

**Syllabus for U.S. Government and Politics – Eureka Campus**

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|--|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Semester &amp; Year</b>   | Fall 2018                   |  |
| <b>Course ID and Section #</b>   | POLSC-10-E6467              |  |
| <b>Instructor's Name</b>   | Nicola Walters              |  |
| <b>Day/Time</b>  | Mon/Wed 02:50 PM - 04:15 PM |  |
| <b>Location</b>  | Humanities Bldg, Room HU110 |  |
| <b>Number of Credits/Units</b>   | 3                           |  |
| <b>Contact Information</b>   | <i>Office location</i>      | TBD  |
|  | <i>Office hours</i>         | TBD  |
|  | <i>Phone number</i>         | 505-577-3528   |
|  | <i>Email address</i>        | Via Canvas   |
| <b>Textbook Information</b>  | <i>Title &amp; Edition</i>  | 1. By The People (3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition)<br>2. Democracy For The Few (9 <sup>th</sup> Edition) |
|  | <i>Author</i>               | 1. James A. Morone, Rogan Kersh<br>2. Michael Parenti  |
|  | <i>ISBN</i>                 | 1. 978-0190298890<br>2. 978-0495911265   |
| <b>Course Description</b>  |                             |  |
| 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.  |                             |  |
| <b>Student Learning Outcomes</b>   |                             |  |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explain the history and philosophy of the Constitution, politics, and government in the United States.</li> <li>2. Identify the major provisions of the California and US Constitution.</li> <li>3. Compare the three branches of California and US Government, and related political institutions.</li> <li>4. Outline the relationship between the states and national government (ie. federalism).</li> <li>5. Analyze contemporary issues facing California and the US system of government.</li> </ol>  |                             |  |
| <b>Special Accommodations</b>  |                             |  |
| 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 <a href="#">Disabled Students Programs and Services</a> . Students may make requests for alternative media by contacting DSPS at 707-476-4280. |                             |  |
| <b>Academic Support</b>  |                             |  |
| Academic support is available at <a href="#">Counseling and Advising</a> and includes academic advising and educational planning, <a href="#">Academic Support Center</a> for tutoring and proctored tests, and <a href="#">Extended Opportunity Programs &amp; Services</a> , for eligible students, with advising, assistance, tutoring, and more.   |                             |  |

## **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:

<http://www.redwoods.edu/board/Board-Policies/Chapter-5-Student-Services>, and scroll to AP 5500. 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:

<http://www.redwoods.edu/board/Board-Policies/Chapter-5-Student-Services> and scroll to AP 5500. 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/aboutcr/Eureka-Map>; choose the evacuation map option). For more information on Public Safety, go to <http://www.redwoods.edu/publicsafety>. 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](mailto:security@redwoods.edu) if you have any questions.

*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 2018 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** (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition), James A. Morone & Rogan Kersh, ISBN 978-0190298890.

**Democracy For The Few** (9<sup>th</sup> Edition), Michael Parenti, ISBN 978-0495911265 – This book can be purchased in a pdf format here: <https://kisslibrary.com/book/725fd0f95bb38138e037>

**Supplemental Readings will be posted in the Files section of Canvas**

## Technology

If you are experiencing computer glitches or problems with the Canvas site, either contact me at using my phone number\* listed above or email me directly and/or the College of the Redwoods help desk – [its@redwoods.edu](mailto: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.

