

Syllabus for POLSC-2– Del Norte Education Center		
Semester & Year	Spring 2019	
Course ID and Section #	POLSC-2-D5099/E6302/K5100	
Instructor’s Name	Will Meriwether	
Day/Time	TTH 3:40-5:05	
Location	Del Norte: DA1	
Number of Credits/Units	3	
Contact Information	<i>Office location</i>	E3
	<i>Office hours</i>	MW 12:30-1:30 TTH10:30-11:30
	<i>Phone number</i>	707-465-2370
	<i>Email address</i>	William-meriwether@redwoods.edu
Textbook Information	<i>Title & Edition</i>	An Introduction to Political Philosophy
	<i>Author</i>	Colin Bird
	<i>ISBN</i>	9780521544825
Course Description	An introduction to current controversies in US politics. Students will become familiar with contemporary issues, critique different viewpoints, and construct policy solutions while learning about constitutional principles and government institutions.	
Student Learning Outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the core concepts and contributions of thinkers such as Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Mill and Marx. 2. Compare and contrast modern political ideologies, such as liberalism, conservatism, Marxism, and feminism. 3. Apply the perspectives of thinkers from different eras to contemporary political problems. 	
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 707-464-2352.</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	<p>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 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/AP5500StudentConductCodeandDisciplinaryProcedu</p>	

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[resrev1.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; 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:

www.redwoods.edu/district/board/new/chapter5/documents/AP5500StudentConductCodeandDisciplinaryProcedureSrev1.pdf

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Emergency Procedures for the Del Norte campus:

Please review the campus evacuation sites, including the closest site to this classroom (posted by the exit of each room). The Crescent City campus emergency map is available at

(<http://www.redwoods.edu/District/Maps/dnmap.asp>). For more information on Public Safety, go to <http://redwoods.edu/safety/> 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 campus authorities.

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, [707-476-4112](tel:707-476-4112), security@redwoods.edu, if you have any questions.

Political Philosophies Spring 2019

Welcome to Political Philosophy. This course is an overview of the key texts and political thinkers of western political thought from Plato to the present. Students will be introduced to: (1) historical and contemporary debates about the most desirable cultural values, political regimes, institutional forms, economic systems, and laws to achieve “the good life;” and (2) political theorists’ answers to contentious questions about the nature of justice, freedom, and equality.

Format: The class is a combination of lecture, discussion, and activities.

Textbooks:

Bird, Colin. *An Introduction to Political Philosophy* (Cambridge University Press, 2006). ISBN: 978-0-521-544825

Grading:

Research Paper #1	100 pts
Research Paper #2	100 pts
Research Paper #2 Question	10 pts
Weekly Reading Responses 10 pts each	100 pts (110 pts if all eleven completed)
Final Exam	100 pts
Class Discussion 50 pts.	50 pts.

Total: 460 pts

Chapter Reading Responses: Submit answers to at least three of the questions included in the PowerPoint discussion for the corresponding chapter. Some of the answers will require information from the textbook and outside sources (if used you must include citations) whereas others will require you to write based off of personal beliefs and opinions. I do not care about your personal beliefs or opinions and will not deduct points for them, points will be deducted however if you do not explain your reasoning behind the answer. Each of these Chapter Reading Responses should be at least one page, typed double spaced with 12pt Times New Roman font.

Each PowerPoint can be found in Canvas. These assignments cannot be submitted late and the assignment will begin with chapter two. You are only required to submit your responses to a total of ten chapters but if you submit one for all eleven, the extra points will be considered extra credit.

Research Paper #1: After our discussions on the ideas of the common good, property and wealth, and economic justice, write a 5-7 page paper analyzing whether the United States should create a universal healthcare system. Things to consider: the cost to taxpayers of such a system, should care be rationed (elderly individuals, those without a healthy diet, smokers, etc.), government involvement in daily decisions to reduce costs, and the overall purpose of such a system. Do not base your argument on emotion but focus on the philosophical questions that must be answered to reach such a conclusion. You

will need at least five reputable sources with APA citations. I do not care if you support universal healthcare or not but that you are making a logical and rational arguments.

