

Course Information

Semester & Year: Spring 2020

Course ID & Section #: POLSC-10-D8565

Instructor's name: Will Meriwether

Day/Time: 2:15-3:40 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: The American Political System: Third Edition

Edition: Third Edition 2018 Edition (The 2016 Edition is acceptable)

Author: Ken Kollman

ISBN: 978-0-393-67528-3

Other requirements: Other readings will be provided in Canvas

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*)

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.

Evaluation & Grading Policy

Final Grades will be determined by:

4 exams: 50 points each	200 points
17 multiple choice quizzes: 10 points each	170 points
1 research paper:	100 points
Weekly News Summary 13 x10 points each	130 points
Total points:	600 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

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, 1st 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](#).

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

Multiple Choice Quizzes: Each chapter will have a timed multiple choice quiz. You will be allowed to take each quiz twice and the higher of the two grades will be accepted.

Research Paper:

In addition to class participation, the news summary, 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 references page (not counted in the page length requirement), using APA citations.

The format of the paper should include but is not limited to: Introduction, summary of each amicus curie brief provided, summary of oral arguments, and then an answer question posed to the Supreme Court while referencing information for the amicus curie briefs, and a conclusion.

A minimum of 6 scholarly sources outside of the textbook are required (most of the sources are provided). The research paper should analyze the Supreme Court case *Masterpiece Cakeshop, Ltd., et al., Petitioners v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission, et al.* The question before the Supreme Court is “Whether applying Colorado's public accommodations law to compel Phillips to create expression that violates his sincerely held religious beliefs about marriage violates the Free Speech or Free Exercise Clauses of the First Amendment.”

Using oral arguments, amicus curiae briefs, and at least two other sources not provided, summarize the arguments for and against *Masterpiece Cakeshop* and answer the question before the Supreme Court. It doesn't matter which side you support in the case as long as your answer is supported. The website <http://www.scotusblog.com/case-files/cases/masterpiece-cakeshop-ltd-v-colorado-civil-rights-commn/> may help you in your research.

How to Cite Amicus Curiae Brief:

Example: Brief of Institute For Justice as Amici Curiae Supporting Neither Party, *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil*, 584 U.S. ___ (2018) (no. 16-111).

In-text Citation: (*Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Division*, 2018)

Weekly News Summary Analysis: Each week students will summarize an article pertaining to American Politics and then discuss how it influences the current debate on that subject. You can use similar topics from past article summaries if you want to focus on one topic throughout the semester. Each week students will have to use a different media source for the articles. Some weeks it will be your choice and other weeks it will be my pick. My goal for these assignments is to identify the differences between legitimate news organizations, opinion articles on news websites, and blogs which pose as news organizations but often use only one or two lines of news and then the rest use only their opinion. To receive full credit the article must be turned in on time and focus on state, national, or international political issues. Each summary should be about at least 200 words.

Week 1: NY Times nytimes.com

Week 2: Washington Post washingtonpost.com

Week 3: The Guardian <https://www.theguardian.com/us>

Week 4: The Atlantic <http://www.theatlantic.com>

Week 5: CNN cnn.com

Week 6: Fox News foxnews.com

Week 7: Haaretz <http://www.haaretz.com>

Week 8: BBC bbcnews.com

Week 9: Time time.com

Week 10: Reuters reuters.com

Week 11-Week 14 You can pick your own news organization. I would encourage you to find a website that depicts itself as a news website but is merely used for partisan gain and highlight how the organization spins the article for at least one of the weeks.

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 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)

POLSC-10	DA-1	2:15-3:40
Week 1	1/21	No School
	1/23	Introduction
Week 2	1/28	Chapter 1
	1/30	Chapter 2
Week 3	2/4	Chapter 2
	2/6	Chapter 3
Week	2/11	Chapter 4

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	2/13	Chapter 4//Exam 1
Week 5	2/18	Chapter 5
	2/20	Chapter 5
Week 6	2/25	Chapter 6
	2/27	Chapter 6
Week 7	3/3	Chapter 7
	3/5	Chapter 7
Week 8	3/10	Chapter 8
	3/12	Chapter 8//Exam 2
Week 9	3/17	No School Spring Break
	3/19	No School Spring Break
Week 10	3/24	Chapter 9
	3/26	Chapter 10
Week 11	3/31	Chapter 11
	4/2	Chapter 12
Week 12	4/7	Chapter 12//Exam 3
	4/9	Chapter 13
Week 13	4/14	Chapter 14
	4/16	Chapter 14
Week 14	4/21	Chapter 15

	4/23	Chapter 15
Week 15	4/28	Chapter 16/ Research Paper Due
	4/30	Chapter 17
Week 16	5/5	Chapter 17
	5/7	Open Forum
Final Week		Exam 4