GAVILAN COLLEGE
5055 Santa Teresa Blvd
Gilroy, CA 95023

Course Outline

COURSE: POLS 7 DIVISION: 10 ALSO LISTED AS:

TERM EFFECTIVE: Spring 2015 CURRICULUM APPROVAL DATE: 10/13/2014

SHORT TITLE: CA GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

LONG TITLE: Introduction to California Government and Politics

Units	Number of Weeks	Type	Contact Hours/Week	Total Contact Hours
3	18	Lecture:	3	54
		Lab:	0	0
		Other:	0	0
		Total:	3	54

Out of Class Hrs:	108.00
Total Learning Hrs:	162.00

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this course is to provide students with an in-depth understanding of how the state of California is governed. Emphasis will be placed on local elections, political parties, legislative, executive, and judicial power, special interest groups, lobbying, urban politics, how such a diverse and multi-linguistic state be effectively governed, and policy-making, citizen activism and the importance of community service. Major events in the historical development of California and on current issues of significance will be examined in the context of the United States and California state constitutions. ADVISORY: English 250 and English 260.

CREDIT STATUS: D - Credit - Degree Applicable

GRADING MODES

L - Standard Letter Grade

REPEATABILITY: N - Course may not be repeated

SCHEDULE TYPES:

02 - Lecture and/or discussion

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. List, discuss, and assess the political values and historical events that have shaped California government and politics.

Measure: Quiz; Exam

PLO:

ILO: 1, 2

GE-LO: A1, A2, D1

Year Assessed: 2016

2. Evaluate and assess various political ideologies underlying the California political system.

Measure: Quiz, Exam; Class Discussion

PLO:

ILO: 1, 2

GE-LO: A1, A2, A4, A8, D2

Year Assessed: 2016

3. Explain why and how power is distributed and utilized within the political culture, structures, and institutions of California state and local politics.

Measure: Quiz; Exam; Class Discussion

PLO:

ILO: 1, 2

GE-LO: A1, A2, A4, A8, D1

Year Assessed: 2016

4. Differentiate among and appraise the relative purpose and impact of different types of political participation (e.g. voting, lobbying, protesting, initiatives, organizing, volunteering, etc).

Measure: Quiz; Exam; Class Discussion

PLO:

ILO: 1, 2

GE-LO: A1, A2, A4, A8

Year Assessed: 2016

5. Apply the knowledge gained from the class to engage in a Service Learning Project relevant to achieving a particular student political goal or desired objective.

Measure: Paper; Class Discussion

PLO:

ILO: 1

GE-LO: A3, A5, D3, F1

Year Assessed: 2016

6. Explain and evaluate the institutions of California politics (alternative democratic processes such as ranked choice voting and citizen oversight groups, parties, interest groups, the media, social movements, the state legislature and executive, bureaucracies, courts, county and city governments, as well as the initiative, referendum, and citizen recall powers).

Measure: Quiz; Exam; Paper; Debate

PLO:

ILO: 1, 2

GE-LO: A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, D1

Year Assessed: 2016

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES(CONTINUED):

7. Write clearly, systematically, and analytically about contemporary political issues and policies.

Measure: Quiz; Exam; Paper

PLO:

ILO: 1

GE-LO: A3, A5

Year Assessed: 2016

8. Evaluate and assess the form and function of local governments throughout California.

Measure: Quiz; Exam

PLO:

ILO: 1, 2

GE-LO: A1, A2, A4

Year Assessed: 2016

9. Evaluate and assess how a state with such ethnic and linguistic diversity can continue to be governed effectively.

Measure: Research Paper

PLO:

ILO: 1, 2

GE-LO: C3, C7, F1, F2

Year Assessed: 2016

CULTURAL DIVERSITY:

This course promotes understanding of:

Cultures and subcultures

Cultural awareness

Mutual respect among diverse peoples

Student Learning Outcome: 9

COURSE CONTENT:

Curriculum Approval Date: 10/13/2014

3 Hours

Content: This portion of the course is an introduction to California government and politics, which includes an introduction to the syllabus, course requirements, and an introduction to basic political terminology; An overview of the political landscape; discussion of the various economic, racial, demographic (ethnic, racial, etc), cultural (sexual orientation, gender, etc), social and political environments shaping politics in California.

Student Performance Objectives (SPO): Students will be expected to identify and define terms like "politics", "government", "power", "city", "state", and so on.

