Catalog Description
This course examines the U.S. Constitution, the U.S. system of governments and the ideas and values on which they are based. Fulfills state code requirements for U.S. Constitution and California State and Local Government. Students who believe they have a good fundamental knowledge of the institutions of American Government are encouraged to consider a designated upper division course to fulfill the state requirement. 3 units.

Course Description:
This lecture and discussion course covers the principles and problems of government, with emphasis on the national government and California state government. Main topics include the U.S. Constitution, federalism, political parties, interest groups, elections, civil liberties, and civil rights. This course is part of the Liberal Studies elementary subject matter program for students who are preparing to become K-8 teachers in California. Government 1 provides important subject matter study in the history/social science portion of the curriculum.

Course Goals:
In this course, students will:
- Understand the values that influenced the colonists to separate from England
- Understand the purposes of the Framers of the Constitution.
- Learn the theory of federalism and its contemporary relevance
- Understand the basic structure and processes of the federal and California political systems and how the two systems are similar and dissimilar.
- Understand the role that political parties and interest groups play in U.S. politics
- Understand elections and the issues surrounding participation in politics
- Understand the history and importance of civil rights and civil liberties
- Analyze and discuss a variety of writings covering differing viewpoints on U.S. politics and government.
- Comprehend the diversity that exists in the US and California.
- Recognize the contributions of women and various ethnic groups in the US and California.
- Understand the different avenues that citizens have for influencing the government.
Texts:
The following books are required and are available for purchase at the bookstore.


Other *required* readings will be available on LOCUS.

Course Requirements:

Online Access: All students will have to access handouts and readings through LOCUS. For this, you need internet access and a password (which will be provided the first day of class). If you do not have internet access at home, then plan to spend an hour or two at an on-campus lab per week.

Attendance: Regular attendance is a must to make this class worthwhile. Students are responsible for all that goes on during every class. Please arrive on time and leave when class is dismissed. Remember to turn off cell phones.

Quizzes, Written Responses, and Short Assignments: It is important for class discussion that students read and think about the assigned materials before class. We will have occasional short quizzes or written responses to questions on the readings to turn in. There will also be related short assignments for students to complete. There will be no make-ups for missed in-class quizzes.

Exams: There will be five multiple-choice exams. See the schedule below for dates. Make-ups will be allowed only for exceptional circumstances.

Essays: Students will write two short take-home essays. The essays will be written to answer a specific question, which will be distributed in class. Further guidelines will be provided to supplement the description here.

The essay is not a research paper. Instead of looking up other sources, you must make use of the course readings and lectures in the essays. The papers should be thoughtful, well organized, and contain a clear thesis. Papers will be graded primarily on substance, including how well the essay answers the question. However, sloppiness, disorganization, and poor use of grammar will result in a lower grade. There is a Writing Center on campus that can help you with your writing assignments. You can make appointments for one-on-one sessions with tutors at the Writing Center in room 128, Calaveras Hall.

Only typewritten essays will be accepted. Papers should be double-spaced. A typical font and size (for example, Times Roman 12 pt) should be used. Avoid fancy fonts. All margins should be one inch wide. Only paper copies will be accepted. Do not email assignments or turn in a disk.
Grades:
The breakdown of the final grades is as follows:
- Attendance: 25 points
- Quizzes/Short Assignments: 100 points
- Exams: 5 x 25 = 125 points
- Essays: 100 points (50 points each)

Grades: A = 94%+; A- = 90%; B+ = 88%; B = 84%; B- = 80%; C+ = 78%, and so on.

Other important information:
Incomplete: Incompletes will be given only under exceptional circumstances. Incompletes will not be considered for students earning less than a C- in the class at the time of the request.

Academic Honesty: Beware of plagiarism and cheating. The work you turn in must be your own. The words of others as well as their ideas and facts that are not common knowledge must be properly attributed to the source. Any work that is plagiarized in any way for this class will receive an "F." Any work on which a student has cheated or in any way turned in work that is not his/her own will receive an "F" (0 points). More than one instance of plagiarism or cheating will lead to an F in the course. All instances of plagiarism and cheating will be reported to Student Affairs.

News and information: This is not a course in current events, although current events will be integrated into the class. Students will get much more out of the class, however, if they pay attention to the news. There are many possible news sources in print, on the radio, on the television, and via the Internet. The CSUS library carries major newspapers, and some major newspapers are available online for free, such as the Los Angeles Times at www.latimes.com, the New York Times at www.nytimes.com, and the Washington Post at www.washingtonpost.com. CNN is available online as well at www.cnn.com. Local and national news by NPR can be heard on KXJZ 88.9 FM in the mornings and afternoons, and the Newshour with Jim Lehrer is on the PBS station KVIE (Channel 6) 6-7 p.m. M-F. The Sacramento Bee is available online at www.sacbee.com.