**For professional computer/technical assistance, please visit the following website:**

**<http://www.redwoods.edu/departments/distance/tutorials/>**

*\* The best way to reach me is usually via email through the Messages tool of our Canvas course webpage. By emailing me through our Canvas website, rather than sending me a direct email via the main CR website (@redwoods.edu), I can better keep track of all of your e-mail messages. If the matter is too urgent or complicated to be handled via email, then by all means call me directly.*

## 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 or need to miss a portion of class. Additionally, coming to class late is disruptive - please be respectful of the classroom environment and be on time. **Please note: You may be dropped or fail the class due to repeated absences. Leaving class early/arriving late without prior approval will result in an absence for the day.** You will need to carefully read textbook chapters, participate in online activities, complete weekly discussion assignments, and submit written assessment papers. Conscientiousness, attention to details, and skills in reading and writing are critical for success.
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. Cell phone use is not permitted and should not be visible on your desk unless prior approval is granted.
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. If you feel your differences may in some way isolate you from our classroom community or if you have a specific need, please speak with me early in the semester so that we can work together to help you become an active and engaged member of our class and community.

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.

## Expectations of the Student

1. **Log into the course daily. Come to class. Participate.**
2. Expect to spend about 4 hours per week working on this course.
3. Prepare to the best of your ability for every aspect of this course.
4. Take the opportunity to learn how to write your own thoughts; don't plagiarize. Be sure to give credit where credit is due and cite your sources or use footnotes or endnotes.
5. Learning through collaboration (defined as working with or learning from another) is an effective tool used in this class and in your future employment. When I expect you to collaborate, I'll make it very clear in the assignment instructions. All other work in this class is to be done independently.
6. If you haven't already, read the Student Code of Conduct to make sure you understand the importance of your academic integrity.

## Expectations of the Instructor

If we all live up to our academic responsibilities, this course will be meaningful for all who participate. Please feel free to discuss these points with me at any time during the course this semester.

1. I will prepare and review course materials to be as current and accurate as possible.
2. I will be available to answer questions or issues that may arise for you during this course. **Expect a 48-hour turnaround time for response to emails. I am less likely to respond to emails over the weekend; expect responses Monday morning.**
3. I will try to the best of my ability to prepare you for the exams and other assessments in this course.
4. I will utilize fair and honest evaluation techniques for each assignment required for this course.
5. To the best of my ability, make this a valid and worthwhile learning experience.
6. I will do my best to address the needs of a diverse range of learning styles in this course.
7. I will make every effort to follow QLT (Quality Learning and Teaching) best practices.
8. I will only share your student information per FERPA guidelines.

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## Assignments & Grading

1. **Attendance – 30 pts.** Please review the policy above.
2. **Participation – 20 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.
3. **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 effects. To receive full credit: 1. The news article must focus on local, state, national, or international political issues. Please include a link to your selected article with your 1 page analysis 2. It must be turned in on time or will

receive a late grade 3. Each summary should be about 1 page (or 250-300 words), double spaced, Times New Roman font, 12 point font.

4. **News Article Presentation – 30 pts.** You will do 1 short (5 minute) presentation during the semester. The presentation will be on the news article you have chosen that week. Sign ups for presentation days will occur during the first few weeks of the semester. You can use Powerpoint, Prezi, the whiteboard, or other educational tools for your presentation.
5. **Midterm – 100 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.
6. **Final Paper Rough Draft – 50 pts.** You will be submitting a rough draft before the final paper. Please plan accordingly.
7. **Final Paper – 100 pts.** The research paper should be 5-7 pages in length, typed, double spaced, with a works cited/bibliography page (not counted in the page length requirement). A minimum of 6 scholarly sources 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. Your paper will be due the Friday before finals week.
8. **Final Paper Presentation – 50 pts.** You will share your research and findings with the class during the last week of the semester. This will occur during finals week.
9. **Reflection Activity – 20 pts.** The reflection activity will ask you to think back over the semester and engage some of the key concepts or ideas we explored. The activity will require short responses and will be turned in through Canvas.
10. **Extra Credit.** I offer extra credit to students who participate in the community politics. In order to receive extra credit, you must attend a meeting or event and then write a 1-page reflection paper where you not only explain the purpose of the event, but say how it is connected to class. Some examples of qualifying events include: community meetings, rallies, protests, City Council events, student government meetings, etc. If you have questions about what kind of event may qualify, please check with me ahead of time. I will offer you 5 pts. extra credit for each reflection paper you turn in following an event. Reflections must be 1 page, typed, 12 point font, double spaced, Times New Roman.