Out-of-Class Assignments: None

3 Hours

Content: In this section of the course we will examine California's political development and history; This portion of the course will examine the roots of California's history in Spanish and Mexican rule; We will examine the gold rush and its impact on the political development of California as well as the growth and political power of the Southern Pacific Railroad; We also discuss and assess the Constitution of 1879 and how economic, racial, and class conflicts are reflected in the constitution's provisions; Finally, we examine the Progressive movement-its origin, the rise of Hiram Johnson, the political impacts of the Progressive movement, the farm workers movement, and the growth of major industries.

Student Performance Objectives (SPO): Students will be expected to identify , define, and analyze the development of California history and politics.

Out-of-Class Assignments: Read Ch 1, Gerston & Christiansen; Read Ch 1, Dye and MacManus; Online Assignment 1 (CA History)

3 Hours

Content: In this module, we examine and assess the California Constitution by specifically identifying the economic, social, and political issues surrounding the development of the current constitution, including the impact of direct democracy.

Student Performance Objectives (SPO): Students will be expected to explain and assess the CA Constitution.

Out-of-Class Assignments: Read Ch 2, Gerston & Christiansen; Read Ch 2, Dye and MacManus; Online Assignment 2 (CA Constitution)

6 Hours

Content: In this portion of the class, we examine and evaluate the California legislature. Specifically, we examine the structure of the legislature as a bicameral body, the role of legislative leaders, the lawmaking process, the factors that affect lawmakers' decision making, the impact of term limits on the legislative process and legislative elections, as well as the impact of the state's diversity (ethnic, racial, gender, sexual orientation etc) has had on the governing process.

Student Performance Objectives (SPO): Students will be expected to explain and assess both the legislative process as well as how well the lawmakers perform in their lawmaking role.

Out-of-Class Assignments: Read Chs 3-4, Gerston & Christiansen; Read Chs 3-4, Dye and MacManus; Online Assignment 3 (CA Legislature)

6 Hours

Content: In this module of the course, we examine and evaluate the California executive/Governor. Specifically, we present the idea of the plural executive, the role of each of the constitutional officers of the Executive branch, the political implications of having each elected separately, as well as differences in power between governor and the U.S President, including the line-item-veto.

Student Performance Objectives (SPO): Students will be expected to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the California executive branch from a historical and contemporary perspective.

Out-of-Class Assignments: Read Chs 5-6, Gerston & Christiansen; Read Chs 5-6, Dye and MacManus; Online Assignment 4 (CA Executive)

COURSE CONTENT(CONTINUED):

3 Hours

Content: This portion of the course covers the California judicial branch. We evaluate and assess the structure of the California court system, the relationship between the state federal court systems, judicial selection and its impact on rulings, as well as the impact of administration of justice on a diverse population of people moving through the California justice system.

Student Performance Objectives (SPO): Students will be expected to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the California judicial branch from a historical and contemporary perspective.

Out-of-Class Assignments: Read Ch 7, Gerston & Christiansen; Read Ch 7, Dye and MacManus; Online Assignment 5 (CA Judicial Branch)

6 Hours

Content: In this module, we will examine budgetary politics in California, paying particular attention to state revenues and expenditures, the budget process, budget deficits and surpluses, the impact of direct democracy and "ballot box budgeting" on the process, the Governor's line-item veto power, as well as the effects of prop. 13 on budgeting and state coffers. We also examine the impact budgeting has on California's large, growing, and increasingly more diverse population of people with different needs and problems.

Student Performance Objectives (SPO): Students will be expected to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the California budget process, with a particular emphasis on why we have been running large, multi-billion dollar budget deficits for nearly ten years.

Out-of-Class Assignments: Take Home Exam I; Read Chs 8-9, Gerston & Christiansen; Read Chs 8-9, Dye and MacManus; Online Assignment 6 (Budget Politics)

6 Hours

Content: This module of CA. State and Local Politics is a presentation of the role and importance of political parties in California. Specifically, we examine how parties developed historically, how party strength has ebbed and flowed, the role of parties in elections, differences between party platforms at the state and national levels, as well as how parties are regulated and how they act as a linkage institution (i.e. how effective). The course also covers the impact political parties have on our large and diverse population as well as on the impact this large and diverse population has on the state's political parties.

