

Political Science 103A

California Politics

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Summer 2019
Lecture: M/W 2-4:50pm Pepper Cyn. 106
Office Hours: noon-2pm Mondays

Required Reading

- › The main textbook for this course is available for purchase at the bookstore: Ethan Rarick's *Governing California, Third Edition* (Berkeley Public Policy Press, 2013). I will also post online a copy of the "What's Next California" participants guide, and links to the other articles that we will read.
- › The course webpage, located at <https://sites.google.com/ucsd.edu/ucsd-california-politics/home>, will contain information such as lecture slides, course announcements, and assignment guides.

Course Assignments

- › 25% Constitutional Reform Debate (Wednesday, August 14th in class)
- › 15% California Budget Challenge Assignment (due Wednesday, August 21st)
- › 25% Paper (due beginning of class, Wednesday, August 28th)
- › 25% Mock Committee Hearing, (Wednesday, September 4th in class)
- › 10% Class Attendance and Participation
- › There is no final for this course

Class Meetings: Each meeting will consist of a lecture and discussion, then a break, then another lecture and discussion (or group activity). Every student needs to be prepared to discuss the readings assigned for that day, and have something to say about the subjects that we are studying. The lecture outlines on the course website include discussion questions.

Assignments: You will be evaluated both on your written assignments and your participation in an in-class debate on August 14th and on a mock committee hearing on September 4th. For the paper, due on Wednesday, August 28th, 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.

Attendance and Participation: To earn full attendance and participation points, your frequent attendance and active participation is essential. Active participation will increase your engagement, reinforce learning, and allow you to learn from each other. This class covers a variety of sensitive topics. I expect my students to be respectful of one another in class discussions and written material. I encourage students to express disagreement—in fact, we will

learn tremendously from hearing diverse perspectives. But, I expect that students will communicate their disagreement respectfully and in line with the [UCSD Principles of Community](#).

Technology. Please turn off your cell phones before coming to class. If you are expecting an important call, please tell me before class, keep your phone on vibrate, and leave quietly when you receive the call. I prefer that you do not use your laptop or tablet in class. If you feel that you must use your laptop, please be courteous to your peers and avoid looking at distracting content that is unrelated to the course.

Accessibility. Students requesting accommodations for this course due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation letter issued by the [Office for Students with Disabilities](#). Students are required to present their AFA letters to Faculty and to the OSD Liaison in the department in advance so that accommodations may be arranged.

Late Policies. Late assignments will receive a five-percentage point deduction to the grade on that assignment for each day late. Computer malfunctions are not a legitimate excuse for submitting late assignments. I recommend regularly backing up your work on Dropbox, Google Drive, an external hard drive or flash drive, or some other system to save your work. For longer assignments, you might consider saving multiple drafts and emailing them to yourself as you work.

Academic Integrity. All of your graded work must be done by you without assistance from others. Any violation of UCSD's academic integrity policy will result in failing this class. If you are unfamiliar with the University's policy on academic integrity, please familiarize yourself with the guidelines on the Office of Academic Integrity [website](#).

Basic Needs. Any student who has difficulty accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in this course, is encouraged to contact: foodpantry@ucsd.edu or basicneeds@ucsd.edu. In addition, I have a list of student resources on my website, www.zoenemerever.com, under the 'For Students' tab.

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 debate. 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.

1. Monday, August 5th. A Brief History of the California Legislature & California's Legislature and the People Who Work for It.
 - a. "What's Next California" participants guide, pages 25-35.
 - b. Bruce Cain, Thad Kousser, and Karl Kurtz, "The Legislature: Life Under Term Limits," in *Governing California*.
2. Wednesday, August 7th. Initiative Process 101 & The Politics of Major Initiative Battles

- a. “What’s Next California” participants guide, pages 5-15.
 - b. Ken Miller, “Direct Democracy: The Initiative, Referendum, and Recall” *Governing California, Third Edition*
3. Monday, August 12th. California’s Political Transformations & The New Rules of the Political Game.
 - a. “California’s Political Geography: Coast vs. Inland and Increasingly Blue,” Kenneth P. Miller and Frederick Douzet, *Governing California*.
 - b. Jack Citrin, Morris Levy, and Andrea Campbell, “State of Change: Immigration Politics and the New Demography of California,” in *Governing California*
 - c. *Potential references for Constitutional Reform Debates:*
 - i. “Redistricting: Did Radical Reform Produce Different Results?” Vlad Kogan and Eric McGhee, *Governing California*.
 - ii. “Medium Blue: Partisan Politics and Ideological Polarization in California,” Corey Cook and David Latterman, *Governing California*
 - iii. “Polarization Interrupted? California’s Experiment with the Top-Two Primary,” Seth Masket, *Governing California*.
 - iv. “Partisan Polarization and Policy Gridlock: Does One Lead to the Other?” Thad Kousser, *Governing California*.
4. Wednesday, August 14th. Constitutional Reform Debates
5. Monday, August 19th. Crime and Punishment I: The System & Crime and Punishment II: Race and Crime
 - a. “The California Judiciary: David A. Carillo” in *Governing California*.
 - b. “California’s Prison Parole Rules Might Hinge on Quiet Fight Over Ballot Measures,” John Myers, *Los Angeles Times*, May 19, 2019.
6. Wednesday, August 21st. Guest Speakers on Criminal Justice in California.
 - a. “Looking Past the Hype: 10 Questions Everyone Should Ask about California’s Prison Realignment,” Joan Petersilia and Jessica Greenlick Snyder, *California Journal of Politics and Policy*, 2013.
 - b. Please prepare one question for each speaker.
7. Monday, August 26th. Bargaining with Governors & Budget Big Picture
 - 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*.
8. Wednesday, August 28th. The Layers of Local Government & Water and Environmental Politics
 - a. “What’s Next California” participants guide, pages 47-55.
 - b. “Water: A Case Study in Federalism,” Megan Mullin, in *Governing California*.
9. Monday, September 2. Labor Day
 - a. No class!

10. Wednesday, September 4th. Mock Committee Hearing