

Course Information

Semester & Year: Fall 2021

Course ID & Section #: POLSC-10 E1909

Instructor's name: Joe Brookshire

Day/Time of required meetings: T-Th 8:30 – 9:55 AM

Location: Hum 207

Number of proctored exams: 2

Course units: 3

Instructor Contact Information

Office location or Online: joe-brookshire@redwoods.edu

Office hours: Before / after class or by appointment

Phone number: 707 476 3070

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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

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

College of the Redwoods is 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

In the case of face-to-face instruction, please present your written accommodation request to your instructor at least one week before the needed accommodation so that necessary arrangements can be made. Last minute arrangements or post-test adjustments usually cannot be accommodated.

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](#).

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.

From Joe Brookshire:

Welcome to US Government & Politics, POLSC 10 – Section E1909. The goal of this course is to impart a relevant understanding of how our complex government operates by describing the basic ideas, structure, and influences on our government and how politics work. This course addresses both philosophic roots and the contemporary operation of American national, state, and local governments. Specific topics include constitutional development, federal-state relations, and the rights and obligations of citizens under both the federal and the California constitutions. We also explore factors that influence our government: elections, political parties, the media, public opinion, and special interest groups. Students become familiar with policies, both domestic and foreign, and how they are made. This course analyzes and demonstrates what is meant by "politics". We discuss news events and connect them with the foundations, institutions, and political systems of our government.

Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Explain the history and philosophy of the Constitution, politics, and government in the US;
2. Identify the major provisions of the California and US Constitutions;
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); and
5. Analyze contemporary issues facing California and the US system of government.

Format: The class is a combination of lecture, discussion, and activities.

Texts: American Government: a brief introduction, 16e Edition,

Authors: Lowi, Ginsberg, Shepsle, and Ansolabehere.

Governing California in the 21st Century, 8th Edition, by Anagnoson, and others

Both of these texts are published by W.W. Norton and are available as ebooks.

Handouts distributed in class.

Expectations:

1. On-time attendance is expected throughout the semester. Class begins at 8:30 and goes until 9:55. Please observe these times. Students who miss one third of classes will be automatically dropped.
2. Students are expected to take the midterm, the final, and quizzes on the schedule dates. Two assignments are required which are to be submitted in class before or on their specific dates. Do not submit these by email.
3. Cheating, plagiarism, collusion, abuse of resource materials, computer misuse, fabrication or falsification, multiple submissions, complicity in academic misconduct, and/or bearing false witness will not be tolerated. Violations will be dealt with according to the procedures and sanctions proscribed by the College of the Redwoods.
4. US Government & Politics is one of the most engaging classes offered at CR. It is a place where we can get together and discuss American politics. I consider this to be a rare and invaluable opportunity. Therefore, I ask all of us to honor the rights of others and to help maintain our class as a forum for thoughtful, respectful, and courteous true discussion. Inappropriate behavior will result in consequences as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct, see <http://www.redwoods.edu/board/Board-Policies/Chapter-5-Student-Services>, scroll to AP 5500.

Note: students with appropriate paperwork from DSPS should notify the instructor of accommodations they may require. Please do so as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made.

Grading:

1. **Frequent Quizzes – 30%** are based on the texts, lectures, discussions, activities, videos: everything that we cover in class. They are short essay, multiple-choice, true/false, identification or a mix of these. Double Quizzes (2X) count as two. There are no make-ups. Let me know in advance if you need to take a quiz early. Quizzes are

given at the start of class. Late arrivals will miss the quiz. The two lowest scores (or two missed quizzes) are dropped at the end of the semester.

2. Exams – 50% are primarily essay tests. They may include questions that are similar to quiz items.

Midterm **25% The Midterm** covers Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and part of 13 in the American Government text and sections of the California text. It is an essay exam, but also has some of the types of questions that are found on quizzes. **Reserve Thursday, October 14.**

Final Exam **25% The Final** covers chapters 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and part of 13 in the American Government text, sections of the California text, and discussions. Its focus is post-midterm; its format is similar to the midterm.

Be absolutely certain to **reserve Tuesday, December 14 at 8:30** for our final.

3. Papers – 20% Two papers are assigned and are expected to be submitted in class on or by the scheduled dates. Late submissions lose points. See instructions of each for details.

Scales: This section of US Government & Politics uses the following grading scale:

A = 92 to 100	B+ = 87 to 89.4	C+ = 77 to 79.4	D = 59.5 to 69.4	F = Below 59.5
A- = 89.5 to 91.9	B = 82 to 86.9	C = 72 to 76.9		
	B- = 79.5 to 81.9	C- = 69.5 to 71.9		

Extra Credit is not available. However, points earned in activities raise midterm or final exam scores.

Schedule: Classes will be held each day as indicated except for Nov. 11. Please take note of any and all changes announced in class or posted on Canvas. The symbol || indicates that day's discussion topic,

US indicates American Government text; *Ca* indicates California text.

Tuesdays	Thursdays
Aug. 24 Overview: types of governments, terms	Aug. 26 Types of governments, terms, politics
Aug. 31 Quiz US Ch. 1, <i>CA pp. 1-16</i> // Constitutions	Sept. 2 Constitutions continued
Sept. 7 Quiz US Ch. 2; <i>Ca Ch 2, pp. 21-46</i> Legislative Branch	Sept. 9 Legislative Branch Paper #1
Sept. 14 Review Legislative Branch, Federalism	Sept. 16 Legislatures, Federalism
Sept. 21 Quiz US Ch. 5; <i>Ca Ch 5, pp. 119-145</i> Federalism	Sept. 23 Legislatures, Chief Executive Paper #2
Sept. 28 Quiz US Ch. 3; <i>CA Ch 9, pp. 237-265</i> President	Sept. 30 Chief Executives
Oct. 5 Quiz US Ch. 6; <i>Ca Ch 6</i> The Bureaucracy	Oct. 7 The Bureaucracy
Oct. 12 Public Policy – two small parts of US Chapter 13	Oct. 14 Midterm with parts of US Ch 13,
Oct. 19 Civil Liberties, Civil Rights	Oct. 21 Civil Liberties, Civil Rights
Oct. 26 Quiz US Chap 4 Judicial Branch	Oct. 28 Judicial Branches
Nov. 2 Judicial Branch, Courts	Nov. 4 Judicial Branch, Courts
Nov. 9 2X Quiz US Ch 8, <i>CA Ch7, pp 189-208</i> Chap 13 review Fiscal Politics	Nov. 11 No class - Veterans Day
Nov. 16 Public Opinion & The Media	Nov. 18 Truth in Media
Thanksgiving Break	Thanksgiving Break
Nov. 30 Elections	Dec. 2 Elections
Dec. 7 X2 Quiz Chap 10 Political Parties	Dec. 9 Political Parties
December 14	Final Exam (including US Chap 11, <i>CA Chap 4</i>) 8:30 AM

Thank you for your presence, your interest, and your contributions to this class.