

Course Information

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| Semester & Year: Fall 2019 |
| Course ID & Section #: POLSC 10 – V7634 – US Government & Politics |
| Instructor’s name: Prof. Gary Sokolow |
| Day/Time or *Online: On-Line |
| Location or *Online: On-Line |
| Number of units: 3.0 |

Instructor Contact Information

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| Office location or *Online: |
| Office hours: None |
| Phone number: None |
| Email address: On-Line via Canvas messaging system |

Required Materials

- Textbooks: 1. *American Government - Your Voice, Your Future – 6th Edition*, Kerbel; Academic Media Solutions; ISBN: 978-1942041450
2. *California Politics:A Primer – 5th Edition*, Van Vechten; Sage/CQ Press; ISBN: 978-1506380353

Catalog Description

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.

Course Student Learning Outcomes (from course outline of record)

- Explain the history and philosophy of the Constitution, politics, and government in the United States.
- Identify the major provisions of the US and California constitutions.
- Compare the three branches of California and US Government, and related political institutions.
- Outline the relationship between the states and national government (i.e. federalism).
- Analyze contemporary issues facing California and the US system of government.

Evaluation & Grading Policy

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| See attached syllabus |
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Prerequisites/co-requisites/ recommended preparation

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| None |
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***ONLINE REQUIREMENTS - The following are required online courses but are recommended for all (see * in contents).**

Special accommodations statement

In compliance with equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that you may require as a student with a disability. Students are encouraged to contact Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSP&S) , 707-476-4280, for disability verification and for determination of reasonable academic accommodations.

Student feedback policy

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| The student responses to all discussion board questions will be graded within three days of the due dates. All other assignments will be graded within ten days of the due dates. |
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Proctored Exams

No assignments are proctored

Student Accessibility Statement and Academic Support Information

Student Support Services

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

- [CR-Online](#) (Comprehensive information for online students)
- [Library Articles & Databases](#)
- [Canvas help and tutorials](#)
- [Online Student Handbook](#)

[Counseling and Advising](#) offers academic support and includes academic advising and educational planning

Learning Resource Center includes the following resources for students

- [Academic Support Center](#) for instructional support, tutoring, learning resources, and proctored exams.
- [Library Services](#) to promote information literacy and provide organized information resources.
- Multicultural & Diversity Center [waiting for hyperlink and Mission]
- Math Lab & Drop-in Writing Center

Special programs are also available for eligible students include

- [Extended Opportunity Programs & Services \(EOPS\)](#) provides financial assistance, support and encouragement for eligible income disadvantaged students at all CR locations.
- The TRiO Student Success Program provides eligible students with a variety of services including trips to 4-year universities, career assessments, and peer mentoring. Students can apply for the program in [Eureka](#) or in [Del Norte](#)
- The [Veteran's Resource Center](#) supports and facilitates academic success for Active Duty Military, Veterans and Dependents attending CR through relational advising, mentorship, transitional assistance, and coordination of military and Veteran-specific resources.
- Klamath-Trinity students can contact the CR KT Office for specific information about student support services at 530-625-4821
- The [Honors Program](#) helps students succeed in transferring to a competitive four-year school.

**COURSE SYLLABUS
(On-Line)**

Professor Gary A. Sokolow
Office: AJ 106
Office Hours: By Appointment
Telephone: 444-8630 (home)*
E-mail: via Canvas webpage

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| COURSE HOME PAGE: | <i>redwoods.instructure.com</i> |
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AFTER SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THIS CLASS, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO:

- Explain the history and philosophy of the Constitution, politics, and government in the United States.
- Identify the major provisions of the US and California constitutions.
- Compare the three branches of California and US Government, and related political institutions.
- Outline the relationship between the states and national government (i.e. federalism).
- Analyze contemporary issues facing California and the US system of government.

WEB SITE/EXAMS

The exams will contain detailed instructions for exam completion and the electronic submission of them via Canvas to the *Turnitin.com* website. All assignments are “paperless”. Therefore, you will not need to give me a hard (paper) copy of them. I will grade them in the Turnitin site, where you can then see both your grades and my comments. *If the exams are turned in late, they will be assessed a late grade penalty of my choosing. Employment issues, child care, computer issues, etc. are **not** excuses for the submission of any late work. Plan ahead.*

If you are experiencing computer glitches or problems with the Canvas site, either contact me at my home phone number* listed above or E-mail 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 the Canvas help menus. A link for help will be found at “Canvas Help” at the bottom of our course home page.

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. I will help you with computer/technical issues if I can, but my main expertise is in teaching the course, not computer issues. For professional computer-technical assistance, please visit the following website: <http://www.redwoods.edu/departments/distance/tutorials/>.

