

AMERICAN & CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CHALLENGE EXAMS

U.S. CONSTITUTION AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENT-INCLUDING CALIFORNIA (EXAM FOR POLS 1) CALIFORNIA STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (EXAM FOR POLS 180)

The Department of Political Science offers two challenge examinations. The first examination fulfills the state requirements for proficiency and knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, National Government, **and** California State and Local Government. The second examination **only** fulfills the state requirements for proficiency and knowledge of California's constitution and government. Both waiver exams are administered by Sacramento State's Department of Political Science to any currently enrolled CSUS student who wishes to demonstrate proficiency instead of through classes.

*These waiver examinations do not constitute a challenge to the actual courses. Successful passage of the exam satisfies the American Institution's government requirement only, no grades or units are awarded. **Political Science majors cannot take the challenge exams.** POLS 1 or POLS 150 (or their equivalent) is required for the major.*

Exam Scheduling

There are no specific dates for these exams. Examinations are scheduled on an individual basis through Sac State's Testing Center. Results will be emailed to students usually within 2 weeks of taking the exam, although this may vary. Questions about the exam itself should be directed to Professor Wesley Hussey at whussey@csus.edu

Suggested Reading List

A thorough reading of one of the texts below plus the additional readings should be adequate preparation for most students. Text editions should be no more than 4 or 5 years old.

- **United State National Government (includes U.S. Constitution and California Government)**

The challenge examination for American National Government covers American political and Constitutional history, federalism, civil liberties, political parties, elections, interest groups, the three branches of government at the national level as well as the bureaucracy.

- Bianco and Cannon, *American Politics Today*, 5th edition
- Barbour and Wright, *Keeping the Republic*, 8th edition (**Suggested**)

Additional reading: Federalist Papers #10, 15, 51, 78. Brutus, Anti-Federalist #1. (These can be found on the Internet)

- **California State and Local Government**

The challenge examination solely for California State and Local Government encompasses political and state Constitutional history, political parties and interest groups, elections, direct democracy, California's three branches of government, and local government.

- Gerston, *California Politics & Government*, 14th edition.
- Lawrence and Cummins, *California: The Politics of Diversity*, 9th edition (**Suggested**)

