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Course Outline for POLI 12

INTRODUCTION TO CALIFORNIA STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Effective: Fall 2018

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

POLI 12 — INTRODUCTION TO CALIFORNIA STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT — 3.00 units

Organization and operation of government and politics at the state, county and municipal level; emphasis on current issues and the influences of historical, geographical, political, economic and social factors on public policy.

3.00 Units Lecture

Strongly Recommended

- Eligibility for ENG 1A -

Grading Methods:

Letter or P/NP

Discipline:

- Political Science

	MIN
Lecture Hours:	54.00
Total Hours:	54.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

Before entering this course, it is strongly recommended that the student should be able to:

- A. -Eligibility for ENG 1A
 1. Use strategies to assess a text's difficulty, purpose, and main idea prior to the act of reading
 2. Annotate a text during the act of reading
 3. Employ strategies that enable a critical evaluation of a text
 4. Respond critically to a text through class discussions and writing
 5. Use concepts of paragraph and essay structure and development to analyze his/her own and others' essays
 6. Write effective summaries of texts that avoid wording and sentence structure of the original
 7. Respond to texts drawing on personal experience and other texts
 8. Organize coherent essays around a central idea or a position
 9. Apply structural elements in writing that are appropriate to the audience and purpose
 10. Provide appropriate and accurate evidence to support positions and conclusions
 11. Produce written work that reflects academic integrity and responsibility, particularly when integrating the exact language and ideas of an outside text into one's own writing
 12. Utilize effective grammar recall to check sentences for correct grammar and mechanics
 13. Proofread his/her own and others' prose

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- A. Explain the founding and development of U.S. Constitution and federalism
- B. Identify and evaluate institutions, political processes and making of public policy within the State and municipalities
- C. Discuss and analyze contemporary political issues and operations in the California and Municipalities
- D. Analyze the role of culture, diversity and ideology in shaping public opinion and public policy in California and Municipalities
- E. Analyze how to effectively participate in politics at the State, county, and/or city levels

V. CONTENT:

- A. Founding and development of the U.S. Constitution relating to federalism and its evolution and impact on California
 1. Process of amending and interpreting the U.S. Constitution within the California Constitution
 2. Direct vs Indirect Democracy
- B. The theory and practice of federalism
 1. History of federalism
 2. Federal and state relations
 3. Conflicts and resolution between federal and state governments.
 4. Intergovernmental relations of State and Local governments and politics
 - a. Historical patterns and influence of state affairs on local governments and politics;

- b. Contemporary patterns and influence of state, city, county, special and regional governments;
 - c. Role and responsibilities
 - d. Historical patterns and influence of national affairs on state, city, county, special and regional governments politics and public policies;
 - e. Contemporary patterns and influence of national and state affairs on city, municipal, regional governments and special districts.
- C. Contemporary operations within the United States, of California and Municipal political institutions and processes, including
 - 1. California State Constitution and establishment of local charters
 - 2. Executive, legislative and judicial branches of government and nongovernmental institutions
 - 3. Development of local governmental structures, institutions, and political processes,
 - a. mayors and city managers; councils and Board of Supervisors; judiciaries; bureaucracies, special districts
 - 4. Making of public policy
 - 5. Area-wide governments: Regional governments; intergovernmental, and special districts;
 - 6. Selected governmental agencies; i.e. bureaucracies, commissions, grand juries;
 - 7. budgetary process, taxing, revenue sources, spending and setting priorities at the state, city, county, special and regional governments
 - 8. Budgets, taxing and spending policies; ;
 - 9. Urban redevelopment, tax policies, and land use and zoning;
 - 10. Domestic and economic issues and policies
 - 11. Development and implementation and enforcement of public policy at state, city, county, special and regional governments
 - 12. California State Constitution and establishment of local charters
- D. Rights and liberties of individuals as articulated in the U.S. Constitution and federal court decisions affecting California
 - 1. U.S. and State Constitution and Bill of Rights
 - 2. Judicial processes, interpretation, review, and activism
 - 3. Historical and contemporary struggles
- E. Historical and contemporary operations of California state and local political institutions within the framework of federal-state relations
 - 1. California Constitution; development of California's political institutions and processes of State and Municipal governments
 - a. Executive
 - b. Legislative
 - c. Judicial
 - d. Bureaucracies
 - 2. Unique characteristics of politics and government
 - 3. Structure of the community: i.e. state, city, county, municipal and regional governments; California politics and government
- F. Individual and group political behavior of Americans and Californians within the framework established by the U.S., and California Constitutions, and Municipalities, such as
 - 1. Representative v. propositions, referendums, and recalls; district v. at large elections
 - 2. Election and appointment process of state, city, county, special and regional governments;
 - 3. Role and responsibilities of leaders, public officials, governmental institutions, "interest groups", and citizens;
 - 4. Role and responsibilities of political parties and the media;
- G. Factors that shape politics and policymaking including the influence of diversity, political culture, political socialization, political ideologies, and public opinion
 - 1. Political ideas and approaches to governments, politics, and processes;
 - 1. Ideology from historical context relating to California's unique political, cultural, psychological, social, economic, influence on public policy, governmental institutions, politics, and processes.
 - 2. Lawmaking and public policy implementation process at state, city, county, special and regional governments;
 - 3. intergovernmental relations within national, state, and local governments and in the process of state, city, county, special and regional governments;
- H. Involvement in the political processes of California's unique multicultural history experiences and contributions from ethnic cultures other than their own
 - a. Leaders, public officials, and citizens' role
 - b. Representation of culture, social, economic, and political impact of the ethnic groups in California Politics and Society
 - c. History and background of groups in California politics include, but not limited to
 - 1. Native (California) Americans – from traditional political societies to Spanish Missions to "Sovereignty" and self-reliance;
 - 2. European Americans – from Russia's Fort Ross to early Europe-American fur traders and settlers to the Bear Flag Revolt to the Gold Rush to the present
 - 3. Mexican Americans – from Spanish migration to legal and illegal immigration to "Chicano culture" to the 'silent majority' to the diversity of State's Latino population
 - 4. Asian Americans – from early immigration patterns and forced labor to present day diversity of State's Asian population
 - 5. African American – from U.S. Constitution's "Runaway Slave Provision" to the 1850 California State Constitution's "Fugitive Slave Act" to WWII to present day influence
 - 6. Ethnic identity and pride
 - 7. Political, social, cultural, and economic issues
 - 8. Relations between ethnic groups
 - 9. Issues of immigration and migration to policies of affirmative action
 - 10. Assimilation versus cultural uniqueness
 - 11. Open ("colorblind") society
 - 12. Differences and similarities in perceptions and values between various ethnic groups
 - 13. What ethnic groups bring to California society

