

**Course Information**

Semester & Year: Summer 2020  
Course ID & Section #: POLSC 10 – V0980  
Instructor's name: Gary Sokolow  
Day/Time or \*Online: On-Line  
Location or \*Online: On-Line  
Number of units: 3.0

**Instructor Contact Information**

Office location or \*Online: On-Line  
Office hours: Arrange with Instructor  
Phone number: None  
Email address: Via Canvas or gary-sokolow@redwoods.edu

**Required Textbooks:**

*American Government - Your Voice, Your Future – 6<sup>th</sup> Edition*, Kerbel; Academic Media Solutions; ISBN: 978-1942041450

*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 Learning Outcomes**

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**

*See Syllabus*

**Prerequisites/co-requisites/ recommended preparation**

None

## **Special Accommodations Statement**

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. **Students who discover access issues with this class should contact the instructor.**

## **Student Feedback Policy:**

All writing assignments will be graded within a week of the deadline.

**Proctored Exams: None**

## **Student Accessibility 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.*

**COURSE SYLLABUS** (v3)  
**ON-LINE**

Professor Gary A. Sokolow

Office: AJ 106  
Office Hours: By Appointment  
Telephone: 707-444-8630 (home)\*  
E-mail: via Canvas webpage

**COURSE HOME PAGE:**

[redwoods.instructure.com](http://redwoods.instructure.com)

**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/CLASS PARTICIPATION/ASSIGNMENTS**

The essays and exams will contain detailed instructions for their completion and the electronic submission of them to the Turnitin.com website, via Canvas. All assignments are “paperless”. I will grade the essays and exams in the Turnitin.com site, where you can then see both your grade and my assignment comments. *If any assignments (including the political questions discussion board) 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 use mobile devices, download and use the Canvas and Turnitin apps for those devices. I strongly advise you, however, to submit all assignments (cards, essays, and the exam) via a desktop/laptop computer.** 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](mailto:its@redwoods.edu) or call them at **707.476.4160**. Before contacting me however, I suggest you first try to solve the problem with the help of the guides posted in our Canvas Help folder or the help menus.

Under the “Files>Documents” section of our website, you will find several documents which will guide you in the use of the Canvas and Turnitin websites. Please note that once you log in to Canvas, there is a fairly extensive on-line help menu using the search feature therein. I will help you with computer/technical issues if I can, but my main expertise is in teaching the course, not computer issues.

The best way to reach me is usually via e-mail through the “inbox” 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, 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. Generally, I will respond to e-mails within 24 hours (except on Sundays).

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:**

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*California Politics:A Primer – 5th Edition*, Van Vechten; Sage/CQ Press; ISBN: 978-1506380353

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

- |                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| ✓ Two Exams                    | 75% of grade |
| ✓ Weekly Political Discussions | 25% of grade |

Instructor-Initiated Class Withdrawal Policy: -- “Excessive Absences” – defined as either failing to post an introductory post to the Canvas discussion board by Thursday, June 6 or a period of inactivity of two weeks or more on the Canvas site or failing to complete either of the exams or two or more essays.

\*\*A failing grade (<61%) on the exam or the essays category or the political discussions category may result in an “F” grade for the entire course.

**GRADING SCALE:**

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:**

A full semester's material is presented in just **eight weeks**. Every week there will be a new reading assignment and homework in the form of posting both a response to the "political question" discussion board, and to the posts of two classmates on this board. Over the course of the eight weeks, you'll need to write an essay analyzing one or more political concepts. There will be two exams for the course. One at the end of the fourth week and the second, at the end of the eighth week.

## **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:***

- **Personal Responsibility** - I expect that all of you will be spending an average of at least ten to fifteen hours per week on this course. That time should be spent reading the assignments, watching the weekly course video, and completing all assignments. I expect that you will complete all graded assignments on time. An additional aspect of personal responsibility for your own education includes asking for help if there is something you do not understand. Waiting until the time an assignment is due is usually too late. So, if you do not understand something we are covering in the course, ***ask!***
- **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 include a failing grade for the particular 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 or me from time to time, but such disagreements must 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 much of it is valuable.

### ***Student Expectations:***

- **Punctuality** – Students have every right to expect that the instructor will offer timely feedback to any graded assignments. The instructor will respond to phone calls and E-mails within a day, sooner if possible.
- **Civility** – Students have a right for the instructor to treat them with respect both in and out of our virtual classroom and to ensure that all students have an opportunity to express their opinions on relevant matters.

- **Virtual 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 by posting such changes on our Canvas course website.***