

**USP 116 SYLLABUS Fall, 2014**

Lecturer: former State Senator Denise Moreno Ducheny

Class schedule: Wednesday evenings – 5:00p.m. – 7:50p.m.

Classroom: SSB 102

Office Hours: Wednesdays 3:30pm – 4:30p.m. or by appointment
Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, Institute of the Americas
Building, Room 107
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Course description:

California Local Government: Finance and Administration

This course surveys public finance and administration. It focuses upon California local governments—cities, counties, and special districts—and also examines state and federal relationships. USP 116 will explore the State and local budgets in California and the relationships among them. We will look at the State budget and those of cities, counties, school districts and special districts to understand what revenue sources support what public services. We will look at how the state-local fiscal relationship has evolved, where it is now, and explore options for doing things differently, comparing alternative models of the state/local fiscal relationship.

Required Readings: There will be 2 assigned text books – available in the bookstore (or the Guide may be available as e-book through Amazon type sources):

Schrag, Peter “Paradise Lost” UC Press, 1998 – 4th Edition 2004

Multari, Coleman, Hampian, Statler “Guide to Local Government Finance in California”, Solano Press, 2012 (hereafter “Guide”)

Additional Required readings are cited with Links in this Syllabus.

A list of Supplemental Readings and General References will also be provided.

Grading criteria: 2 Individual writing assignments will be required, each 750 words or less and valued at 25 points each; a group final project with class presentations on Dec. 3 and a Final Paper of no more than 10 pages due when Final Exam scheduled will be valued at 35 points – all members of group will receive same grade; Class participation – combination of attendance and active participation in class discussion will be valued at 15 points. Total achievable is thus 100 points.

Reading Assignments for First Class

CalFacts 2013 http://www.lao.ca.gov/reports/2013/calfacts/calfacts_010213.aspx

Paradise Lost, Introduction - Part 1

Guide, Part 1

October 8

Introduction to course and participants

Self-introductions: name, where from, goals, majors, etc

Commence Discussion: What services do we want the government to provide? What level of government should provide what service? How should services be paid for?

Overview of the California State Budget

Reading Assignments for Oct 15

Paradise Lost, Part 2, Section 1 – “Golden Moment”

Hill, Elizabeth G. “Realignment Revisited: An Evaluation of the 1991 Experiment in State-County Relations,” LAO, 6 Feb 2001.

http://www.lao.ca.gov/2001/realignment/020601_realignment.pdf

Taylor, Mac. “Unwinding Redevelopment” LAO, 02/17/12

http://www.lao.ca.gov/analysis/2012/general_govt/unwinding-redevelopment-021712.aspx

"Criminal Justice Realignment." 2009-10 Budget Analysis Series. LAO, 27 Jan. 2009. Web. 31 Aug. 2013. <http://www.lao.ca.gov/2009/crim/Realignment_012709/Realignment_012709.aspx

“Completing the Goals of Trial Court Realignment” LAO, 28 Sept. 2011

http://www.lao.ca.gov/reports/2011/crim/trial-court-realignment/Trial_Court_Realignment_092811.aspx

October 15th

Guest speakers: Diane Cummins, Special Advisor to the Governor for State and Local Realignment & Steve Szalay, former County Administrative Officer and former Executive Officer for the California State Association of Counties

Discussion: Redevelopment and Realignment

Reading Assignment for October 22

Paradise Lost - Part 2, Section 2 “Good-bye El Dorado”

Guide, Part 2

Overview of California Local Government. LAO, 15 June 2010. Web. 16 Aug. 2013.

<http://www.lao.ca.gov/handouts/Conf_Comm/2010/Overview_CA_Local_Gov_6_15_10.pdf>.

Making Government Make Sense: A More Rational Structure for State and Local Government. LAO, Feb. 1993. Web. 16 Aug. 2013.

<http://www.lao.ca.gov/analysis_1993/MGMS_reprint_02-93.pdf>.

