

## Course Information

Semester & Year: Fall 2019
Course ID & Section #: POLSC-1-D8552
Instructor's name: Will Meriwether
Day/Time: 02:15-3:40 Tuesday and Thursday
Location: DA 1
Number of units: 3

## Instructor Contact Information

Office location: E3
Office hours: By Appointment
Phone number: 707-465-2370
Email address: william-meriwether@redwoods.edu

## Required Materials

Textbook Title: Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Political Issues 20th edition
Edition: 20 <sup>th</sup> Edition
Author: William J. Miller
ISBN: 978-1259883231
Other requirements: The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander ISBN: 978-1595586438
Other readings will be provided in Canvas

## Catalog 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.

## Course Student Learning Outcomes *(from course outline of record)*

1. Identify and critique major contemporary political issues in American politics.
2. Describe the role of US political institutions in contemporary political problems.
3. Analyze how responses to political issues differ from the local, state, national, and international level.
4. Construct policy solutions to political problems.

## Evaluation & Grading Policy

Final Grades will be determined by:	
3 exams: 300 points each	300 points
1 research paper:	100 points
News Summary 8 x25 points each	200 points
Class Participation	50 points
Total points:	650 points
Grading Criteria: A=90-100%, B= 80-89%, C=70-79%, D=60-69%, F= below 59%	

## Prerequisites/co-requisites/ recommended preparation

No Prerequisites required

**\*ONLINE REQUIREMENTS - The following are required online courses but are recommended for all (see \* in contents).**  
[Special accommodations statement](#)

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 accommodations, please see me or contact [Disability Services and Programs for Students](#). Students may make requests for alternative media by contacting DSPS based on their campus location:

Eureka: 707-476-4280, student services building, 1<sup>st</sup> floor

Del Norte: 707-465-2324, main building near library

Klamath-Trinity: 530-625-4821 Ext 103

## Student Accessibility Statement and Academic Support Information

These standards are required by federal regulation. Students will have access to this course that complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and College of the Redwoods policies. Course materials will include a text equivalent for all non-text elements; videos will include closed captioning, images will include alt-tags, hyperlinks will use descriptive/meaningful phrases instead of URLs and audio files will include transcripts. All text will be formatted for use with screen readers and all course materials will be understandable without the use of color.

### Academic dishonesty

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. 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 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, the student 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. 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](#).

Exam dates will be announced in advance. Exams will consist of essay questions and will be submitted in Canvas.

### **Research Paper:**

In addition to class participation, quizzes, and exams, a research paper is also required. The research paper should be 6-8 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 book *The New Jim Crow* are required. The book *The New Jim Crow* must be used as one source. The research paper should discuss at least one area in which race relations have been impacted in the last several years. Topic examples include economic prospects of minority groups, mass incarceration, police brutality, the drug war, etc.

### **Group News Summaries:**

Approximately every two weeks the class will be responsible for providing news updates. Groups will be assigned on the first day of class. Each person in the group is responsible for their own topic that corresponds to the larger group topic. The four topic areas include: Congress and the Presidency, worldwide economic news, national news of importance, and international news of importance. Each student is required to present their information and submit at least a one page summary of their assigned topic for each presentation. Each paper should have at least two news sources and include citations. Informative news organizations include: [washingtonpost.com](http://washingtonpost.com), [economist.com](http://economist.com), [theatlantic.com](http://theatlantic.com), [nytimes.com](http://nytimes.com), [foreignpolicy.com](http://foreignpolicy.com), [wsj.com](http://wsj.com), [bbcnews.com](http://bbcnews.com), [npr.com](http://npr.com), etc.

### **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. A good resource to use for this course is [procon.org](http://procon.org)

**Citations:** All citations and references in this course will be based off of APA citation standards. If you need assistance the [Purdue University Online Writing Lab](http://Purdue University Online Writing Lab) is an excellent resource as a citation guide.

### **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. 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 to dispute me.

### **Schedule (Subject to change)**

Week 1	8/27	Introduction	News Sections
	8/29	Unit 1.1	President and Congress
Week 2	9/3	Unit 1.2	Worldwide Economic News
	9/5	Unit 1.3	National News
Week 3	9/10	News Updates	International News
	9/12	Unit 1.4	
Week 4	9/17	Unit 2.1/Exam 1	
	9/19	News Updates	
Week 5	9/24	Unit 2.2	
	9/26	Handout "Courts and the Constitution"	
Week 6	10/1	News Updates	
	10/3	Handout "Do Whistleblowers Help Government"	
Week 7	10/8	Student Choice	
	10/10	News Updates	
Week 8	10/15	Unit 3.1	
	10/17	Unit 3.2/Exam 1	
Week 9	10/22	Unit 3.3	
	10/24	News Updates	
Week 10	10/29	Unit 3.5	
	10/31	Unit 3.6/Exam 3	

Week 11	11/5	News Updates	
	11/7	Unit 3.7	
Week 12	11/12	Handout "Warrantless Wiretapping"	
	11/14	Unit 4.3	
Week 13	11/19	News Updates	
	11/21	New Jim Crow Discussion	
Week 14	11/26	No School Fall Break	
	11/28	No School Fall Break	
Week 15	12/3	Unit 4.4/Research Paper Due	
	12/5	Student Choice	
Week 16	12/10	News Updates	
	12/12	Open Forum	
Final Week		Exam 3	