

Syllabus for POLSC10 – V6847

Semester & Year	Fall 2018	
Course ID and Section #	POLSC 10 – V6847	
Instructor's Name	Nicola Walters	
Number of Credits/Units	3	
Contact Information	<i>Office location</i>	O/L
	<i>Office hours</i>	O/L
	<i>Phone number</i>	505-577-3528
	<i>Email address</i>	Via Canvas
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		
<p>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.</p>		
Student Learning Outcomes		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 		
Necessary Computer Skills		
<p>Online courses require adequate computer skills. You should be able to navigate the course websites, open and download files, use a word processor with either Microsoft word (.docx) or be able to convert files to portable document format (.pdf), and submit files to the class website. It is your responsibility to meet the technological demands of the course. You may be required to record video on a phone or computer and submit video files to Canvas.</p>		
Technology Requirements (computer, other hardware, and software)		
<p>Computer – A reasonably current computer is needed for this class. A mobile device with the Canvas App can be used for some functions, but you should not rely on a mobile device to complete all of the course requirements. A computer is required to successfully complete this course.</p> <p>Hardware – Webcam or other device that creates videos – In order to participate in some of the course activities or assessments you will need a device that creates videos.</p>		

Internet Access - A reliable, high-speed broadband connection is needed for this course.

Software

Canvas - This course uses an online Learning Management System (LMS) called Canvas, which is provided by the college. To get to the class you will need to log in to: redwoods.instructure.com/login and select “_____ – _____” – Your login name will be your first initial, last name, last three digits of your student I.D number (sgarcis567), your password is your eight digit date of birth (06031996) "

Canvas App - If you have a smart phone or a tablet there is a free Canvas app through the Apple store or an app available at this link for Android devices. However, **DO NOT** rely on a mobile device and the Canvas App to complete all of the course requirements. <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.instructure.candroid&hl=en>.

Microsoft Word compatible software - In this course you will need to open and/or create Microsoft Word compatible documents. All students at CR have access to a free Microsoft 360 account There are also other free software options available such as Google Docs (see <https://www.google.com/docs/about/>) or LibreOffice (see <https://www.libreoffice.org/>) and many more. If you use Pages for Mac, you will need to export your files to Word or PDF formats.

Adobe Acrobat Reader – Adobe Acrobat Reader – A free Adobe Acrobat PDF Reader is available which will allow you to open and read PDF files.

Technology Support

Before contacting Technical Support please visit the Online Support Page at <http://www.redwoods.edu/online/Help>.

For password issues with Canvas, Web Advisor or your mycr.redwoods.edu email, contact Technical Support at its@redwoods.edu or call 707-476-4160 or 800-641-0400 ext. 4160 between 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., Monday through Friday.

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.

Regular Effective Contact

Just as I expect you to contact me with questions or concerns, I will also hold myself to a high standard of communication with you as well. I dedicate as much or more time to this class compared to a traditional class. I will access the class website regularly and respond to posted questions and messages within 48 hours. Additionally, I read every discussion forum post and occasionally participate. There is also regular instructor-based communication with weekly announcements, lectures, evaluative feedback to your discussion posts, and emails/messages to students who fall behind. I will provide you will ample time to prepare for any changes that may occur during the semester.

Course Communication

The Inbox section of Canvas allows you to email me directly. Click on the Inbox icon on the side of your screen in Canvas and use this space to contact me with questions or if you are in need of assistance. If you have general information or questions about the class, please post in the Discussions section of Canvas. This area allows you to receive input and feedback from other students. You may also participate in this section by posing questions or sharing resources with other students.

Academic Support and Resources

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. The following resources are available to support your success as a student:

- CR-Online (Resources for online students): <http://www.redwoods.edu/online>
- Library (including online databases): <http://www.redwoods.edu/library/>
- Canvas help and tutorials: <http://www.redwoods.edu/online/Canvas>
- Student Online Hand Book: <http://www.redwoods.edu/Portals/72/Documents/Students/CR-OnlineStudentHandbook.pdf>

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 College of the Redwoods:

RAVE – College of the Redwoods has implemented an emergency alert system. In the event of an emergency at the college 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.

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.

Proctoring

Proctored examinations will not be required for this course.



Welcome to *POLSC-10*

Course Name: *U.S. Government and Politics*

Section #: *V6847*

Instructor: *Nicola Walters*

Instructor Contact Information: *nicola-walters@redwoods.edu*

Course delivery: This course is delivered and taught 100% online; there are no classroom meetings.

Course Description: 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. We will explore how politics work. This course addresses both the philosophic roots and the contemporary operation of 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 American “politics” is. We discuss news events and connect them to the foundations, institutions, and political systems of our government.

Student Readiness: Are you ready for online classes? Please take about 15 minutes to review what it means to take an online class by watching the Introduction to Online Learning presentation at:

<https://apps.3cm mediasolutions.org/oei/01-Introduction-to-Online-Learning/index.html>

Student Commitment: Your commitment will require at least as much time as you dedicate to a traditional class. Needed skills include:

- ! carefully read online lectures and textbook chapters
- ! participate in online activities and watch online videos
- ! participate in online discussions, and
- ! complete weekly assignments.

