Political Science 103A/Urban Studies 109
California Government and Politics
Professor Nathan Fletcher
Spring 2017

SUMMARY

California is a diverse and dynamic state. California Government and Politics 103A will examine the history, tradition, and transition of our state's governmental entities with a focus on the policies and politics that make California unique. Special examination will be made to the realities of making public policy and its intersection with politics, interest groups, political parties and the media.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Professor Nathan Fletcher
Email: nfletcher@ucsd.edu
Office: SSB 321
Office Hours: Thursday 2pm to 4pm
Only available by reserving a spot in doodle poll. Click here for times

Teaching Assistants:
Stan Oklobdzija — soklobdz@ucsd.edu
Daniel Cedeno — dcedeno@ucsd.edu

CLASS INFORMATION

Lecture: Thursday 5pm - 7:50 pm
Location: CENTR 105
Final: Thursday, June 15th 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm
Location: CENTR 105
Office Hours: Professor Fletcher: Thursday 2:00 to 4:00
(This time is subject to change and will be confirmed weekly)
(Reserve times via weekly doodle post)

The slides for each class will be posted on course TED site and each lecture will be podcast*. The course TED site will also include course announcements, volunteer/internship opportunities, study guides, and any other class materials.

*Podcasting will be done provided the system works properly and many guest speakers opt not to podcast their discussion. There should be no expectation or guarantee lectures or presentations will be podcast.

READING

Required:
Ethan Rarick *Governing California: Politics, Government, and Public Policy in the Golden State*, 3rd Edition (Institute of Governmental Studies Press, 2013), and ISBN: 978-0-87772-443-8

Optional:
Kevin Starr, *California: A History* (Modern Library Chronicles) ISBN: 9780812977530

Good resources on California Government and Politics:

News sites:
Rough &Tumble: www.rtumble.com
Around the Cap: www.aroundthecapitol.com
Capitol Weekly: www.capitolweekly.net
LA Times CA Politics: www.latimes.com/local/political

Sac Bee Capitol Alerts:
www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert

Partisan Blogs:
Conservative Blog: www.flashreport.org
Progressive Blog: www.calbuzz.com

Government sites:
Legislative Information: www.leginfo.ca.gov
Governor of California: www.gov.ca.gov
State Assembly: www.assembly.ca.gov
State Senate: www.senate.ca.gov
CA Courts: www.courts.ca.gov

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

› 15% Assignment #1 (5:00 PM, Wednesday, May 10th)
› 50% Assignment #2 (5:00PM, Wednesday, May 31st)
› 35% Final (Thursday, June 15th 7pm to 10pm)

*Please note that assignments #1 and #2 are due on Wednesday's before our Thursday class.

Assignment #1

You will write an analysis of a ballot measure that has passed in the state of California. You will be provided a list of possible ballot measures and will pick one to analyze. We will hand out more detailed instructions before the assignment is due. The paper will be graded on both substance and style. Each student must do his or her own work, adhering to university regulations prohibiting plagiarism and cheating.

Assignment #2

You will write a detailed plan to help an incumbent California legislator pass a significant piece of legislation in 2016. You will be provided a list of top legislative ideas pending before the state legislature and their authors. You will pick one of them and write a full legislative plan for that particular legislator. The paper will be graded on both substance and style. Each student must do his or her own work, adhering to university regulations prohibiting plagiarism and cheating.

Students will be required to use Turnitin to submit both written assignments and the final exam. Turnitin is an Internet-based plagiarism prevention service, which will be used to ensure academic integrity. The portal can be accessed directly through the course website. Hard copies of assignments will not be accepted. Professor Fletcher and the Teaching Assistants will provide additional information on the proper way to upload these assignments in subsequent class meetings.

Final Exam

For students who have a documented finals conflict with another UCSD course we will offer an alternative final exam time. The final will be comprehensive of the materials presented, guest speakers and assigned readings for the entire course. The structure and format of the final will be discussed before the final exam.

Extra Credit

During the course, opportunities to intern or volunteer with a government office or political campaign will be made available to students. Any student who does eight hours of documented work for an elected official, government office, political candidate or organization that advocates for public policy/political change will have one point added to the final course score. (If your midterm, writing project, class participation, and final give you 89, your final score for the course will be 90).

While opportunities will be provided in class, students are not bound to only those presented through the course. Students should feel free to contact officials or organizations and request volunteer opportunities. However, the hours worked must be documented by date and time, along with a signed letter by a representative from that organization. Additionally, a written explanation of the work done and what was learned must be submitted. This summary and signed hours form MUST be submitted before the final exam begins to be eligible for extra credit.

Again, for the extra point to be counted, students must submit a written memo that includes:
--Name of official or organization
--Total hours worked (minimum of 8, but no maximum)
--Nature of work performed
--Signature and title by verifying person at office of official or organization
--Students take on volunteer/internship. This can be attached separately or below the signature of person verifying if student would rather them not see overall comments. But this section should include what was learned, observed, overall feelings and anything that relates back to the class.
NO SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED ONCE THE FINAL EXAM BEGINS.

CLASS MEETINGS
Each class meeting will consist of a lecture and then a discussion section where a particular question related to the lecture will be addressed in a group discussion. Sometimes there might be two lectures and two discussion sections back to back.

