Political Science 103A
California Politics

Prof. Thad Kousser
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Office Hours: 369 Social Science Building 1:30-3:30pm, Thursdays

Spring 2011
Lecture: T/Th 5:00-6:20pm, Center 101
Final: Thursday, June 9th, 7-10pm

Required Reading


› Note that *Governing California, Second Edition* is quite different from the *First Edition*, so make sure you buy one with a yellow/orange map of California on the cover, not the one with the red map that your roommate is trying to sell you, cheap. Also note that there is no longer a reader for this course, so don’t buy an old one from your conniving roommate, either.

› We have three graduate student graders for this course who are happy to share their expertise and discuss assignments with you during their office hours (Michael Rivera, Tuesdays from 1-2pm in SSB 347, Robert Bond, Tuesdays from 10-11am in SSB 341, and Hans Hassell on Mondays from 10-11am, SSB 323).

› The course webpage, located at [http://weber.ucsd.edu/~tkousser/PS103A.htm](http://weber.ucsd.edu/~tkousser/PS103A.htm), will contain information such as lecture slides, course announcements, and study guides.

Course Assignments

› 25% Midterm (Thursday, April 28th in class)
› 30% Paper (due Thursday, May 26th, at the beginning of class)
› 40% Final Exam (Thursday, June 9th, 7-10pm)
› 5% “Section” Attendance and Participation

Class Meetings: Lectures will last from 5:00-5:50pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with 5:50-6:20pm generally reserved for discussion sections. Each student will need to attend and sign in at four sections over the quarter, and be prepared to discuss the readings assigned for the lecture that day.

Assignments: There will be an in-class midterm on Thursday, April 28th, as well as a final exam on Thursday, June 9th. The final will be comprehensive, but will feature topics from the
second half of the course more prominently. All exams will be closed book, and composed of identifications, short answers, and essays. You will also write a 5-7 page paper advising a state legislator about how she should vote on a bill or whether she should take an official position on a ballot proposition, and hand it in on Thursday, May 26 (I’ll hand out a paper prompt after the midterm). 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. 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.

**Course Outline**

*Part I. Political Institutions in Flux*

1. Tuesday, March 29. Course Introduction.


3. Tuesday, April 5th. Progressive Movement II: The Recall.

4. Thursday, April 7th. Professionalizing the California Legislature.

5. Tuesday, April 12th. Term Limits and the Future of the Legislature.

6. Tuesday, April 14th. Bargaining with Governors.

7. Tuesday, April 19th. Movements and Elections in California.

8. Thursday, April 21st. Guest Lecture: Kevin Eckery (former communications director to Gov. Pete Wilson and UCSD alumnus)
9. Tuesday, April 26th. Parties and Redistricting in California.

Thursday, April 28th. Midterm Exam (in class, 5-6:20pm). Bring two blue books.

Part II. The Politics of Diversity


12. Tuesday, May 10th. Incorporation in Urban Politics: The Case of Los Angeles.

13. Thursday, May 12th. The Battle of Los Angeles II: Old and New Rainbows

14. Tuesday, May 17th. Race as a Political Issue: Demographics and Initiatives.

15. Thursday, May 19th. Moving On Up to Sacramento.

Part III. Perspectives on Policy.


19. Thursday, June 2nd. Environmental Politics.

**Final Exam:** Thursday, June 9th, 7-10pm, location to be announced (but most likely Center 101)