**California Government and Politics**  
Political Science 103A/Urban Studies 109

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professor Nathan Fletcher</th>
<th>Lecture: Thursdays 5pm - 7:50 pm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:nrfletcher@ucsd.edu">nrfletcher@ucsd.edu</a></td>
<td>Location: York 2722</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office: SSB 362</td>
<td>Final: Thurs June 12th 7pm -10pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Twitter: @nathanfletcher</td>
<td>Office Hours: TBD weekly</td>
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**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.

**READING**

**Required:**


**Optional:**


I will put copies of each textbook on reserve at the library. I have also posted a copy of the “What’s Next California” participants guide on the course website.

**READING**

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

Keep in mind 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.

www.ted.ucsd.edu

**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS**

› 25% Midterm (Thursday, May 1st 5pm to 7:50pm)  
› 30% Assignment (Due at the beginning of class, Thursday, June 5th)  
› 40% Final (Thursday, June 12th 7pm to 10pm)  
› 5% "Section" Attendance and Participation (see below)

There will be an in-class midterm on Thursday, May 1st from 5:15pm to 6:45 pm. The final will take place on Thursday, June 12th from 7pm to 10 pm. For students who have a documented finals conflict with another course we will offer an alternative final exam time. The midterm will be closed
book, and composed of identifications, short answers, and an essay. The final will be similar in format, and comprehensive of the materials presented and assigned readings for the entire course.

For the paper, due on Thursday, June 5th, you will write a policy analysis of a specific piece of California legislation in 5-7 pages (We’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.

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 six 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 intern/volunteer opportunities will be provided in class, students are not bound to only those presented through the course. However, the hours worked must be documented by date and time worked, and must be signed 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. 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”. Occasionally, there will be two lectures and two discussion sections back to back. For each discussion “section” there will be a sign in sheet passed around. It is the responsibility of students attending each section to sign in. Each student will need to attend and sign in at four sections over the quarter, and contribute to the discussion by asking a question or making an observation at least twice. Each student should state their names when asking a question or making an observation so the TAs can document their participation. All students should be prepared to discuss the readings assigned for the lecture that day.

Occasionally, we will have guest speakers. You will not be tested on the content covered in their lectures and question and answers. However, you should learn from their presentation and are welcome to work in specific examples cited by guests in your short answer and essay answers to demonstrate an understanding of the practical realities of topics presented.

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

Office hours will vary week by week. During each class, Professor Fletcher’s office hours for the following week will be announced. The TAs will also conduct weekly office hours and make those times and location available.

**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.** 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 is email—not a tweet, Facebook message, or note slipped under his office door.

Note: We will NOT grant any extensions because of 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.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Part I. California Politics and Government Overview

1. Thursday, April 3rd Course Overview

2. Thursday, April 10th Layers of California Government

   Case study: Redevelopment in California

3. Thursday, April 17th Direct Democracy (Initiative, Referendum, Recall)
   “Initiatives and Referendums” (Kousser) & “Direct Democracy Realities and Reform” (Fletcher)
   c. Vladimir Kogan and Eric McGhee, “Redistricting: Did Radical Reform Produce Different Results?” in Governing California
   d. Bruce Cain, Iris Hui, and Karin Mac Donald “Sorting or Self Sorting: Competition and Redistricting in California?” in The New Political Geography of California

   Case Study: Redistricting in California

4. Thursday, April 24th: How to Win (or lose) a California Election
   “The Nuts and Bolts of California Campaigns” (Fletcher) & “Reform and California Campaigns” (Kousser) ADD Campaign finance money in CA
   “The Role of Media and the Rules of Engagement” (Fletcher)

   Case Study: How to win a Gubernatorial Election

5. Thursday, May 1st: Midterm Exam: 5:15-6:45pm
**Part II: Inside Sacramento Government**

6. **Thursday, May 8th: The California Legislature**

“Professionalizing the California Legislature” (Kousser) & “Term Limits and the Future of the Legislature” (Kousser and Fletcher)

   b. John Decker, “Polarization Interrupted? California's Experiment with the Top Two Primary.” In *Governing California*.
   c. Thad Kousser, Bruce Cain, and Karl Luntz, “The Changing Legislative Landscape,” in *Governing California*.

Case Study: The Legacy of Speaker Willie Brown

7. **Thursday, May 15th: The California Governor**

“Bargaining with Governors: Textbook View” (Kousser) & “Bargaining with Governors: Experiences with Two Administrations” (Fletcher)

   a. Ethan Rarick, “Governors and the Executive Branch” in *Governing California*.
   b. “Governors, Geography, and Direct Democracy,” William Chandler and Thad Kousser, *The New Political Geography of California*

Case Study: Bargaining with Two Governor

8. **Thursday, May 22nd: The Role of the Courts and How A Bill Becomes a Law**

   b. Thad Kousser, “Partisan Polarization and Policy Gridlock: Does One Lead to Another?” in *Governing California*.

Case study: Chelsea's law

**Part III. Special Topics in California Government and Politics.**


Case Study: Water Bond of 2008...2010...2012...2014

10. **Thursday, June 5th: 2014 Elections/Anatomy of a Scandal**

Paper due Thursday, June 5th

11. **Final: Thursday June 12th**