

Course Information

Semester & Year: Spring 2023

Course ID & Section #: POLSC-10-V4634

Instructor's name: Will Meriwether

Day/Time or *Online: Online

Location or *Online: Online

Number of units: 3

Instructor Contact Information

Office location or *Online: Online

Office hours: By Appointment

Phone number:

Email address: William-meriwether@redwoods.edu

Required Materials

Textbook Title: American Government: a brief introduction

Edition: 16th Edition

Author: Theodore J. Lowi, Benjamin Ginsberg, Kenneth Shepsle, Stephen Ansolabehere

ISBN: 978-0393427691

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

4 essay exams: 100 points each

1 research paper: 100 points

14 Discussion Board: 14 x 10 points each = 140 points

14 multiple choice quizzes: 14 x 10 points each = 140 points

14 Study Guide Extra Credit Assignments: optional 140 extra credit points

Total points: 780

Grading Criteria: A= 95%-100% (741-780 pts), A-= 90%-94% (702-740 pts), B+= 86%-89% (670-701 pts), B= 83%-85% (647-669 pts), B-= 80%-82% (624-646 pts), C+= 75%-79% (585-623 pts), C= 70%-74% (546-584 pts), D= 60%-69% (468-545), F= <60% (below 545 pts).

Admissions deadlines & enrollment policies

Spring 2023 Dates

- *Classes begin: 01/14/23*
- *Martin Luther King's Birthday (all campuses closed): 01/16/23*
- *Last day to add a class: 01/20/23*
- *Last day to drop without a W and receive a refund: 01/27/23*
- *Census date: 01/30/23 or 20% into class duration*
- *Last day to petition to file P/NP option: 02/10/23*
- *Lincoln's Birthday (all campuses closed): 02/17/23*
- *President's Day (all campuses closed): 02/20/23*
- *Last day to petition to graduate or apply for certificate: 03/02/23*
- *Spring Break (no classes): 03/13/23 – 03/18/23*
- *Last day for student-initiated W (no refund): 03/31/23*
- *Last day for faculty-initiated W (no refund): 03/31/23*
- *Final examinations: 05/06/23 – 05/12/23*
- *Commencement: 05/15/23*
- *Semester ends: 05/12/23*
- *Grades available for transcript release: approximately 05/26/23*

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.

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:

Essay Exams: There are a total of four essay exams throughout the semester. The essay exams will include at least four but up to ten essays and short answer questions. Each exam is worth 100 points. The exams are open book, open note, and most of the questions will be derived from the questions asked in the Study Guide Discussion Board assignments. Each exam will be open for two weeks and no late exams will be accepted without reasonable justifications. The study guide for the exams will be the Discussion Board assignments.

Multiple Choice Quizzes: Each chapter will include a timed, multiple-choice quiz. The weekly quizzes can be attempted as many times as you would like, and the highest score will be counted towards your grade. These quizzes are designed to provide a self-assessment on the textbook chapter readings.

Weekly Discussion Boards: Each week you will be required to answer one of several questions pertaining to the chapter readings and/or readings assigned in the discussion board assignment. The initial discussion board post and the secondary post should be at least 200 words and include a citation from where the material was obtained, even if you must cite the textbook. This is good practice for writing a research paper.

The second discussion board post provides you with two options to complete the assignment.

Option #1: Answer one of the questions in the discussion board assignment that you did not answer in your initial post.

Option #2 Adequately respond to a classmate that enriches the classroom conversation. Simply stating that you like their post and agree with them is not an adequate post to receive full credit.

For APA citation support see:

Purdue Writing Lab. (n.d.). *Apa style introduction // purdue writing lab*. Purdue Writing Lab. Retrieved October 25, 2022, from https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html

Extra Credit Discussion Board: Each week have the option to earn extra credit. To earn ten extra credit points, you must answer at least one of the questions with a minimum of 200 words. These points are merely participatory and do not reflect the correctness of any answer.

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 at least six pages (not counting the title page and the references) and no more than ten pages. The paper must also be typed, double spaced, Times New Roman size 12 font and APA citations. **Any paper submitted shorter than three full pages and/or not including a "References" page will receive an automatic "0."**

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.

Purdue Writing Lab. (n.d.). *Apa style introduction // purdue writing lab*. Purdue Writing Lab. Retrieved October 25, 2022, from https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html

Instructor Expectations of Students: Your commitment to this course will require just as much time as a traditional in-person course. The course is broken down into weekly modules, with each module having a similar format each week.

A typical week involves the following:

- Reading the weekly announcements, emails (approximately 2x a wk.), textbook chapters, and other assigned material in the discussion board.
- Watching a weekly overview video
- Participating in weekly discussion board assignment
- Completing the weekly multiple-choice quiz
- *optional* office hour appointment

An atypical week involves the work of a typical week and:

- Completion of an exam or
- Submission of the research paper

This course is designed to improve your ability to efficiently collaborate and communicate with others while engaging in creative and critical thinking. Everyone in this course will have a different learning experience and it is in the discussion board forums that those different experiences become evident. Feel free to ask questions of me as you go through this learning experience. I will respond to emails within 2 business days and am also willing to schedule office hour appointments. My expectations are for you to want to succeed in this course. If you are unsure how to succeed in the course finishing reading the syllabus or email me at: william-meriwether@redwoods.edu.

Netiquette: When participating in online discussions please be respectful to your classmates. Adhere to the same standards of behavior online that you would follow if it were a discussion in an in-person course. If you would not say it in a traditional classroom setting, then it should not be said in the discussion forums. I do not routinely moderate the discussion boards as they are a space for you engage with other students. My discussion board engagement will occur when I grade the assignment and add personalized comments. If there is an issue with the discussion boards that you believe I should be immediately aware of email me at: william-meriwether@redwoods.edu.

Student Expectations of Instructor: My commitment to this course requires more time than a traditional in-person course. I do not know your personal expectations of me but you may email them to me at: william-meriwether@redwoods.edu.

Based on prior student feedback you can expect me to meet the following standards:

- Personalized responses to emails with 2 business days
- Feedback on discussion board assignments within 2 weeks
- Feedback on exams within 2 weeks
- Feedback on the research paper within 2 weeks
- A series of course readings, assignments, and questions to help you meet the course learning outcomes.
- College contractual obligations

Course Schedule (Subject to Change):

POLSC-10-V4634	Module Starts	Module Ends	Assignments
Week 1	1/14/2023	1/22/2023	Chapter 1
Week 2	1/23/2023	1/29/2023	Chapter 2

Week 3	1/30/2023	2/5/2023	Chapter 3
Week 4	2/6/2023	2/12/2023	Chapter 4
Week 5	2/13/2023	2/19/2023	Chapter 5
Week 6	2/20/2023	2/26/2023	Chapter 6
Week 7	2/27/2023	3/5/2023	Chapter 7
Week 8	3/6/2023	3/12/2023	Chapter 8
Week 9	3/13/2023	3/19/2023	Spring Break
Week 10	3/20/2023	3/26/2023	Chapter 9
Week 11	3/27/2023	4/2/2023	Chapter 10
Week 12	4/3/2023	4/9/2023	Chapter 11
Week 13	4/10/2023	4/16/2023	Chapter 12
Week 14	4/17/2023	4/23/2023	Chapter 13
Week 15	4/24/2023	4/30/2023	Chapter 14
Week 16	5/1/2023	5/7/2023	Research Paper
Week 17	5/8/2023	5/12/2023	Finals Week