Also: I welcome emailed questions. I regularly check my email M-F. However, I do not accept emailed assignments.
Course Schedule

Week 1: Jan. 23, 25, 27
Introduction and Historical Background
(From colonies to independence)
Readings: · Fiorina, et al. chapter 1, Declaration of Independence (appendix)

Week 2: January 30, February 21, 3
The U.S. Constitution: Historical Context and Principles
(Articles of Confederation and reasons for Constitutional Convention; influences in the writing of the Constitution, including philosophical influences, the Iroquois Federation, and differences between states)
Readings: · Fiorina, et al. chapter 2
· U.S. Constitution (in appendix, Fiorina, et al.; also on LOCUS)

Quiz on the Constitution: February 3

Week 3: Feb. 6, 8, 10
The U.S. Constitution: Constitutional Design
(Including principles of separation of powers and checks and balances, and federalism)
Readings: · LOCUS (Readings): Federalist 10, Federalist 47, Federalist 48, Federalist 51, Marbury v. Madison
· LOCUS (Readings): Jack Rakove, “A Tradition Born of Strife,” Constitution 7, no. 1, 4-10

Week 4: Feb. 13, 15, 17
Federalism: National and State Government
Readings: · Fiorina, et al., chapter 3
· LOCUS (Readings): Federalist 39; McCulloch v. Maryland

Exam #1: February 17

Week 5: Feb. 20, 22, 24
U.S. Government Institutions Today: the Three Branches
The Legislative Branch
Readings: · Fiorina, et al., chapter 9
· LOCUS: Handout on Congress
· www.house.gov; www.senate.gov
Week 6: February 27, March 1, 3
The Executive Branch: The Presidency and the Bureaucracy
Readings: · Fiorina, et al., chapters 10 & 11
· LOCUS: Federalist 70
LOCUS (links): “Expanding Executive Power Via Signing Statements” (January 11, 2006) npr
· www.whitehouse.gov

Week 7: Mar. 6, 8, 10
The Judicial Branch
Readings: · Fiorina, et al. chapter 12
· LOCUS (Readings): Federalist 78
· LOCUS (links): www.supremecourtus.gov; www.law.cornell.edu

Exam #2: March 10

Spring Break

Week 8: Mar. 20, 22, 24
Civil Liberties
· LOCUS: Near v. Minnesota; Fred Friendly; Gideon v. Wainwright
· LOCUS (links): “Domestic Spying Draws Legal Challenge” (January 18, 2005), npr
· LOCUS (links): “CONINTELPRO and the History of Domestic Spying,” (January 18, 2006), npr

Week 9: Mar. 27, 29 (31 is Cesar Chavez Holiday)
Civil Rights
· LOCUS (links): “UFW Oral Histories,” (September 1, 2002) npr

Week 10: April 3, 5, 7
Civil Rights, continued
Readings: · LOCUS (Readings): Brown v. Board of Education
· LOCUS (Readings): Daisy Bates, “Memories of Segregation,” Crisis (October 1997)

Eyes on the Prize I video shown in class: “Fighting Back” (part 2)

Exam #3: April 7
Week 11: April 10, 12, 14  
**Participation and Elections**  
**Readings:**  
· Fiorina, et al. chapters 6 and 7  
· LOCUS (Readings): Micah Sifry, “Finding the Lost Voters,” *The American Prospect* 11, no. 6 (January 21, 2000)  
· LOCUS (links): www.vote-smart.org

Week 12: April 17, 19, 21  
**Political Parties and Interest Groups**  
**Readings:**  
· Fiorina, et al., chapter 8 and 4  
· LOCUS: Handout on parties, news article on lobbying scandal  
· LOCUS (links): web sites of political parties

Week 13: April 24, 26, 28  
**The Media and Public Opinion**  
**Readings:**  
· Fiorina, et al: chapters 5  
· LOCUS: Handout on Media  

Exam #4: April 28

Week 14: May 1, 3, 5  
**California Government**  
**Readings:**  
· Gerston and Christensen  
· LOCUS: California News articles; www.ca.gov

Week 15: May 8, 10, 12  
**Final Thoughts on California Government and Review**  
**Readings:**  
· Gerston and Christensen

Quiz

Finals Week: May 19-23:  
Section 2 (MWF 9) Final exam is on Friday, *May 19, 8-10 a.m.*  
Section 3 (MWF 10) Final exam is on Monday, *May 15, 10:15-12:15*