Understanding California’s Property Taxes, LAO, 11/29/12

<http://www.lao.ca.gov/reports/2012/tax/property-tax-primer-112912.aspx>

October 22nd

*1st Writing Assignment assigned

Guest: Greg Cox - San Diego County Board of Supervisors, past Chair California Association of Counties, & former Mayor of Chula Vista

Discussion: The Role of Counties – functions and funding

Reading Assignments for Oct. 29

Paradise Lost – Part 3, section 1 “The Spirit of 13”

Guide – Part 2

"Shared Revenue Estimates: California State Revenue Allocations to Cities." California City Finance, 30 Jan. 2012. Web. 17 Aug. 2013.

<<http://www.californiacityfinance.com/VLFupdate120130.pdf>>.

2014-15 Budget – Changes to Local Infrastructure Financing Tool, LAO, 3/11/2014

<http://www.lao.ca.gov/reports/2014/budget/local-infrastructure-financing/infrastructure-031014.aspx>

October 29th

Guests: Toni Atkins, Speaker of the California State Assembly

Altering Perspectives: from City to State

Andy Hall, Imperial Beach City Manager

Discussion: Cities: functions and funding

Economic Development & Planning, Local Taxes and Fees, Infrastructure and Capital Project Planning

***1st Writing Assignment Due by 4:00pm FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31st**

Reading Assignments for Nov. 5

Guide – Part 3

What's so Special about Special Districts? A Citizens Guide to Special Districts in California. Issue brief. Senate Local Government Committee, Oct. 2010. Web. 16 Aug. 2013.

<<http://www.rsrpd.org/admin/Whatsso.pdf>>.

Overview of Special Districts: California Special Districts Association

<http://www.cstda.net/full-remositoy-menu/func-startdown/12/>

Public Policy Institute of California, "Paying for Water" March, 2014

<http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=1086>

November 5th

Guest: Gary Arant – General Manager, Valley Center Municipal Water District

Discussion: Special Districts and funding Water Infrastructure

Reading Assignments for Nov. 12

Guide – Part 4

"Linking Transportation and Land Use Planning: A Summary of Senate Bill 375." Sustainable Communities 101. Housing CA, n.d. Web. 31 Aug. 2013.

<http://www.housingca.org/site/DocServer/billsum_SB_375.pdf>.

"Transportation Funding." Institute for Local Government. N.p., n.d. Web. 31 Aug. 2013.
<<http://www.ca-ilg.org/transportation-funding>>.

"Overview of Transportation Funding." LAO. N.p., 13 Mar. 2014.

<http://www.lao.ca.gov/Publications/Detail/2975>

Riphagen, Joel. "Transportation Funding Instability Continues Presentation." LAO. N.p., n.d. Web. 31 Aug. 2013.

<http://www.lao.ca.gov/handouts/Transportation/2005/trans_funding_050605.pdf>.

November 12th

*2nd writing assignment assigned

Guest: Gary Gallegos – Executive Director, SANDAG and former District Director CalTrans

Discussion: The role of Regional Government – planning and funding regional transportation and housing needs

Reading Assignments for Nov. 19

Paradise Lost – Part 3 “March of the Plebiscites”

Proposition 98 Primer, LAO, 2005

http://www.lao.ca.gov/2005/prop_98_primer/prop_98_primer_020805.htm

November 19th

Guests: Doug Perkins, Trustee Del Mar Union School District and Board member-elect to San Diego County Board of Education

Discussion Topic: Education Funding in California

***2nd writing assignment due by 4:00pm FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21st**

Readings for Nov. 26

Paradise Lost – Part 4

Part 5 Guide

"Policy Basics: Where Do Our Federal Tax Dollars Go?" Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 12 Apr. 2013. Web. 28 Aug. 2013. <<http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view>>

