

Political Science 104
California State Government and Politics
Fall 2019
T Th 12:10-1:30PM
Olson 6

Instructor: Professor Scott A. MacKenzie

582 Kerr Hall

Office Hours: Thursdays 1:30pm-3:30pm,
or by appointment

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Course Objectives

This course provides an overview of main themes in the development of California state government and the political institutions, social and demographic trends, and public policies that give shape to its politics. We will focus on political theories that help us understand: 1) the major problems facing California and its communities, 2) the economic, social and political forces that have shaped California's development, 3) the structure and role of government in addressing the state's problems, and 4) the major participants and stakes in California politics.

Requirements

Your course grade is based on the following components:

Discussion Questions (5%)

Midterm Exam (30%)

Final Exam (35%)

One Written Assignment (30%)

Discussion Questions: We will be hosting several guest speakers who will discuss their experiences working in California state government and politics. Each speaker will give a short presentation and then take questions. Before each of these sessions, you will write two questions that you might ask the speaker during the question-and-answer period. You will submit these questions via e-mail at least 24 hours in advance of the session. **Questions turned in less than 24 hours in advance of the session will be penalized 10%. Questions turned in after the session will not be graded.**

Midterm: The midterm exam will take place **in class on Thursday, October 31.**

Final: The final exam will take place on **Tuesday, December 10, 1:00-3:00pm. Location: Olson 6.**

The exams will be based on both the readings and the materials discussed in class.

Written Assignment: In addition, you will complete a written assignment. The written assignment is designed to encourage you to develop your own arguments and evaluations of the topics in the course. **Late assignments will be penalized 10% for each day they are late.** Written work must reflect your own scholarship, in line with the UC Davis Code of Academic Conduct. For guidelines on avoiding plagiarism, see the SJA at <http://sja.ucdavis.edu/>. You are expected to be well-aware of these guidelines; ignorance does not excuse a violation of these guidelines.

The written assignment will be posted before the midterm exam and will be due at the **beginning of class on Tuesday, November 26.**

Course Policies

Attendance, Participation, and Class Readings

Attendance and readings are mandatory. All readings for a given date should be done before the beginning of class. Please participate in class discussions.

Late Policy / Make-Up Exams

Make-up exams and extensions will be allowed only in the event of a medical or family emergency. You must have documentation of your emergency (for example, a doctor's note) to be able to take a make-up exam or get an extension. After you provide this documentation, a decision will be made regarding whether and when you may take a make-up exam/get an extension. Similarly, any request for an incomplete must be accompanied by a written medical report.

Grade Appeals

You have one week from when the exams and papers are returned to appeal the grade. All appeals must be made to your TA. You must submit a typed, double-spaced statement explaining why you are requesting a grade appeal and justify it with evidence from your paper, exam, readings, and lectures. If you choose to appeal your grade, your TA reserves the right to decrease the existing grade. His/her decision is final.

Tardiness to Exams

It is expected that you will arrive to exams on time. Arriving late to exams is a disruption for your classmates and increases the probability that exam information has been shared. Students who arrive more than 20 minutes late will not be allowed to sit for the midterm or the final.

Academic Honesty

Cheating and other violations of academic honesty are serious offenses. Graded assignments are not collaborative efforts in this class. You must work independently on all exams and written assignments. Please refer to the UC Davis policy on integrity of scholarship for further details. If you are caught cheating in this course, you will be awarded a letter grade of an F.

Please turn off cell phones and pagers during class.

Materials

There are two main textbooks for this course. Other required readings can be found either online or on the course website. The two main textbooks for the class are:

Ethan Rarick, Editor. 2013. *Governing California: Politics, Government, and Public Policy in the Golden State*. 3rd Edition. Berkeley: Institute of Governmental Studies Press. **Please make sure you have the 3rd Edition.**

Frederick Douzet, Thad Kousser, and Kenneth P. Miller, Editors. 2008. *The New Political Geography of California*. Berkeley: Institute of Governmental Studies Press.

Copies will be available for purchase at the UC Davis Bookstore.

In addition to the assigned readings, students are encouraged to keep up with current events in California. The Rough & Tumble website (www.rumble.com) provides a daily snapshot of California politics and public policy based on reporting from more than two dozen publications across the state.

