

Political Science 103A/Urban Studies 109

California Politics

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369 Social Science Building
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 3-5pm

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Office hours to be scheduled

Lecture: Thursdays, 5-7:50pm Peterson 110

Final: Thursday, March 21, 7-10pm

Required Reading

› The three texts are available for purchase at the bookstore: William Fulton's *The Reluctant Metropolis* (Johns Hopkins, 2001), Gerald Lubenow's *Governing California, Second Edition* (Institute of Governmental Studies Press, 2006), and Frederick Douzet, Thad Kousser, and Kenneth Miller, *The New Political Geography of California* (Berkeley Public Policy Press, 2008). I will put copies of each on reserve at the library. I have also posted a copy of the "What's Next California" participants on the course website.

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

Course Assignments

- › 25% Midterm (Thursday, February 7th)
- › 30% Paper (Due Thursday, March 7th)
- › 40% Final (Thursday, March 21st, 7-10pm)
- › 5% "Section" Attendance and Participation (see below)

Class Meetings: Each meeting will consist of a lecture and discussion section, then a break, then another lecture beginning at 6:30pm and another discussion section. 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. The lecture outlines on the course website include potential discussion questions.

Assignments: There will be an in-class midterm on Thursday, February 7th, as well as a final on Thursday, March 21st. The midterm will be closed book, and composed of identifications, short answers, and an essay. The final will be similar in format, and comprehensive. For the paper, due on Thursday, March 7th, you will write a policy analysis of a specific piece of California legislation in 5-7 pages (We'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.

Grade Changes and Extensions: All requests for grade changes must be made in writing, to Prof. Kousser, 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 Prof. Kousser as soon as possible if you need to request one. (Note: We 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 to automatically back up all of your work on the cloud whenever you save it so that you never lose it).

Part I. Political Institutions in Flux

1. Thursday, January 10, “Course Introduction” (Kousser) & “The State of the State Constitution” (Kousser)
2. Thursday, January 17, “Initiatives and Referendums” (Kousser) & “Direct Democracy Realities and Reform” (Fletcher)
 - a. “What’s Next California” participants guide, pages 5-12.
 - b. Eugene Lee, “Direct Democracy: Initiative, Referendum, and Recall,” in *Governing California*.
3. Thursday, January 24th “Professionalizing the California Legislature” (Kousser) & “Term Limits and the Future of the Legislature” (Kousser and Fletcher)
 - a. “What’s Next California” participants guide, pages 25-35.
 - b. Patrick Johnston, “The Changing Legislative Landscape,” in *Governing California*.
 - c. Bruce Cain, Thad Kousser, and Karl Kurtz, “California: A Professional Legislature After Term Limits,” in *Governing California*.
4. Thursday, January 31st. “Bargaining with Governors: Textbook View” (Kousser) & “Bargaining with Governors: Experiences with Two Administrations” (Fletcher)
 - a. John Jacobs and A.G. Block, “The Governor: Managing a Mega-State,” in *Governing California*.
 - b. John Decker, “Resolving Differences and Crafting Compromise: Creating a Budget for California,” in *Governing California*.
 - c. “Governors, Geography, and Direct Democracy,” William Chandler and Thad Kousser, *The New Political Geography of California*, (**only read starting from “Schwarzenegger in the Role of Governor” onward**)
5. Thursday, February 7th. Midterm Exam: 5:15-6:45pm

Part II: California’s Elections and its Changing Electorate

6. Thursday, February 14th. “The Nuts and Bolts of California Campaigns” (Fletcher) & “Reform and California Campaigns” (Kousser)
 - a. William Fulton, “The Beachhead,” Chapter 1 in *The Reluctant Metropolis*.
 - b. “The Partisan East-West Divide,” Kenneth P. Miller and Frederick Douzet, *The New Political Geography of California*.

- c. J. Morgan Kousser, "Redistricting," in *Governing California*.
7. Thursday, February 21st. "Immigration and the Changing Electorate" (Kousser) & "The Political and Policy Implications of the New California" (Fletcher)
 - a. Jack Citrin, "Immigration," in *Governing California*.
 - b. William Fulton, "Suburbs of Extraction," Chapter 3 in *The Reluctant Metropolis*.
 - c. Urban Change and Neighborhood Politics in San Diego: A Comparative Perspective," Gerald Billard and Emmanuelle Le Texier, *The New Political Geography of California*.
 8. Wednesday, February 28th. "Race as a Political Issue: Wedge Initiatives" (Kousser) & "The Role of Media and the Rules of Engagement" (Fletcher)
 - a. "The San Joaquin Valley: Political Realignment and its Limits," Kenneth P. Miller and Justin Levitt, *The New Political Geography of California*.
 - b. Morris P. Fiorina and Samuel J. Abrams, "Is California Really a Blue State?" *The New Political Geography of California*.
 - c. 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*.

Part III. Perspectives on Policy.

9. Thursday, March 7th. "The Layers of California Government" (Fletcher and Kousser) & "Environmental Politics"
 - a. "What's Next California" participants guide, pages 47-54.
 - b. William Fulton, "Welcome to Sales Tax Canyon," in *The Reluctant Metropolis*.
 - c. William Fulton, "Redefining Chinatown," in *The Reluctant Metropolis*.
 - d. William Fulton, "The Politics of Extinction," in *The Reluctant Metropolis*.
10. Thursday, March 14th "Brief History of Crime and Punishment in California" (Kousser) & "How Criminal Justice Policy is Made" (Fletcher)
 - 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
 - b. Proposition 36 Analysis <http://vig.cdn.sos.ca.gov/2012/general/pdf/36-title-summ-analysis.pdf> and Ballot Arguments
<http://vig.cdn.sos.ca.gov/2012/general/pdf/36-arg-rebuttals.pdf>