

Syllabus for POLSC-10-D1907

Course Information

Semester & Year: Fall 2021

Course ID & Section #: POLSC-10-D1907

Instructor's name: Will Meriwether

Day/Time or *Online: Tuesday and Thursday 2:25-3:40

Location or *Online: Del Norte Main Building Room 23

Number of units: 3

Instructor Contact Information

Office location or *Online: Del Norte Campus Room E3

Office hours: By Appointment

Phone number:

Email address: William-meriwether@redwoods.edu

Required Materials

Textbook Title: American Government

Edition: 2nd Edition

Author: Glen Krutz and Sylvie Waskiewicz

ISBN: 978-1-947172-66-1

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.

Accessibility

Students will have access to online course materials that comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and College of the Redwoods policies. Students who discover access issues with this class should contact the instructor.

College of the Redwoods is also committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you have a disability or believe you might benefit from disability-related services and accommodations, please contact your instructor or [Disability Services and Programs for Students](#) (DSPS). 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

During COVID19, approved accommodations for distance education classes will be emailed to the instructor by DSPS. In the case of face to face instruction, please present your written accommodation request to your instructor at least one week before the first test so that necessary arrangements can be made. Last-minute arrangements or post-test adjustments cannot usually be accommodated.

Evaluation & Grading Policy

2 group essay quizzes: 100 points each

1 individual final exam: 100 points

1 research paper: 100 points

5 News Source Summaries: 20 points each (There are a total of 6 news source summary assignments, but one is extra credit)

Introductory Self-Assessment: 50 points

Class Participation Self-Assessment: 50 points

Total points: 600

Grading Criteria: A=90-100% (540-600 pts), B= 80-89% (480-539 pts), C=70-79% (420-479 pts), D=60-69% (360-419 pts), F= below 59% (below 360 pts)

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](#).

Inclusive Language in the Classroom

College of the Redwoods aspires to create a learning environment in which all people feel comfortable in contributing their perspectives to classroom discussions. It therefore encourages instructors and students to use language that is inclusive and respectful.

Setting Your Preferred Name in Canvas

Students have the ability to have an alternate first name and pronouns to appear in Canvas. Contact [Admissions & Records](#) to request a change to your preferred first name and pronoun. Your Preferred Name will only be listed in Canvas. It does not change your legal name in our records. See the [Student Information Update form](#).

Canvas Information

If using Canvas, include navigation instructions, tech support information, what Canvas is used for, and your expectation for how regularly students should check Canvas for your class.

Log into Canvas at <https://redwoods.instructure.com>

Password is your 8 digit birth date

For tech help, email its@redwoods.edu or call 707-476-4160

Canvas Help for students: <https://www.redwoods.edu/online/Help-Student>

Canvas online orientation workshop: <https://www.redwoods.edu/online/Home/Student-Resources/Canvas-Resources>

Community College Student Health and Wellness

Resources, tools, and trainings regarding health, mental health, wellness, basic needs and more designed for California community college students, faculty and staff are available on the California Community Colleges [Health & Wellness website](#).

[Wellness Central](#) is a free online health and wellness resource that is available 24/7 in your space at your pace.

Students seeking to request a counseling appointment for academic advising or general counseling can email counseling@redwoods.edu.

Emergency procedures / Everbridge

College of the Redwoods has implemented an emergency alert system called Everbridge. In the event of an emergency on campus you will receive an alert through your personal email and/or phones. Registration is not necessary in order to receive emergency alerts. Check to make sure your contact information is up-to-date by logging into WebAdvisor <https://webadvisor.redwoods.edu> and selecting 'Students' then 'Academic Profile' then 'Current Information Update.'

Please contact Public Safety at 707-476-4112 or security@redwoods.edu if you have any questions. For more information see the [Redwoods Public Safety Page](#).

In an emergency that requires an evacuation of the building anywhere in the District:

- 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.

Del Norte Campus Emergency Procedures

Please review the [Crescent City campus emergency map](#) for campus evacuation sites, including the closest site to this classroom (posted by the exit of each room). For more information see the [Redwoods Public Safety Page](#).