Computer Skills: Online courses require adequate computer skills. You must be able to:

- ! navigate the course Learning Management System (Canvas)
- ! receive and respond to your CR email
- ! download and upload files to the Canvas, and
- ! use a word processor (such as Microsoft Word)

It is your responsibility to meet the technological demands of the course.

Computer Requirements: You should have high-speed internet (such as broadband) service from cable, DSL, or satellite providers as there are videos that require this speed. You need to have reliable access to the internet for the duration of the course. Anticipate problems with your computer and internet access (including power outages) by not waiting until the last minute to submit assignments. It is your responsibility to meet the class deadlines.

Portable Devices vs. Computers: Although you can use late-model portable devices (such as Android or iOS phones & tablets) for some things, you should plan on doing the majority of your work (especially exams and assignments) from a reasonably late-model notebook or desktop computer (Mac or PC). *Do NOT plan to participate in this class solely from a portable device.* If you do decide to use your portable device for *some* of your class work, use the free Canvas app (called “Canvas by Instructure”) available in

iTunes (for iOS) and the Google Play Store (for Android). Do not try to connect to Canvas using a web browser on a portable device. Your experience with Canvas will be a lot better using the app.

Proctored Exams: There are no proctored exams for this class

Textbook: 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

Additional readings will be posted online in the Files section of Canvas.

You can find out more information about purchasing these texts on Canvas. I have links for .pdfs and ebook options.

Other Materials: *N/A*

Course Availability The course will be available on CR's Canvas system beginning September 24, 2018. On or after that date, you must login to Canvas at <https://redwoods.instructure.com> to enter our "classroom."

Login instructions for Canvas:

1. Open your web browser and go to <https://redwoods.instructure.com>
2. Your Username is the same as your Web Advisor User ID (e.g., flast123 - first initial + lastname + last 3 digits of your student ID number.) Your initial password is your 6-digit birthdate (mmddy).
3. Once logged in, on top left-hand side of the screen you should see a drop down menu of your Courses.

Canvas Help:

There are instructions on the basics of Canvas and additional help with preparation for taking an online course at College of the Redwoods at: <http://redwoods.edu/online/>

Confirm your presence in the online classroom: Log in to the website and post to the "Student Introductions" discussion forum no later than 11:59pm on Wednesday, September 26th to confirm your presence in the online classroom. Doing so will confirm your enrollment in the course and avoid being dropped as a "no show." You can and will be dropped from the class if you do not log in and post to the "Student Introductions" Discussions forums inside the online classroom by 11:59pm on Wednesday, September 26th. No exceptions will be made. A student from the waiting list may then be added in your place.

For more information contact: *Nicola Walters at nicola-walters@redwoods.edu or via Canvas (Canvas is my preferred method of communication. Please only email me using my redwoods.edu address if you do not have access to Canvas at this time).*

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. We will explore how politics work. This course addresses both the philosophic roots and the contemporary operation of 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 American “politics” is. We discuss news events and connect them to the foundations, institutions, and political systems of our government.

Outcomes

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

Online: Sept. 24 – Dec. 15

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

Additional readings will be posted online 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 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/>

For Distance Education Resources:
<https://www.redwoods.edu/online>

** 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, regular participation is critical to your success in this class. You will need to carefully read textbook chapters, participate in online activities and watch online lectures and videos, participate in online discussions, complete weekly discussion assignments, and submit written assessment papers. Conscientiousness, attention to details, and skills in reading and writing are critical for success. Each assignment, which includes lectures by video and prompts for discussions, will be included in the Modules section of Canvas.

Please note: Non-participation for two weeks of assignments may result in involuntary withdrawal.

2. Students are expected to complete each assignment by the scheduled date. If for some reason you need to reschedule a test or assignment, please let me know as soon as possible so that I can help you make arrangements.

3. Late discussion posts will not be accepted. Late exams/assessments will not be accepted. Late news analyses will receive a late score – to be assessed by the instructor.

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 engage with politics in an online setting. Because of the subject matter, we will be discussing perspectives, beliefs, and values, entwined in the subject of American politics. Even though we are online, I ask that we treat our online space just as we would a regular classroom. Please 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.

Expectations of the Student

1. **Log into the course daily. Participate.**
2. Expect to spend about 4-5 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.**
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.

Assignments & Grading

1. **Participation – 40 pts. each. (20 points for primary post and 10 points for each reply post.** Be prepared to contribute to weekly class discussions. You will be prompted each week for a contribution in the Modules section of Canvas, in addition to your weekly news article analysis. Please submit your response and respond to other classmates for full credit.

Primary Post – Your primary post is your response to the question or scenario provided. This post must:

1. Follow these guidelines.
2. React analytically, not a summary or just a personal example
3. Relate and apply topic to your own personal experience
4. Use correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and complete sentences
5. Be posted before the deadline
6. Meet the 250-word minimum length

Two Reply Posts -- To receive full points, reply posts will:

- ; . React thoughtfully to the content of two classmate's primary posts.
- < Focus your reply on your classmate's post, not on your personal experiences
- = Meet the 150-word minimum length
- > Use correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and complete sentences

** Note on discussion posts: Please respond early to the discussion question. Those who post late often do not receive helpful feedback from classmates.

