

Political Science 103A

California Politics

Prof. Thad Kousser
tkousser@ucsd.edu, 534-3239
Office Hours: 369 Social Science Building
11:30am-1:30pm, Tuesdays

Fall 2015
Lecture: T/Th 2:00-3:20pm, Center 119
Final: Thursday, Dec. 10th, 3-6pm

› The three texts are available for purchase at the UCSD Bookstore: William Fulton's *The Reluctant Metropolis* (Johns Hopkins, 2001), Ethan Rarick's *Governing California, Third Edition* (Berkeley Public Policy Press, 2013), and Frederick Douzet, Thad Kousser, and Kenneth Miller, *The New Political Geography of California* (Berkeley Public Policy Press, 2008).

› We have three graduate student teaching assistants for this course who are happy to share their expertise and discuss assignments with you during their office hours, which we will post on the course website.

› The course webpage located at <http://pscourses.ucsd.edu/103a/> will contain information such as lecture slides, course announcements, and study guides.

Course Assignments

- › 30% Midterm (in class on Tuesday, November 3)
- › 25% Paper (due Thursday, December 3, at the beginning of class)
- › 40% Final Exam (Thursday, December 10th, 3-6pm)
- › 5% "Section" Attendance and Participation

Class Meetings: Lectures will last from 2:00-2:50pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with 2:50-3:20pm 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 Tuesday, November 3rd, as well as a final exam on Thursday, December 10th. The exams will be closed book, and composed of identifications, short answers, and essays; I will hand out detailed study guides at least a week in advance. For the paper, due on Thursday, December 3, you will write a policy analysis of a specific piece of California legislation in 5-7 pages (I'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.

Late Assignments: They will be accepted, but penalized on the following schedule:

3% if not submitted by the time class begins but submitted by end of that day, 5% for the next calendar day, an additional 5% for each business day after that. Students will max out at a 25% reduction. I have never seen a paper improve at a rate greater than the one at which you lose points.

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. There are no regrades 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 me as soon as possible if you need to request one. (Note: I will **not** grant any extensions because stolen or damaged computers. This does happen, so you should be in the habit of using the free DropBox program or something similar to automatically back up all of your work on the cloud whenever you save it so that you never lose it).

Extra Credit. You can earn one point of extra credit toward the calculation of your final grad by completing your choice of either: 1. The Omibus Political Science Survey, a research survey in which you will be a participant and that you can complete online, or 2. Play the “Redistricting Game,” an online interactive exercise in which you draw legislative district lines and write one page about the experience. You will be emailed instructions about both options later in the quarter.

Course Outline

Part I. Political Institutions in Flux

1. Thursday, September 24th. Course Introduction.
2. Tuesday, September 29. The Progressive Movement I: Initiatives and Referenda.
 - a. Ken Miller, “Direct Democracy: The Initiative, Referendum, and Recall” *Governing California, Third Edition*
3. Thursday, October 1. Progressive Movement II: The Recall.
 - a. “Governors, Geography, and Direct Democracy,” William Chandler and Thad Kousser, *The New Political Geography of California*.
4. Tuesday, October 6th. Professionalizing the California Legislature.
 - a. Thad Kousser, “Partisan Polarization and Government Gridlock,” in *Governing California*.
5. Thursday, October 8. Term Limits and the Future of the Legislature.
 - a. Bruce Cain, Thad Kousser, and Karl Kurtz, “The Legislature: Life Under Term Limits,” in *Governing California*.
6. Tuesday, October 13. Bargaining with Governors.
 - a. Ethan Rarick, “Governors and the Executive Branch,” in *Governing California*.

- b. John Decker, "Goodbye to All That: Mending California's Budget," in *Governing California*.
- 7. Thursday, October 15. Movements and Elections in California.
 - a. William Fulton, "The Beachhead," Chapter 1 in *The Reluctant Metropolis*.
 - b. "California's Political Geography: Coast vs. Inland and Increasingly Blue," Kenneth P. Miller and Frederick Douzet, *Governing California*.
- 8. Tuesday, October 20. Primaries and Redistricting in California.
 - a. Seth Masket, "Polarization Interrupted? California's Experiment with the Top-Two Primary," in *Governing California*.
 - b. Vladimir Kogan and Eric McGhee, "Redistricting: Did Radical Reform Produce Different Results," in *Governing California*.
- 9. Thursday, October 22: Guest Lecture: Former State Sen. Denise Ducheny

Part II. The Geopolitics of Diversity

- 10. Tuesday, October 27. Diversity and Participation.
 - a. Jack Citrin, Morris Levy, and Andrea Campbell, "State of Change: Immigration Politics and the New Demography of California," in *Governing California*.
- 11. Thursday, October 29. Political Incorporation of Minority Groups.
 - a. William Fulton, "Suburbs of Extraction," Chapter 3 in *The Reluctant Metropolis*.
 - b. Urban Change and Neighborhood Politics in San Diego: A Comparative Perspective," Gerald Billard and Emmanuelle Le Texier, *The New Political Geography of California*.
- 12. Tuesday, November 3. Midterm Exam (in class, 2-3:20pm). Bring two blue books.
- 13. Thursday, November 5. Incorporation in Urban Politics: The Case of Los Angeles.
 - a. William Fulton, "Whose Riot Was This, Anyway," in *The Reluctant Metropolis*.
- 14. Tuesday, November 10. The Battle of Los Angeles II: Old and New Rainbows
 - a. Raphael J. Sonenshein and Mark H. Drayse, "The Political Geography of Coalitions in an Age of Immigration: The Case of Los Angeles," *The New Political Geography of California*.
 - b. Dan Walters, "How the New Los Angeles has Reshaped California Politics," *The New Political Geography of California*.
- 15. Thursday, November 12. Race as a Political Issue: Demographics and Initiatives.
 - a. Morris P. Fiorina and Samuel J. Abrams, "Is California Really a Blue State?" *The New Political Geography of California*.
 - b. "The San Joaquin Valley: Political Realignment and its Limits," Kenneth P. Miller and Justin Levitt, *The New Political Geography of California*.

16. Tuesday, November 17. Moving On Up to Sacramento.
 - a. William Fulton, "Perestroika Co-opted," in *The Reluctant Metropolis*.
 - b. "Has California gone Colorblind?" J. Morgan Kousser, *The New Political Geography of California*.

Part III. Perspectives on Policy.

17. Thursday, November 19. Crime and Punishment I: The System.
 - a. David A. Carrillo, "The California Judiciary," in *Governing California*.
18. Tuesday, November 23. Crime and Punishment II: Race and Crime.
 - a. "A Primer: The Impact of Three Strikes After More Than a Decade," California Legislative Analyst's Office,
http://www.lao.ca.gov/2005/3_Strikes/3_strikes_102005.pdf
19. Tuesday, December 1. The Layers of California Government.
 - a. Max Nieman, "Local Government: Designing and Financing the Cities and Counties of California," in *Governing California*.
 - b. William Fulton, "Welcome to Sales Tax Canyon," in *The Reluctant Metropolis*.
20. Thursday, December 3. Environmental Politics.
 - a. William Fulton, "Redefining Chinatown," in *The Reluctant Metropolis*.
 - b. William Fulton, "The Politics of Extinction," in *The Reluctant Metropolis*.