Eureka Campus Emergency Procedures

Please review the [campus emergency map](#) for evacuation sites, including the closest site to this classroom (posted by the exit of each room). For more information on Public Safety go to the [Redwoods Public Safety Page](#) It is the responsibility

of College of the Redwoods to protect life and property from the effects of emergency situations within its own jurisdiction.

In the event of an emergency:

1. Evaluate the impact the emergency has on your activity/operation and take appropriate action.
2. Dial 911, to notify local agency support such as law enforcement or fire services.
3. Notify Public Safety 707-476-4111 and inform them of the situation, with as much relevant information as possible.
4. Public Safety shall relay threat information, warnings, and alerts through the Everbridge emergency alert system, Public address system, and when possible, updates on the college website, to ensure the school community is notified.
5. Follow established procedures for the specific emergency as outlined in the College of the Redwoods Emergency Procedure Booklet, (evacuation to a safe zone, shelter in place, lockdown, assist others if possible, cooperate with First Responders, etc.).
6. If safe to do so, notify key administrators, departments, and personnel.
7. Do not leave campus, unless it is necessary to preserve life and/or has been deemed safe by the person in command.

Klamath Trinity Campus Emergency Procedures

Please review the responsibilities of, and procedures used by, the College of the Redwoods, Klamath-Trinity Instructional Site (KTIS) to communicate to faculty, staff, students and the general public during an emergency. It is the responsibility of College of the Redwoods, Klamath-Trinity Instructional Site (KTIS) to protect life and property from the effects of emergency situations within its own jurisdiction.

1. In the event of an emergency, communication shall be the responsibility of the district employees on scene.
 - a. Dial 911, to notify local agency support such as law enforcement or fire services.
 - b. If safe to do so, notify key administrators, departments, and personnel.
 - c. If safe to do so, personnel shall relay threat information, warnings, to ensure the school community is notified.
 - d. Contact Jolene Gates 530-625-4821 to notify of situation.
 - e. Contact Hoopa Tribal Education Administration office 530-625-4413
 - f. Notify Public Safety 707-476-4111.
2. In the event of an emergency, the responsible district employee on scene will:
 - a. Follow established procedures for the specific emergency as outlined in the College of the Redwoods Emergency Procedure Booklet.
 - b. Lock all doors and turn off lights if in lockdown due to an active shooter or similar emergency.
 - c. Close all window curtains.
 - d. Get all inside to safe location Kitchen area is best internal location.
 - e. If a police officer or higher official arrives, they will assume command.
 - f. Wait until notice of all is clear before unlocking doors.
 - g. If safe to do so, move to the nearest evacuation point outside building (Pooky's Park), directly behind the Hoopa Tribal Education Building.
 - h. Do not leave site, unless it has been deemed safe by the person in command. Student Support Services (required for online classes)

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](#) offers assistance to students in need of professional counseling services such as crisis counseling.

Learning Resource Center includes the following resources for students

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

Student Feedback Policy

Timely feedback will be provided throughout the course. Students will receive a response to any email inquiries within 48 hours. Feedback on work submitted will be provided no more than two weeks after the assignment is due but my expectation will be to return work within one week after the assignment due date.

This course will also have regular asynchronous contact through threaded discussion boards and weekly announcements.

Proctored Exams

Proctored exams are not required in this course.

Technology skills, requirements, and support

Tech equipment and skills are required for student success and of equal importance as required textbooks and materials.

Students can obtain a free [Office 365 license](#) (includes Word, Excel, PowerPoint and more) with a valid CR email.

Necessary Computer Skills – Ability to log into webadvisor, Canvas LMS, navigate the internet, and use a word processor. Before contacting Technical Support please visit the [Online Support Page](#). For password issues with Canvas, Web Advisor or your mycr.redwoods.edu email, contact <mailto:its@redwoods.edu> or call 707-476-4160 or 800-641-0400 ext. 4160 between 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., Monday through Friday.