* I spend very little time in my office. While on campus, I am either in the classroom teaching or in meetings of one kind or another. Other than this, I work from my home. Therefore, the best way to reach me is usually via e-mail through the Messages tool of our Canvas course webpage. By E-mailing me through our Canvas website, rather than sending me a direct E-mail via the main CR website (@redwoods.edu), I can better keep track of all of your e-mail messages. When you E-mail me, leave me a contact phone number as well. If the matter is too urgent or complicated to be handled via E-mail, than by all means call me at home and leave a call-back number where I can call you as soon as possible.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

American Government - Your Voice, Your Future – 6th Edition, Kerbel; Academic Media Solutions; ISBN: 978-1-942041-45-1

California Politics: A Primer – 5th Edition, Van Vechten; Sage/CQ Press; ISBN: 978-1-506380-35-3

COURSE GRADE: The course grade** will be composed of the following four parts:

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| ✓ Two Exams | 75% of grade |
| ✓ Political Questions | 10% of grade |
| ✓ Three Current Issue Analysis Papers | 15% of grade |

Instructor-Initiated Class Withdrawal Policy: -- “Excessive Absences” – defined as missing *six or more* class sessions. If the student misses six or more class sessions, the instructor may withdraw the student from the class.

A failing grade (<61%) on any one exam **or the question cards category **or** the current issue papers may result in an “F” grade for the entire course.

GRADING SCALE:

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| A | = >95% - 100% |
| A- | = >90% - 95% |
| B+ | = >85% - 90% |
| B | = >82% - 85% |
| B- | = >80% - 82% |
| C+ | = >75% - 80% |
| C | = >70% - 75% |
| D | = 61% - 70% |
| F | = <61% |

An “incomplete” grade will not be assigned except under extraordinary circumstances.

ASSIGNMENTS :

Every week there will be a reading assignment and homework in the form of written responses to a discussion question/topic, No late submissions to the weekly questions will be accepted. There will be three 2-3 page “current issue” analysis papers which will be reviewed by several of your classmates (peer-review). The typical weekly reading assignment will consist of one or two chapters from both textbooks. Rather than include a weekly schedule of assignments in this syllabus, I have chosen to post them, a week at a time, to our Canvas course webpage. Each week, at **9 AM on Monday morning**, the weeks’ work will be posted in a Canvas “module”. This module will lay out all of the work which needs to be completed for the week.

The two exams are of the open-book essay variety. You will have one week to complete each of them.

Code of Conduct

Preface:

The purpose of this code is to ensure that both the instructor and students are mindful of the rights and responsibilities of each other. Additionally, adherence to this code will help ensure that the class experience is both meaningful and interesting to all concerned.

Instructor Expectations:

- *Punctuality* -- Students should make every effort to arrive several minutes before class. Tardiness disrupts the learning and teaching process both for the instructor and students. It is rude to habitually be late for class.
- *Leaving Early* -- Students should stay for the entire class. Often, important material is covered at the end of the class period and assignments for the following class period may be made at that time.
- *Attentiveness* -- Students should stay awake and be attentive for the class period. If one is too tired to attend class, it is best not to come. Drowsing off is embarrassing both for the student concerned and the instructor.
- *Talking in Class /Cell Phones & Pagers*– The passing of notes or continuous talking to other students outside of class discussion is both disruptive to the learning process and rude to other students and the instructor. Turn off or set on “silent”, all cell phones and pagers.
- Plagiarism – Plagiarism is defined as claiming any work of another person as your own without attribution to the true author. It also includes taking a substantial portion (approximately 25% or more) of your assignment from other sources, whether or not credit is given to those sources. This includes the work of fellow students. *If a student is found to have plagiarized the work of others, the penalty which the instructor may impose ranges from a failing grade for the assignment to a failing grade for the entire course.*

- Netiquette - In participating in an on-line format, it is expected that all students treat each other with respect. This includes no personal attacks on any other class member or the instructor. I expect that you may disagree with the views of your classmates from time to time, but such disagreements may be expressed in a respectful manner. It is good to remember that we all bring to the class a broad array of life experiences and some of it is valuable.

Student Expectations:

- Punctuality – Students have every right to expect that the instructor will offer timely feedback to the discussion questions, crime scenarios, and the grading of exams. The instructor will respond to phone calls and E-mails within 48 hours, sooner if possible.
- Civility – Students have a right for the instructor to treat them with respect both in and out of the virtual classroom and to ensure that all students have an opportunity to express their opinions on relevant matters.
- Classroom environment – The instructor will make every attempt to make the virtual classroom experience useful, comfortable, and interesting.

In compliance with equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that you may require as a student with a disability. Students are encouraged to contact Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSP&S) , 707-476-4280, for disability verification and for determination of reasonable academic accommodations.

The syllabus is subject to change upon advanced notice via posting on our Canvas course website.