

Syllabus for Political Science: US Government and Politics		
Semester & Year	Spring 2018	
Course ID and Section #	POLSC 10 V2640 and POLSC 10 V2641	
Instructor's Name	Eli Naffah	
Day/Time	1/13/18 to 5/11/18	
Location	Online	
Number of Credits/Units	4.5 TLU's / 3 units	
Contact Information	<i>Office location</i>	
	<i>Office hours</i>	Friday: 10:00-11:00 am (by appointment)
	<i>Phone number</i>	
	<i>Email address</i>	eli-naffah@redwoods.edu
Textbook Information	<i>Title & Edition</i>	Text 1: The Enduring Democracy, 5 th Ed Text 2: California Politics and Government, 14 th Ed
	<i>Author</i>	Text 1: Dautrich, Kenneth and Yalof, David Text 2: Gerston, Larry and Christensen, Terry
	<i>ISBN</i>	Text 1: 978-1-337-09298-2 Text 2: 978-1-305-95349-9
Course Description		
<p>US Government and Politics addresses 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		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain the history & philosophy of the Constitution, politics, and government in the United States. 2. Identify the major provisions of the California and US constitutions. 3. Compare the three branches of the California and US governments, and related political institutions. 4. Outline the relationship between the states and national government (i.e. federalism). 5. Analyze contemporary issues facing California and the US systems 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>		

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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.

Faculty Initiated Drop:

Note that students may be dropped from the class for inactivity and insufficient participation in the class (i.e. not taking exams, not submitting course work, etc.)

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

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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.

Grading:

Weekly Discussion Forums (24)	25%	Written Assignments/Reports (2)	25%
Mid-Term Exam	25%	Final Exam	25%

1. Weekly Discussion Forums: All students will be expected to participate in answering and commenting on all 24 discussion questions. This is an opportunity for all students to discuss the weekly political questions, and to express their opinions. An open forum for political discussion means that all students should feel free to express their opinions and respect the opinions of others. The discussion questions can be found in the *Discussion* section in Canvas.

2. Written Assignments (Reports): There are two (2) written assignments (reports) that should be typed (double-spaced). The written assignments (reports) are identified in the syllabus. Further details on the requirements for each written assignment (report) is provided in the *Assignments* section in Canvas.

3. Mid-Term Exam: The exam will cover course materials (reading assignments, lecture notes, discussion topics, etc) addressed through Lecture 10 (Week 8). The exam is 90 minutes (1 1/2 hours) long, consisting primarily of multiple choice, true-false, and short-answer essay questions. The Exam will appear in the *Quizzes* section of Canvas.

4. Final Exam: The exam will cover course materials (reading assignments, lecture notes, discussion topics, etc) addressed after Lecture 11 (Week 10). The exam is 90 minutes (1 1/2 hours) long, consisting primarily of multiple choice, true-false, and short-answer essay questions. The Exam will appear in the *Quizzes* section of Canvas.

Grading Scale: A=93-100; A-=90-93; B+=87-90; B=83-87; B-=80-83; C+=77-80;

C=70-77; D=60-70; F=below 60

Class Calendar

1/13 *Classes Begin*

1/26 *Last day to Drop Without a "W" & Receive Refund*

1/29 *Census Date*

3/30 *Last day for Student Initiated Withdrawal (W)*

3/30 *Last day for Faculty Initiated Withdrawal (W)*
(due to insufficient class participation)

5/11 *Classes End*

Course Syllabus

Please note that the following course syllabus may be subject to change!

Text 1 [US]: Dautrich, Kenneth and Yalof, David *The Enduring Democracy*,

5th Edition (Boston: Cengage Learning, 2018)

Text 2 [CA]: Gerston, Larry and Christensen, Terry *California Politics and Government*, 14th Edition (Boston: Cengage Learning, 2018)

