Political Science 103A
California Politics

Prof. Thad Kousser                                      Summer 2012
tkousser@ucsd.edu, 534-3239    Lecture: M/W 11am-1:50pm, WLH 2115
369 Social Science Building    Office Hours: 9:30-11am Wednesdays

Required Reading
› The three texts are available for purchase at the bookstore: William Fulton’s The
  Reluctant Metropolis (Johns Hopkins, 2001), Gerald Lubenow’s Governing California, Second
  Edition (Institute of Governmental Studies Press, 2006), and Frederick Douzet, Thad
  Kousser, and Kenneth Miller, The New Political Geography of California (Berkeley Public
  Policy Press, 2008). I put three copies of each on reserve. I will also post online a copy
  of the “What’s Next California” participants guide.

› The course webpage, located at http://pscourses.ucsd.edu/103a/, will contain information such
  as lecture slides, course announcements, and study guides.

› Justin Levitt will be the TA for this course, and can be contacted at jlevitt@ucsd.edu.

Course Assignments
› 30% Midterm (Wednesday, July 18th, in class)
› 30% Paper (due Monday, July 30th, beginning of class)
› 30% Constitutional Reform Debate, Wednesday, August 1st
› 10% Class Attendance and Participation
› There is no final for this course

Class Meetings: Each meeting will consist of a lecture and discussion, then a break, then
another lecture and discussion. Every student needs to be prepared to discuss the readings
assigned for that day, and have something to say about the subjects that we are studying. The
lecture outlines on the course website include discussion questions.

Assignments: There will be an in-class midterm on Wednesday, July 13th, as well as a
final debate on constitutional reform on Friday, July 29th. The midterm will be closed book, and
composed of identifications, short answers, and an essay. For the paper, due on Monday, July 25,
you will write a policy analysis of a specific piece of California legislation in 5-7 pages (I'll hand
out more detailed instructions later). 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.

Grade Changes and Extensions: All requests for grade changes must be made in
writing, to me, within a week of receiving the graded assignment. Requests must be typed and
double spaced, and review of a grade by the other grader or by me may result in either a higher or lower grade. There are no regrades 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 me as soon as possible if you need to request one.

**Part I. Political Institutions in Flux**

   a. “What’s Next California” participants guide, pages 5-12.

   NO CLASS ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 4th!


   c. J. Morgan Kousser, “Redistricting,” in *Governing California*.

5. Wednesday, July 18, Midterm, 90 minutes.

**Part II. The Geopolitics of Diversity**


Part III. Perspectives on Policy.


Wednesday, August 1: Constitutional Reform Debates