Student Performance Objectives (SPO): Students will be expected to evaluate the role and impact of political parties on the California political process

Out-of-Class Assignments: Read Chs 10-11, Gerston & Christiansen; Read Chs 10-11, Dye and MacManus; Online Assignment 7 (Political Parties)

3 Hours

Content: This module of CA. State and Local Politics is a presentation of the role and importance of interest groups and organized lobby organizations in California. Specifically, we trace the historical development of interest groups, examine pluralist theory, as well as the growth and strength of interest groups, how interest groups influence the policymaking process, how interest groups affect elections, as well as the role of hyperpluralism's impact on the California political process. We also examine and assess the positive and negative impacts that lobbying has on the process, our state's politics, as well as its diverse and growing population.

Student Performance Objectives (SPO): Students will be expected to evaluate the overall effectiveness of interest groups on the California political process

Out-of-Class Assignments: Read Ch 12, Gerston & Christiansen; Read Ch 12, Dye and MacManus; Online Assignment 8 (Interest Groups)

COURSE CONTENT(CONTINUED):

3 Hours

Content: This module of the class covers campaigns and elections in California. More specifically, we examine the efficacy of the direct democracy process (initiative, referenda, and recall), how elected officials are elected at the local and state levels, how state and local campaign finance laws work, as well as the role that the mass media, voters, and various lobby/public employee lobby/special interest groups/citizen activist groups (farm workers, women's rights, gay and lesbian rights, etc) play in our state electoral process. We also examine and assess voter participation and turnout as well as the impact of term limits on both the legislative process as well as state politics generally.

Student Performance Objectives (SPO): Students will be expected to examine and assess California's campaign and election process

Out-of-Class Assignments: Read Ch 13, Gerston & Christiansen; Read Ch 13, Dye and MacManus; Online Assignment 9 (Campaigns & Elections)

6 Hours

Content: This module of the class covers public policymaking in California. More specifically, we cover the impact that the policymaking process has had on issues of importance in California, such as: civil rights and liberties, education, the environment, water policy, criminal justice, immigration, taxing and spending, gay and lesbian rights, urban sprawl and growth, social services, the initiative process, and alternative democratic processes such as ranked choice voting and citizen oversight groups.

Student Performance Objectives (SPO): Students will be expected to evaluate the overall effectiveness of public policymaking in California

Out-of-Class Assignments: Read Chs 14-15, Gerston & Christiansen; Read Chs 14-15, Dye and MacManus; Online Assignment 10 (Public Policymaking

3 Hours

Content: The last module of the course covers local government. Specifically, we examine and critically analyze the following: the various types of city government arrangements, divisions of local government such as cities, counties, and special districts, as well as relationship of local units to the state and federal government. We close the class by examining how local governments in California are financed, through general taxing, sales taxes, property taxes, Indian gaming, etc and how such financial systems impact citizens living in California's many and very diverse cities.

Student Performance Objectives (SPO): Students will be expected to evaluate the overall effectiveness of local government in California

Out-of-Class Assignments: Read Ch 16 , Gerston & Christiansen; Read Ch 16, Dye and MacManus; Take-Home Exam II

2 Hours

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Lecture, small and large group discussion, book presentation, guest speakers, parliamentary debates, election forums

METHODS OF EVALUATION:

CATEGORY 1 - The types of writing assignments required:

Percent range of total grade: 50 % to 60 %

Reading Reports

Essay Exams

Term or Other Papers

CATEGORY 2 - The problem-solving assignments required:

Percent range of total grade: 20 % to 30 %

Quizzes

Exams

CATEGORY 3 - The types of skill demonstrations required:

Percent range of total grade: 5 % to 10 %

Performance Exams

CATEGORY 4 - The types of objective examinations used in the course:

Percent range of total grade: 5 % to 10 %

Multiple Choice

True/False

Completion

REPRESENTATIVE TEXTBOOKS:

Larry Gerston and Terry Christiansen, California Politics and Government: A Practical Approach, Wadsworth Publishing, 2014

or other appropriate college level text.

ISBN: ISBN-13: 978-0495913450

Reading level of text, Grade: 13 Verified by: MDT

ARTICULATION and CERTIFICATE INFORMATION

Associate Degree:

GAV D2

GAV F

GAV Area 4 = Social & Behavior

CSU GE:

IGETC:

IGETC 4H

CSU TRANSFER:

Transferable CSU

UC TRANSFER:

Not Transferable

SUPPLEMENTAL DATA:

Basic Skills: N
Classification: Y
Noncredit Category: Y
Cooperative Education:
Program Status: 1 Program Applicable
Special Class Status: N
Prior to College Level: Y
Non Credit Enhanced Funding: N
Funding Agency Code: Y
In-Service: N
Occupational Course: E
Course Control Number: CCC000558734
Sports/Physical Education Course: N
Taxonomy of Program: 220700