Political Science 102G: The Laws of Politics:
Term Limits, Campaign Finance, Blanket Primaries, and Redistricting

Required Reading
› All readings are either included in the course reader or (if noted) posted online at http://pscourses.ucsd.edu/102g/. The reader may be purchased from A.S. Soft Reserves. TA Mike Rivera can be contacted at murivera@ucsd.edu.
› Office Hours: Wednesdays 9:30-11am, SSB 369.

This class studies the intersection of election law, politics, and academia. We will look at major policy changes that affect the way that politics works, the legal decisions that govern them, and the academic research aimed at influencing policymakers and judges. Our four areas of focus will be campaign finance, redistricting, nominating primaries, and term limits. Students will make presentations summarizing cases and research, prepare legal briefs of their own, and argue their cases before a mock Supreme Court.

Course Assignments
› 20% of your grade will be based on your class attendance and participation.
› 25% will come from a 5-page legal brief due on Monday, July 16.
› 20% is based on your presentation of one reading and discussion questions.
› 10% will come from your two-page reaction to “The Redistricting Game,” due on Monday, July 30th.
› 25% comes from the oral argument that you will make on a fictional case before our mock Supreme Court on Wednesday, August 1.
› This class has no final exam.

Course Outline
Monday, July 2nd. Introduction to the course and Campaign Finance Simulation.

Monday, July 9th. The History of Campaign Finance Through the FECA 1974, Buckley v. Vallejo and the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act
iii. The Buying Time Controversy. (Packet of press articles in Reader)

Wednesday, July 11th. McConnell v. FEC, Citizens United and the Future of Campaign Finance Reform


Monday, July 16th. The Term Limits Movement and the Anti-Term Limits Drive.


iii. Court filing in Rippon, Bergeson, and Johnston v McPherson and McCormack (Reader).

iv. Proposition 93 packet (Reader).

v. Reference Reading for Oral Arguments:

Wednesday, July 18th. The Role of the Government in Primaries and Proposition 198.


ii. California Democratic Party v. Jones, United States Supreme Court Decision, 1999 (Reader).

iii. Bruce Cain and Elisabeth Gerber, “California’s Blanket Primary Experiment,” from Voting at the Political Faultline: California’s Experiment with the Blanket Primary, edited by Bruce Cain and Elisabeth Gerber (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002).


Monday, July 23rd. The Effects of the Blanket Primary and the Top-Two Primary.


iii. Thad Kousser, “Crossing Over When it Counts: How the Motives of Voters in Blanket Primaries Are Revealed by their Actions in General Elections,” from *Voting at the Political Faultline: California’s Experiment with the Blanket Primary*, edited by Bruce Cain and Elisabeth Gerber (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002).


Wednesday, July 25th. One-Person, One-Vote and Gerrymandering


iv. NAMUDNO decision, briefs, and analysis (Online).