<u>Week</u>	<u>Lecture</u>	<u>Reading Assignments in Textbooks</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Week 1:	Lecture 1	Introduction to Political Science/US Government & Course Outline (covered in Lecture 1 only, no textbook pages). <u>Note that all Lectures found online under Lessons in the Files section, see the drop down column to the far left of the course site in Canvas.</u>	(1/14-1/20)
	Lecture 2	<u>US</u> : Chapter 1, Introduction to The Enduring Democracy (pages 2-23); <u>CA</u> : Chapter 1 (pages 1-3).	
Week 2:	Lecture 3	<u>US</u> : Chapter 2, The Founding and the Constitution (pages 24-51); <u>CA</u> : Chapter 2 (pages 23-31).	(1/21-1/27)
	Lecture 4	<u>US</u> : Chapter 3, Federalism (pages 52-73); plus pg. 482, Section 10; and pgs. 486-487, Article IV; <u>CA</u> : Chapter 9 (pages 127-137).	
Week 3:	Lecture 5	<u>US</u> : Chapter 4, Civil Liberties (pages 74-104); plus pgs. 490-493, Amend. I thru X; and pg. 495, Amend. XIV, Sec. 1.	(1/28-2/3)
Week 4:	Lecture 6	<u>US</u> : Chapter 5, Civil Rights, Equality, & Social Movements (pages 106-138); plus pg. 495, Amend. XIII.	(2/4-2/10)
Week 5:	Lecture 7	<u>US</u> : Chapter 6, Congress (pages 140-170); plus pgs. 476-482, Sec. 1 thru 9; pg. 487, Art. 5; pgs. 495-496, Amend. XIV; pg. 497, Amend. XVII; and pg. 503, Amend. XXVII; <u>CA</u> : Chapter 10 (pages 145-146); Chapter 5, The Legislature (pages 63-79).	(2/11-2/17)
Week 6:	Lecture 8	<u>US</u> : Chapter 7, The Presidency (pages 172-201); plus pgs. 482-485, Art. II; pgs. 494-495, Amend. XII; pgs. 498-499, Amend. XX; pgs. 499-500, Amend. XXII; and pgs. 501-502, Amend. XXV; <u>CA</u> : Chapter 10 (pages 143-145); Chapter 7, The Executive Branch (pages 95-110)	(2/18-2/24)
Week	Lecture 9	<u>US</u> : Chapter 8, The Federal Bureaucracy (pages 202-227).	(2/25-3/3)

7:			
Week 8:	Lecture 10	<u>US</u> : Chapter 9, The Judiciary (pages 228-261); plus pgs. 485-486, Art. III; pg. 488, Art. VI; and pgs. 493-494, Amend. XI; <u>CA</u> : Chapter 6, California Law (pages 81-94).	(3/4-3/10)
		MID-TERM EXAM	(3/8-3/11)
Week 9:		SPRING BREAK	(3/12-3/17)
Week 10:	Lecture 11	<u>US</u> : Chapter 10, Public Opinion (pages 262-287).	(3/18-3/24)
		<i>REPORT: On Attendance of a City Council or County Board of Supervisors Meeting. (See Assignment 1 online under Assignments section in the drop down column to the far left of the course site in Canvas).</i>	Due 4/1
Week 11:	Lecture 12	<u>US</u> : Chapter 11, Interest Groups (pages 288-311); <u>CA</u> : Chapter 4, Interest Groups (pages 49-62).	(3/25-3/31)
Week 12:	Lecture 13	<u>US</u> : Chapter 12, The Media and American Politics (pages 312-337); <u>CA</u> : Chapter 3 (pages 43-47) .	(4/1-4/7)
Week 13:	Lecture 14	<u>US</u> : Chapter 13, Political Parties (pages 338-358); <u>CA</u> : Chapter 1 (pages 3-8); Chapter 2 (pages 17-23).	(4/8-4/14)
	Lecture 15	<u>US</u> : Chapter 13, Voting (pages 358-376); plus pg. 496, Amend. XV; pg. 498, Amend. XIX; pgs. 500-501, Amend. XXIII-XXIV; and pgs. 502-503, Amend. XXVI.	
		<i>REPORT: On Viewing 2 or 3 episodes of Washington Week on PBS-TV or online. (See Assignment 2 online under Assignments section in the drop down column to the far left of the course site in Canvas).</i>	Due 4/22
Week 14:	Lecture 16	<u>US</u> : Chapter 14, Campaigns and Elections (pages 378-411); <u>CA</u> : Chapter 3 (pages 33-43).	(4/15-4/21)
Week 15:	Lecture 17	<u>US</u> : Chapter 15, American Domestic Policy (pages 412-429); <u>CA</u> : Chapter 8, Taxing and Spending (pages 111-126);	(4/22-4/28)

		Chapter 1 (pages 9-15); Chapter 9 (pages 137-141).	
	Lecture 18	<u>US</u> : Chapter 15, American Domestic Policy (pages 429-440); <u>CA</u> : Chapter 10 (pages 146-157).	
Week 16:	Lecture 19	<u>US</u> : Chapter 16, American Foreign Policy (pages 442-469).	(4/29-5/5)
Week 17:		FINAL EXAMINATION	(5/7-5/10)