 News Analysis: Fox News
Friday, October 27	Campaigns and Elections	By the People: Chapter 10 DFTF: Chapter 14 News Analysis: Your Choice
Friday, November 3	The Environment is Political	DFTF: Chapter 8 Handouts/Supplemental Readings News Analysis: BBC
Friday, November 10		(No class – Veteran's Day)
Friday, November 17	California Politics	Supplemental Readings News Analysis: The Guardian
Friday, November 24		(No class – Holiday)
Friday, December 1	Local Politics	Handouts/Supplemental Readings News Analysis: Your Choice
Friday, December 8	Reform, Transformation, Resolution	DFTF: Chapter 19 **No News Analysis Due**
Friday, December 15th Finals Week December 11 th - 15 th		Final Paper Due Potluck and Presentations