Occasionally, we will have guest speakers. You may be tested on the content covered in their lectures and question and answers. While their content may or may not be on the test, you should learn from their presentation and work in specific examples cited by guests in your short answer, essays and class assignments to demonstrate an understanding of the practical realities of topics presented. Also use guest speakers as your chance to ask relevant questions about California Government and Politics today.

At the beginning of each class Professor Fletcher will present a brief "great moments or people in California politics" segment. These will NOT be included in the podcast. On the final you will have a moment to share your favorite (or whatever one you remember) to gain one extra point towards your exam score.

Professor Fletcher reserves the right to have attendance or sign in sheets utilized at a class with the results counted towards your final grade. If this situation arises it will be announced in the preceding class or an announcement will be posted on the TED site. It is your responsibly to monitor the ted site and check your email for course updates. Additionally, schedule changed and additional guest speaker can modify the course schedule. It is your responsibility to ensure you are utilizing the latest version of the syllabus. Any updates will be posted on the TED site and marked as an updated syllabus.

OFFICE HOURS
Office hours will vary week by week. During each class, Professor Fletcher's office hours for the following week will be announced. A doodle schedule will be posted on the course TED site each week. Please reserve a 15-minute block on this doodle during the weekly office hours. The TAs will also conduct weekly office hours and make those times and location available. It is suggested you email TAs if you plan to attend their office hours so they can best be prepared to answer your questions.

GRADE CHANGES AND EXTENSIONS
All requests for grade changes must be made in writing, to Professor Fletcher, within a week of receiving the graded assignment. Requests must be typed and double-spaced and provide an explanation for the request and justification. Please note that a Professor review of a grade assigned by a TA may result in either a higher or lower grade (or grade could stay the same). **There are no re-grades for the final**.

Extensions on assignments and make-up exams will only be granted in cases of documented illness or family medical emergencies. Please contact Professor Fletcher as soon as possible if you need to request one. Appropriate contact for Professor Fletcher is email—not a tweet, facebook message, or note slipped under his office door.

Note: We will **NOT** grant any extensions because stolen or damaged computers. This does happen, so you should be in the habit of using the free DropBox program to automatically back up all of your work on the cloud whenever you save it so that you never lose it.

ACCOMODATIONS:
Students requesting accommodations for this course due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) which is located in University Center 202 behind Center Hall. Students are required to present their AFA letters to Faculty (please make arrangements to contact me privately) and to the OSD Liaison in the department in advance so that accommodations may be arranged.
Contact the OSD for further information:
858.534.4382 (phone)
osd@ucsd.edu
http://disabilities.ucsd.edu/

LATE ASSIGNMENTS
--3% if not submitted by the deadline time but submitted by end of that day

--5% additional if submitted the following calendar day

--5% for each business day after that

--Students will max out at a 20% reduction

--No papers will be accepted once the final exam begins!

*I have never seen a paper improve at a rate greater than the one at which you lose points

CLASS SCHEDULE

Part I. California Politics and Government Overview

1. **Thursday, April 6th Course Introduction and Layers of California Government**

    a. Max Neiman, "Local Government: Designing and Financing the Cities and Counties of California" in *Governing California*

2. **Thursday, April 13th Realignment, Proposition 13 and the Tiebout Hypothesis**

    Case study: Proposition 13

3. **Thursday, April 20th Special Guest Speaker Former California State Senator Denise Ducheny**
   The California State Budget: Process, Reforms, and outlook

4. **Thursday, April 27th: Direct Democracy (Initiative, Referendum, Recall)**

    a. Kenneth P .Miller , "Direct Democracy: Initiative, Referendum, and Recall," in *Governing California.*
    b. Vladimir Kogan and Eric McGhee, "Redistricting: Did Radical Reform Produce Different Results?" in *Governing California*

    Case Study: Redistricting in California

Prompt for Assignment #1 posted

Part II: Inside Sacramento Government

5. **Thursday, May 4th The California Legislature**
    a. Seth Masket, "Polarization Interrupted? California's Experiment with the Top Two Primary." In *Governing California.*
    b. Thad Kouser, Bruce Cain, and Karl Luntz, "The Legislature: Life Under Term Limits," in *Governing California.*

    Case Study: Redevelopment and Process

Wednesday, May 10th (Assignment #1 Due)

6. **Thursday, May 11th : The California Legislature: How a Bill Becomes a Law**

Prompt of Assignment #2 Posted

7. **Thursday, May 18th: February 23rd: The California Governor**
    a. Ethan Rarick, "Governors and the Executive Branch" in *Governing California.*

    Case Study: Bargaining with Two Governors

8. **Thursday, May 25th The Role of the Courts and Legislative Case Study**
    a. David Carrillo, "The California Judiciary" in *Governing California.*
    b. Thad Kouser, "Partisan Polarization and Policy Gridlock: Does One Lead to Another?" in *Governing California.*

    Case study: Chelsea's law/Paid Sick Days

Part III. Special Topics in California Government and Politics.

Wednesday, May 31st (Assignment #2 Due)

Thursday, June 1st: California Campaigns and Politics

Case Study: Budget in Action/How to win a Gubernatorial Election

9. **Thursday, June 8th Special Panel Discussion: The State of California Politics**

10. **Final Exam: Thursday, June 15th 7:00 PM to 9:59PM**