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. Primary and secondary readings and internet assignments
- B. **Lecture** - Formal and informal lecture.
- C. **Guest Lecturers** - per instructor
- D. **Student Presentations** - per instructor
- E. Role playing simulations
- F. **Projects** - Research project and/or Oral presentation
- G. **Discussion** - Seminars and class discussions
- H. **Audio-visual Activity** - Use of appropriate audio-video media
 - I. **Field Trips** - Excursions to state/local government offices, field trips (some optional)
 - J. **Research** - Research paper, per instructor

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Reading from handouts and text:
 - 1. Analyze the historical and political issues of immigration and immigration policies influencing California politics
 - 2. Analyze the similarities and difference between a city, a county, and a special district.
- B. Writing assignments

1. Research and compare and contrast two political parties in California.
 2. Research the most recent census data for your city or county and compare the statistics for your local area to those for the state of California. Analyze the results.
 3. Compare and contrast the powers of the Assembly Speaker and Senate President Pro-Tem. How have these powers changed over the years? To what extent do they reflect the personalities of those who hold them?
- C. Class discussion
1. "In California the most important policy decisions are made by the voters, not by elected officials"; what is the meaning of this quote? Is it less or more significant today than in the past?
 2. Discuss campaign techniques in State (local) elections. Which techniques are most important in State (local) and why?
 3. Discuss the pro's and con's of term limits. What is the effect on the selection of legislators and the legislative process?
 4. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of district versus at-large city council elections
- D. Small group discussions
1. Discuss the historical and contemporary significance of party organizations on State (local) politics and government
 2. Discuss: "Weak political parties enhance the influence of interest groups in California politics." Consider how group power in California would be affected by stronger political parties.
 3. Should judges be elected or approved by the voters? Does this make them too political? Would judges appointed for life terms, like the members of the U.S. Supreme Court be better? How?
 4. Discuss the state's (local) major sources of revenues and expenditures; what is the role of voters in the budget making process.
- E. Research Project/ Presentation
1. Select your (an) elected state/local representative, researching his/her election, including campaign policy positions, contributions, etc, connecting his/her legislative voting record, public positions, to assess objective, rational, motivation, and influences within the political process....
- F. Field Trips
1. State Capitol; City Council and/or Board of Supervisors meetings; California Supreme Court

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

1. Exams/Tests
2. Quizzes
3. Research Projects
4. Papers
5. Oral Presentation
6. Projects
7. Field Trips
8. Group Projects
9. Class Participation
10. Class Work
11. Home Work

B. **Frequency**

1. Minimum of two midterms and final.
2. Oral presentations per instructor.
3. Weekly home work reading assignments.
4. Tests/quizzes per instructor.
5. Research papers/projects, per instructor.
6. Written assignments and class assignments, per instructor.
7. Class and group participation and projects per instructor
8. Field trips (i.e. state capitol) per instructor.

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Gerston, Larry, and Terry Christensen. *California Politics and Government: A Practical Approach*. 14th ed., Thomson Wadsworth Publishing, 2018.
2. Lawrence, David . *California: The Politics of Diversity*. 9th ed., Thomson Wadsworth, 2017.
3. Field, Mona. *California Government and Politics Today*. 15th ed., Pearson, 2018.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:

- A. Green books
- B. Original source documents, case studies and daily news sources
- C. Scantrons