Research Paper #2: The second research paper will consist of a topic of your choosing. This research paper will need to be between 4-6 pages and answer a question that impacts modern society using philosophical arguments to reach the conclusion. The research question must be approved no later than 26 March. There will be an assignment created worth ten points in which you submit the question to me for approval.

Research Paper #2 Question: This assignment can be resubmitted until you receive full credit. It is designed to help you create a thesis statement for the second research paper.

Final Exam: The final exam will consist of a 5-7 page paper case study. After watching *The Battle of Algiers* you will analyze at least three core components of the course in how it relates to the Algerian independence movement. Further discussion of the final exam will occur during the last week of classes.

Formatting for All Papers: Each paper will need to be typed, double spaced, using 12pt Times New Roman font. The title page and the references page are not included in the word count and it must be the entire length of the page. For example if you type 4.5 pages it doesn't count as a total of 5 pages.

Class Discussion:

This class is designed to incorporate discussion and points will be based off attendance and participation in the topics of the day. It is important to arrive in class prepared (by reading the chapter before the day), and gaining information to support the topic area assigned.

Expectations:

1. Show up to class on time and be prepared to participate in the lecture and discussion that day.
2. Be courteous not only to myself but to your fellow classmates. One can disagree and debate without it becoming personal.
3. Late assignments will not be accepted. There is one exception to this rule, I understand that life happens and I will offer a one day grace period for one assignment for the entire course. I am giving you the due dates for each assignment in the syllabus so you can plan accordingly.
4. No cheating, plagiarism, etc. View the school policy on academic misconduct.
5. Challenge yourself. One of the hardest things in the world to do is admit when one is wrong (I am guilty of this myself), but in order to learn we have to accept that we don't know everything and some of our preconceived ideas may be wrong. Just as I intend to challenge you, I ask that if you feel I am wrong you have the right to challenge me but just as I will bring facts to my discussions if you think that I am wrong bring with you facts from reputable sources not emotions.

Schedule (Subject to change)

POLSC-2			
Week 1	22-Jan	Introduction	
	24-Jan	Lesson 1: What is the Purpose of Government	
Week 2	29-Jan	Lesson 2 Chapter 1: The Puzzle of Justification	
	31-Jan	Lesson 2 Chapter 1: The Puzzle of	

		Justification	
Week 3	5-Feb	Lesson 3 Chapter 2: The Common Good	
	7-Feb	Lesson 3 Chapter 2: The Common Good	
Week 4	12-Feb	Lesson 4 Chapter 3: Utilitarianism	
	14-Feb	Lesson 4 Chapter 3: Utilitarianism	
Week 5	19-Feb	Lesson 5 Chapter 4: Social Contracts	
	21-Feb	Lesson 5 Chapter 4: Social Contracts	
Week 6	26-Feb	Lesson 6: The Justification of Politics	
	28-Feb	Lesson 7 Chapter 5: Property and Wealth	
Week 7	5-Mar	Lesson 7 Chapter 5: Property and Wealth	
	7-Mar	Lesson 8 Chapter 6: Economic Justice	
Week 8	12-Mar	Lesson 8 Chapter 6: Economic Justice	
	14-Mar	Lesson 9: Economic Justice Part Two	
Week 9	19-Mar	Spring Break	
	21-Mar	Spring Break	
Week 10	26-Mar	Lesson 10 Chapter 7: Authority	Research Paper #2 Question Due
	28-Mar	Lesson 10 Chapter 7: Authority	
Week 11	2-Apr	Lesson 11 Chapter 8: Liberty	
	4-Apr	Lesson 11 Chapter 8: Liberty	Research Paper #1 Due
Week 12	9-Apr	Lesson 12 Chapter 9: Democratic Rule	
	11-Apr	Lesson 12 Chapter 9: Democratic Rule	
Week 13	16-Apr	Lesson 13 Chapter 10: War	
	18-Apr	Lesson 13 Chapter 10: War	
Week 14	23-Apr	Lesson 14 Chapter 11: Living with Difference	
	25-Apr	Lesson 14 Chapter 11: Living with Difference	Research Paper #2 Due
Week 15	30-Apr	Lesson 15 Chapter 12: Radical Criticism	
	2-May	Lesson 15 Chapter 12: Radical Criticism	
Week 16	7-May	Battle of Algiers	
	9-May	Battle of Algiers	
Finals Week		Final Exam	