2. **Weekly News Article Analysis – 20 pts. each.** 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 7 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 submitted on time 3. Each summary should be about 250-300 words, Times New Roman font, 12 point font.

3. **Essay Question Assessments – 100 pts. each. (2 Total)** The section assessments will contain detailed instructions for exam completion and the electronic submission of them via Canvas to the Turnitin.com website. You will not need to give me a hard (paper) copy of them. They are “take-home” essay exams. You will have one week to complete each of them. I will grade them in the Turnitin site, where you can then see both your grades and my comments. Late work is not accepted. Please plan ahead.
4. **Reflection Activity – 60 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.
5. **Two Extra Credit Options –**
 - A. **Community Engagement.** 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.
 - B. **Critical Culture.** In order to receive extra credit, you must choose something in the media to critically engage: **this means to try to analyze the message and the intended meaning.** You could choose political cartoons, video clips, commercials, movies, tv shows, memes, or anything that exists out there in the world. To get full credit: 1. Write a 1-page reflection paper. 2. Explain what your media selection is about. (What is the message/intended meaning?) 3. How it this connected to class discussions or readings? 4. Include a link to the media you have selected to analyze. I will offer you 5 pts. extra credit for each critical culture paper you turn in. Papers must be 1 page, typed, 12 point font, double spaced, Times New Roman.

Point Totals

Discussion Participation = 360 points

Weekly News Analyses = 180 points

2 Essay Assessment Papers = 200 points

Reflection Activity = 60 points

Total Semester Points = 800 points

Grading Breakdown

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 = ($\leq 59\%$)

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

Schedule

Refer to Canvas 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. **In rare cases due dates and assignments may be subject to change.**

Week 1 Sept 24-Sept 30	Section 1: The Spirit of American Politics	Learning Unit 1: Unpacking American Politics Complete Module 1 By Wed. (11:59 p.m.): Primary Post <i>(Student Introduction)</i> By Sun. (11:59 p.m.): Two reply posts By Sun. (11:59 p.m.): NYTimes News Analysis Due
Week 2 Oct 1-Oct 7		Learning Unit 2: Ideas that Shape America Complete Module 2 By Wed. (11:59 p.m.): Primary Post By Sun. (11:59 p.m.): Two reply posts By Sun. (11:59 p.m.): Washington Post News Analysis Due
Week 3 Oct 8-Oct 14		Learning Unit 3: Constitution and Federalism Complete Module 3 By Wed. (11:59 p.m.): Primary Post By Sun. (11:59 p.m.): Two reply posts By Sun. (11:59 p.m.): CNN News Analysis Due

Week 4 Oct 15-Oct 21	Assessment	Unit 4: The Spirit of American Politics Essay Assessment Complete Module 4
Week 5 Oct 22-Oct 28	Section 2: By the People, For the People	Learning Unit 5: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights Complete Module 5 By Wed. (11:59 p.m.): Primary Post By Sun. (11:59 p.m.): Two reply posts By Sun. (11:59 p.m.): Fox News Analysis Due
Week 6 Oct 29-Nov 4		Learning Unit 6: Political Behavior and Participation Complete Module 6 By Wed. (11:59 p.m.): Primary Post By Sun. (11:59 p.m.): Two reply posts By Sun. (11:59 p.m.): Al Jazeera News Analysis Due
Week 7 Nov 5-Nov 11	Section 3: Engaging Structures	Learning Unit 7: Mass Media Complete Module 7 By Wed. (11:59 p.m.): Primary Post By Sun. (11:59 p.m.): Two reply posts By Sun. (11:59 p.m.): Bloomberg News Analysis Due
Week 8 Nov 12-Nov 18		Learning Unit 8: Campaigns and Elections Complete Module 8 By Wed. (11:59 p.m.): Primary Post By Sun. (11:59 p.m.): Two reply posts By Sun. (11:59 p.m.): Your Choice News Analysis Due
Week 9 Nov 19-Nov 25	Fall Break	
Week 10 Nov 26-Dec 2	Section 4: Bringing it Home	Learning Unit 9: California Politics Complete Module 9 By Mon. People and Structures

		<p>Assessment due By Wed. (11:59 p.m.): Primary Post By Sun. (11:59 p.m.): Two reply posts By Sun. (11:59 p.m.): (<i>California Topic</i>) News Analysis Due</p>
<p>Week 11 Dec 3-Dec 9</p>		<p>Learning Unit 10: Local Politics Complete Module 10 By Wed. (11:59 p.m.): Primary Post By Sun. (11:59 p.m.): Two reply posts By Sun. (11:59 p.m.): (<i>Local News Source</i>) News Analysis Due</p>
<p>Week 12 Dec 10-Dec 15</p>	<p>Section 4: Reform, Transformation, Resolution</p>	<p>By Fri. (5:00 p.m.): Reflection Activity Due</p>