Readings

As you do the readings, you might find it useful to keep the following questions in mind:

1. TYPE: What type of reading is this? Is it a theoretical piece? Is it a literature review? Is it an empirical piece?
2. PROPOSITIONS/HYPOTHESES: What are the propositions, or hypotheses, advanced by the author?
3. EVIDENCE: If it is a theoretical piece, what are the justifications? If it is a literature review, what are the sources? If it is an empirical piece, what data are analyzed?
4. CONCLUSIONS: What are the conclusions that the author reaches? Are they justified given the evidence presented?
5. REMARKS: What are your reactions to this piece? What questions does it answer? What does it leave unanswered? If you have criticisms, how would you improve upon the piece?

POL 104: California State Government and Politics
Course Topics and Assigned Readings

Part I. Political Institutions in Flux.

Thursday, September 26. Introduction.

No assigned reading.

WEEK 1.

Tuesday, October 1. The Progressive Movement I: Initiatives and Referenda.

Kenneth P. Miller, Direct Democracy: The Initiative, Referendum, and Recall, in *Governing California*.

Thursday, October 3. Direct Democracy and Citizen Competence.

Cheryl Boudreau and Scott A. MacKenzie, Informing the Electorate? How Party Cues and Policy Information Affect Public Opinion about Initiatives, *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 58, No. 1, pp. 48-62.

WEEK 2.

Tuesday, October 8. The Progressive Movement II: The Recall.

William M. Chandler and Thad Kousser, Governors, Geography, and Direct Democracy: The Case of Arnold Schwarzenegger, in *The New Political Geography of California*.

Thursday, October 10. Professionalizing the California Legislature.

Peverill Squire, "The Theory of Legislative Institutionalization and the California Assembly," *Journal of Politics*, Vol. 54, No. 4, pp. 1026-1054.

WEEK 3.

Tuesday, October 15. Term Limits and the Future of the Legislature.

Thad Kousser, Bruce Cain, and Karl Kurtz, The Legislature: Life Under Term Limits, in *Governing California*.

Thursday, October 17. Bargaining with Governors.

Ethan Rarick, Governors and the Executive Branch, in *Governing California*.

John Decker, Goodbye to All That: Mending California's Budget, in *Governing California*.

WEEK 4.

Tuesday, October 22. Movements and Elections in California.

Frederick Douzet and Kenneth P. Miller, California's Political Geography: Coast vs. Inland and Increasingly Blue, in *Governing California*.

Thursday, October 24. Changing the Rules: Primary and Redistricting Reforms.
Vladimir Kogan and Eric McGhee, Redistricting: Did Radical Reform Produce Different Results?,
in *Governing California*.

Part II. The Politics of Diversity.

WEEK 5.

Tuesday, October 29. From the Inside: The California Legislature after Term Limits.
No assigned reading.

Guest Speaker: Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, Member of the California State Assembly and former Mayor of Winters, 2012-2016

Thursday, October 31. Midterm Exam.

WEEK 6.

Tuesday, November 5. Diversity and Participation.

Jack Citrin, Morris Levy, and Andrea Campbell, State of Change: Immigration Politics and the New Demography of California, in *Governing California*.

Thursday, November 7. Moving On Up to Sacramento.

J. Morgan Kousser, Has California Gone Colorblind?, in *The New Political Geography of California*.

Documentary Screening: The Times of Harvey Milk

WEEK 7.

Tuesday, November 12. Political Incorporation of Minority Groups

Frederick Douzet, The Geopolitical Transition of Oakland, in *The New Political Geography of California*.

Raphael Sonenshein and Mark H. Drayse, The Political Geography of Coalitions in an Age of Immigration: The Case of Los Angeles, in *The New Political Geography of California*.

Thursday, November 14. Race as a Political Issue: Demographics and Initiatives.

Morris P. Fiorina and Samuel J. Abrams, Is California Really a Blue State?, in *The New Political Geography of California*.

Part III. Perspectives on Policy.

WEEK 8.

Tuesday, November 19. The Layers of California Government.

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

Thursday, November 21. Crime and Punishment: California's Public Safety Realignment.

David A. Carillo, The California Judiciary, in *Governing California*.

Guest Speaker: Brandon Martin, Public Policy Institute of California

WEEK 9.

Tuesday, November 26. Inequality and Taxation: Proposition 30 and Beyond.

Cheryl Boudreau and Scott A. MacKenzie, Wanting What Is Fair? How Party Cues and Information about Income Inequality Affect Public Support for Taxes, *Journal of Politics*, Vol. 80, no. 2, pp. 367-381.

Thursday, November 28. Thanksgiving Holiday. Class cancelled.

No assigned reading.

WEEK 10.

Tuesday, December 3. Water and Environmental Politics.

Megan Mullin, Water in California: A Case Study in Federalism, in *Governing California*.

Thursday, December 5. Final Exam Review & Catch-Up Day.

No assigned reading.