

AMERICAN & CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CHALLENGE EXAMS

The Department of Political Science offers two different challenge examinations; students need to only take one to fulfill the necessary requirement(s).

National and State Government Exam (*for most students*): Satisfies the American Institutions (AI) requirements for knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, National Government, and California State and Local Government.

State Government Exam: Only satisfies the American Institutions (AI) requirements for knowledge of California's state and local governments. *This is for students who have passed the AP U.S. Government exam in high school but still need to complete the state and local government exam or for students who took a U.S. Government college course in another state that did not have a California state and local government component.*

- Only currently enrolled Sacramento State students can take the exam and can only take it once.
 - Each exam is a 90-minute exam comprised of 100 multiple-choice questions. A passing score is correctly answering 60 or more questions.
- No grades or units are awarded for passing the exams.
- Political Science majors cannot take the challenge exam
 - POLS I or 150 (or their equivalent) are required for the major.

Exam Scheduling: Exams are scheduled on an individual basis by contacting the Department Chair, Dr. James Cox, at jhcox@csus.edu.

Suggested Reading List

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

This exam 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. Students should thoroughly read one of the following textbooks as well one of the California readings:

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

This exam encompasses political and state Constitutional history, political parties and interest groups, elections, direct democracy, California's three branches of government, and local government. Students should thoroughly read on the following textbooks:

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

