



Syllabus for POLSC10: *U.S. Government & Politics*

Course Information

Semester & Year: Spring 2023

Course ID & Section #: POLSC10 (D5056)

Instructor's Name: Rusty Hicks

Day/Time of Required Meetings: Tuesday 5:00pm to 8:10pm

Location: Pelican Bay State Prison, A Yard

Course Units: 3:00

Instructor Contact Information

Office Location: Pelican Bay State Prison, A Yard

Office Hours: Tuesday 5:00pm to 8:10pm

Phone Number: 707-465-2326 (office)

Catalog Description

This course addresses 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 the federal and 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 U.S.
2. Identify the major provisions of the California and U.S. Constitutions.
3. Compare the three branches of California and U.S. government and related political institutions.
4. Outline the relationship between the states and national governments.
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
- Del Norte: 707-465-2324, main building near library
- Klamath-Trinity: 530-625-4821 Ext 103

If you are taking online classes DSPS will email approved accommodations for distance education classes to your instructor. 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.

The above language is required content this syllabus. However, if you have a disability or believe you might benefit from disability-related services and accommodations, please contact me or Ms. Eagles to see how we can best support you.

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 and the College Catalog may be requested via mail.

I realize that you don't have this catalog, nor do you have access to the internet, so below is a particular section that applies here: Do not plagiarize. Plagiarism includes, but isn't limited to:

1. Using, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full, clear, and accurate acknowledgment.
2. The unacknowledged use of another writer's ideas without proper citation. Borrowing all or part of another individual's work or using someone else's outline to write your own work.
3. Copying another individual's computer printout and/or computer files and using it as one's own. In our case, copying another individual's paper or document and using it as one's own.
4. Using an agency or Internet website engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

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 and the College Catalog may be requested via mail.

Inclusivity 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.

Given the nature of politics, some of the subjects covered in the course will be controversial. I recognize some of these topics will be challenging to discuss. However, you must respect the viewpoints of others - fellow students and the instructor - and strive to engage in a productive manner at all times.

Student Support

For academic counseling and advising, transcript requests, and material requests, send a formal request Ms. Eagles via a letter or Ask CR Sheet. Mail this to the Education Department (Attn: CR Scholars).

Course Introduction

Welcome to U.S. Government and Politics! My hope is that by the end of the course you will have a general knowledge of the founding principles of American government, the key institutions that carry out the duties and responsibilities of government and the various interests that transform and shape the public policy landscape in the United States. Beyond the basics, I hope you will gain an understanding of why engaging in American democracy is vital to its survival and how you and others are a part of its story - whether you like it or not.

A considerable amount of reading & reflection will be required in preparation for each class. Complete the readings as assigned and attend class prepared to engage with the material with your fellow classmates. In the event a class is cancelled, please continue to complete the reading assignments. We will review the material when we reconvene.

Finally, ***bring your syllabus to every class.*** The syllabus will orient you to the day's activities and allow you to fill in new assignments, due dates and/or make outline changes. You should plan to take notes during class and I will strive to provide a basic outline of the day's material at the end of each class.

Required Texts

- (1) American Government: Power & Purpose by Lowi, Ginsberg, Shepsle, & Ansolabehere, 13th Edition
- (2) Governing California by Anagnoson, Bonetto, Buck, Deleon, Emry, Kelleher & Koch, 5th Edition
- (3) Other readings as assigned.

Graded Assignments

Class Participation & Homework	250 points
Quiz 1	50 points
Quiz 2	50 points
Midterm Exam	150 points
Class Presentation/Paper	250 points
Final Exam	<u>250 points</u>
Total Possible Semester Points	1000 points

Grading Scale

A	=	930 -1000 points
A-	=	900 - 929 points
B+	=	866 - 899 points
B	=	830 - 865 points
B-	=	800 - 829 points
C+	=	750 - 799 points
C	=	700 - 749 points
D	=	600 - 699 points
F	=	0 - 599 points

Additional Assignment & Grading Information

Class Participation (250 points)

The success of this class depends on you and your participation. Full participation requires reading the assigned material and reflecting on how it has impacted or does impact your own life and the lives of others. I will likely provide additional specific areas of particular focus for your reading in the prior class. In addition, strive to keep a general awareness of current events both in the United States and abroad.

Quizzes (100 points)

You will complete two quizzes during the semester. Each quiz will be a short review of the material reviewed in the classes directly preceding the quiz.

Midterm Exam (150 points)

You will complete a midterm during the semester. The midterm will be a review of the material reviewed in the classes preceding the midterm and a review will be completed in the class prior to the midterm.

Class Presentation/Paper (250 points)

An important component of this course is an understanding and application of key principles to our daily lives. Therefore, you will have an option to complete a written essay *or* make a class presentation on a subject you select from a list of topics I provide. We will discuss the general topics in class prior to your decision to make a presentation in class or complete a written essay. In addition, you will be required to submit a summary or outline on your proposed topic that will serve as a guide for completing the assignment. If needed, I will provide you with some feedback on your summary or outline to guide your completion of the assignment.

Final Exam (250 points)

You will complete a final exam during the semester. The final exam will be a review of all of the material reviewed in the classes and a review will be completed in the class prior to the final exam.

Course Outline & Reading Schedule

Week 1 January 17

Introduction

Week 2 January 24

The Founding & the Constitution

Reading: American Government: Power & Purpose Chapter 2

Reading: Governing California Chapter 2

Week 3 January 31

Federalism & Separation of Powers

Reading: American Government: Power & Purpose Chapter 3

Week 4 February 7

Civil Liberties & Civil Rights

Reading: American Government: Power & Purpose Chapter 4

Week 5 February 14

Quiz # 1

Legislative Branch

Reading: American Government: Power & Purpose Chapter 5

Reading: Governing California Chapter 5

Week 6 February 21

Executive Branch

Reading: American Government: Power & Purpose Chapter 6 & 7

Reading: Governing California Chapter 6

Week 7 February 28

Judicial Branch

Reading: American Government: Power & Purpose Chapter 8

Reading: Governing California Chapter 7

Midterm Course Review

Week 8 March 7

Midterm

Presentation/Paper: Topics Released and Discussed

March 13 to March 18 - Spring Break - No Class

Week 9 March 21

Public Opinion

Reading: American Government: Power & Purpose Chapter 9

Reading: Governing California Chapter 3

Presentation/Paper: Topics Selected

Week 10 March 28

Elections & Campaigns

Reading: American Government: Power & Purpose Chapter 10

Reading: Governing California Chapter 4

Week 11 **April 4**

Political Parties

Reading: American Government: Power & Purpose Chapter 11

Reading: Governing California Chapter 4

Presentation/Paper: Summary/Outline Due

Week 12 **April 11**

Quiz #2

Interest Groups

Reading: American Government: Power & Purpose Chapter 12

Reading: Governing California Chapter 3

Week 13 **April 18**

Domestic Policy & Foreign Policy

Reading: American Government: Power & Purpose Chapters 13 and 14

Reading: Governing California Chapter 10

Week 14 **April 25**

Outstanding Topics

Presentation/Paper: Due & Discussed

Week 15 **May 2**

Outstanding Topics

Presentation/Paper: Due & Discussed

Final Course Review

Week 16 **May 9**

Final Exam