### Grading Breakdown

**Attendance and Participation** = 50 points  
**News Analysis** = 200 points  
**News Analysis Presentation** = 30 points  
**Midterm Exam** = 100 points  
**Final Paper Rough Draft** = 50 points  
**Final Paper** = 100 points  
**Final Paper Presentation** = 50 points  
**Reflection Activity** = 20 points  
**Total Semester Points = 600 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%)

\*Incomplete grades will only be assigned due to extraordinary circumstances.

## Schedule

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.**

*\*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   |
|------------------------|--|---|
| Monday August 20       | <b>Section 1:<br/>The Spirit of American Politics</b>                                    | <b>No Class – please see Canvas announcements for instructions for the day.</b> |
| Wednesday August 22    |  | Introduction to the Course & Defining “politics”<br>By the People: Chapter 1    |
| Monday August 27       | Ideas that Shaped America  | By the People: Chapter 2  |
| Wednesday August 29    |  | DFTF: Chapter 1<br>News Analysis: New York Times                                |
| Monday September 3     |  | <b>Labor Day – No class</b>   |
| Wednesday September 5  | The Constitution and Federalism  | By the People: Chapter 4<br>DFTF: Chapter 2<br>News Analysis: Washington Post   |
| Monday September 10    | <b>Section 2:<br/>By the People, For the People<br/>Civil Liberties and Civil Rights</b> | By the People: Chapter 5  |
| Wednesday September 12 |  | News Analysis: CNN  |
| Monday September 17    | Political Behavior   | By the People: Chapter 6  |
| Wednesday September 19 |  | DFTF: Chapter 12<br>News Analysis: Bloomberg News                               |
| Monday September 24    | Political Participation  | By the People: Chapter 8  |

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|------------------------|--|--|
| Wednesday September 26 |  | DFTF: Chapter 10<br>News Analysis: Al Jazeera  |
| Monday October 1       | Mass Media   | By the People: Chapter 9   |
| Wednesday October 3    |  | DFTF: Chapter 13<br>News Analysis: Fox News  |
| Monday October 8       | Assessment   | Midterm Review   |
| Wednesday October 10   |  | Midterm Test   |
| Monday October 15      | <b>Section 3: Engaging Structures</b><br>Campaigns and Elections | By the People: Chapter 10  |
| Wednesday October 17   |  | DFTF: Chapter 14<br>News Analysis: Your Choice   |
| Monday October 22      | The Environment is Political                                     | DFTF: Chapter 8  |
| Wednesday October 24   |  | Supplemental Readings<br>News Analysis: On an environmental topic  |
| Monday October 29      | California Politics  | Online Assignment  |
| Wednesday October 31   |  | <b>(No Class – I will be out of town, but you will still have an assignment)</b><br>Supplemental Readings<br>News Analysis: Article about California |
| Monday November 5      | Local Politics and Tribes  | Supplemental Readings  |
| Wednesday November 7   |  | Supplemental Readings<br>News Analysis: Local News Source  |
| Monday November 12     |  | <b>Veterans Day – No class</b>   |
| Wednesday November 14  | Rough Draft Editing  | Rough Draft Due in class (paper copy or on laptop)   |
| Monday November 19     |  | Holiday No Class   |
| Wednesday November 21  |  | Holiday No Class   |
| Monday November 26     | <b>Section 4: Reform, Transformation, Resolution</b>             | DFTF: Chapter 19   |



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|--|------------|--|
| Wednesday November 28                                      |            | **No News Analysis Due**               |
| Monday December 3  | Reflection | Reflection Activity<br>Final Paper Due |
| Wednesday December 5                                       |            | Presentations Due                      |
| Finals Week<br>December 8 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> |            | Potluck 3:15 – 5:15                    |