California's Tax Burden Is Slightly Above Average. Issue brief. LAO, 2006. Web. 16 Aug. 2013. <http://www.lao.ca.gov/reports/2013/calfacts/calfacts_010213.aspx - State Local>

California's Criminal Justice System: A Primer, LAO, 2013

<http://www.lao.ca.gov/reports/2013/crim/criminal-justice-primer/criminal-justice-primer-011713.aspx>

November 26th

Review, recap and cover miscellaneous issues including the use of Special Funds and User Fees to fund Public Services

Reading Assignments for Dec. 3

How Do Californians Use Local Ballot Initiatives? Issue brief. PPIC, Sept. 2004. Web. 17 Aug. 2013. <http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/rb/RB_904TGRB.pdf>.

Understanding Proposition 26. Issue brief. California Taxpayers Association, 15 Aug. 2011. Web. 17 Aug. 2013. <<http://www.caltax.org/UnderstandingProposition26.pdf>>.

A Look at Voter Approval Requirements for Local Taxes. LAO. March 20, 2014

<http://www.lao.ca.gov/reports/2014/finance/local-taxes/voter-approval-032014.aspx>

December 3rd

Guest: Political Science Professor, Thad Kousser

Discussion: Budget Impacts of Initiatives and Voter approved measures

December 10th

Student Group Presentations

Week of December 15th

Group papers due during final time period

Supplemental References:

Rep. State of California, 2009. Web. 17 Aug. 2013.

<http://www.cotce.ca.gov/documents/reports/documents/Commission_on_the_21st_Century_Economy-Final_Report.pdf> - sections 2 and 4

Schrag, Peter. "The Parsky Commission's Dodgy Tax Plan." California Progress Report. N.p., 7 Oct. 2009. Web. 17 Aug. 2013. <<http://www.californiaprogressreport.com/site/parsky-commission's-dodgy-tax-plan>>.

Fact Sheet: The ERAF Property Tax Shift. Issue brief. League of California Cities, n.d. Web. 16 Aug. 2013. <<http://www.californiacityfinance.com/ERAFfacts.pdf>>.

Peter Schrag, Symposium, The Fourth Branch of Government? You Bet., 41 Santa Clara L. Rev. 937 (2001). <<http://digitalcommons.law.scu.edu/lawreview/vol41/iss4/1>>.

Taylor, Mac. "Proposition 98 Education Analysis." LAO, n.d. Web. 17 Aug. 2013. <<http://www.lao.ca.gov/analysis/2013/education/prop-98/prop-98-022113.pdf>>.

Walters, Dan. On the Rocky Road to the 2008-09 Budget. Issue brief. Sacramento Bee, n.d. Web. 16 Aug. 2013. <http://media.sacbee.com/smedia/2009/04/29/13/G082008_3W20BUDGETSPEND.source.prod.affiliate.4.pdf>.

"Steven Erie Offers Insights & Assessment of San Diego's Regional Governance Experiment." The Planning Report. N.p., 25 June 2004. Web. 31 Aug. 2013. <<http://www.planningreport.com/2004/06/25/steven-erie-offers-insights-assessment-san-diegos-regional-governance-experiment>>.

Summerell, Charles. "Understanding the Basics of County and City Revenues." Institute for Local Government. N.p., 2008. Web. 30 Aug. 2013. <http://www.ca-ilg.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/2008_-_county_and_city_revenues_0.pdf>

Trial Court Funding Restructuring, LAO, 1998

http://www.lao.ca.gov/analysis_1998/crim_justice_depts3_an198.html

<http://www.dof.ca.gov/>

<http://www.ebudget.ca.gov/2014-15/Enacted/BudgetSummary/BSS/BSS.html#pdf>

<http://www.lao.ca.gov/reports/2014/budget/spending-plan/california-spending-plan-080414.aspx>

www.sen.ca.gov

www.asm.ca.gov

www.cacities.org

www.casac.counties.org

www.calcog.org

www.acwa.com

www.igs.berkeley.edu