Course Assignments:

Group Essay Quizzes: Three times throughout the semester there will be a group exam. Groups will be selected randomly, and the exam will be taken in the classroom. There will be a total of four questions on the exam.

Final Exam: The final exam will consist of four essay questions but will be completed individually instead of within a group.

News Source Summaries: Five times throughout the semester (six if an individual wants extra credit) students will submit a news source summary of at least 300 words. The news source summary must include a summary of the article, a brief discussion about the impact that the topic of the news source has on American government, and how you think this information can aid in the understanding of American politics. The submission must include the citation for the news source.

Research Paper:

Choose one of the following two prompts:

The United States bureaucracy is responsible for enacting policies as authorized and funded by Congress but administered by individuals who are either career civil servants or political appointees of the current president. For your research paper you are to research one of the federal departments. This paper should address the goals of the bureaucratic organization, the leadership of the organization, the sub-organizations that belong to the larger department, the budget of the federal department, and recent issues pertaining to that federal department.

or

Primarily using the [Federalist Papers](#) and the United States Constitution as a guide, discuss how the United States Constitution divides power between the federal government and the state governments. This paper should focus on the Constitution's division of power between the federal and state governments, how Publius (Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay) described this separation of power in the *Federalist Papers*, and how federalism currently operates in the United States.

The research paper should be 5-7 pages in length, typed, double spaced, with a cover page and references page (not counted in the page length requirement), using APA citations. A minimum of five sources should be used for this paper. If you have questions about the research paper please email me.

Citations: All citations and references in this course will use APA citation standards. If you need assistance the [Purdue University Online Writing Lab](#) is an excellent resource as a citation guide.

Instructor Expectations of Students:

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 me but to your fellow classmates. One can disagree and debate without it becoming personal.
3. 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.

Student Expectations of Instructor: (To be filled in during first day of class)

Student Expectations of Other Students: (To be filled in during first day of class)

Course Schedule (Subject to Change):

POLSC-10 D1907 TTH 2:15-3:40		
Week 1		
24-Aug	Introduction	
26-Aug	Chapter 1 American Government and Civic Engagement	
Week 2		
31-Aug	Chapter 2 The Constitution and Its Origins	
2-Sep	Chapter 2 The Constitution and Its Origins	News Summary
Week 3		
7-Sep	Chapter 3 American Federalism	
9-Sep	Chapter 4 Civil Liberties	
Week 4		
14-Sep	Chapter 5 Civil Rights	
16-Sep	Exam 1	
Week 5		
21-Sep	Chapter 6 The Politics of Public Opinion	
23-Sep	Chapter 7 Voting and Elections	News Summary
Week 6		
28-Sep	Chapter 7 Voting and Elections	
30-Sep	Chapter 8 The Media	
Week 7		
5-Oct	Chapter 8 The Media	
7-Oct	Chapter 9 Political Parties	News Summary
Week 8		
12-Oct	Chapter 10 Interest Groups and Lobbying	
14-Oct	Exam 2	
Week 9		
19-Oct	Chapter 11 Congress	
21-Oct	Chapter 11 Congress	News Summary
Week 10		
26-Oct	Chapter 12 The Presidency	
28-Oct	Chapter 12 The Presidency	

Week 11		
	2-Nov	Chapter 13 The Courts
	4-Nov	Chapter 14 State and Local Government
Week 12		
	9-Nov	Chapter 15 The Bureaucracy
	11-Nov	No School
		News Summary
Week 13		
	16-Nov	Chapter 15 The Bureaucracy
	18-Nov	Chapter 16 Domestic Policy
Week 14		
	23-Nov	No School
	25-Nov	No School
Week 15		
	30-Nov	Chapter 16 Domestic Policy
	2-Dec	Chapter 17 Foreign Policy
		News Summary Due
Week 16		
	7-Dec	Chapter 17 Foreign Policy
	9-Dec	Catch-up Day
		Research Paper Due
Finals Week		Exam 3