**DRAFT Fellows Seminar Schedule as of September 2025**

*This is a living syllabus, subject to change.*

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| **Week** | **Date** | **Topic** | **Reading** | **Assignment** |
| 1 | September 12  9 am – 5 pm | Foundation: Introductions, salutations, expectations, public service and memo writing | California Politics – A Primer (all)  Water articles (emailed)  Legislative Analyst’s Office’s [Cal Facts](https://lao.ca.gov/reports/2018/3905/calfacts-2018.pdf) (2018). You don’t have to memorize every data point in Cal Facts, but take a look at all of it, especially the section on finances (pages 12-19) and education (pages 22-32) | **Reflection Memo #1 due** |
| 2 | September 19 | Peculiarities of California governance | [California Voter and Party Profiles](https://www.ppic.org/publication/california-voter-and-party-profiles/) (PPIC 2021)  [California’s Likely Voters](https://www.ppic.org/publication/californias-likely-voters/) (PPIC 2021)  [The Political Views of Young Californians](https://www.ppic.org/publication/the-political-views-of-young-californians/) (PPIC 2024) |  |
| 3 | September 26 | **No seminar** |  |  |
| 4 | October 3 | **No seminar** |  |  |
| 5 | October 10 | Peculiarities of California governance (cont’d) | [Political Reform and Moderation in California’s Legislature: Did Electoral Reforms Make State Representatives More Moderate?](https://www.ppic.org/publication/political-reform-and-moderation-in-californias-legislature-did-electoral-reforms-make-state-representatives-moderate/) (PPIC 2018 all)  [California’s Future](https://www.ppic.org/publication/californias-future/) (PPIC 2021) |  |

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| 6 | October 17 | California budget & finances – California budget | [Development of Modern Budgeting](https://dof.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/352/budget/budget-analyst-guide/history.pdf) (California Department of Finance) – It is *recommended* that you read all of it, but it is only *required* that you read from “The Executive Budget Movement” to the end of the article (bottom of page 15 to 23).  [California’s Budget Process](https://dof.ca.gov/budget/californias-budget-process/)  [Budget Process flowchart](https://dof.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/352/budget/budget-analyst-guide/budenact.pdf)  [California’s State Budget: The Governor’s Proposal](https://www.ppic.org/publication/californias-state-budget/) (PPIC has not published one for this year’s budget)  [The 2024‑25 Budget: Multiyear Budget Outlook](https://lao.ca.gov/Publications/Report/4907) – (LAO 2024)  [Governor’s State Budget](https://lao.ca.gov/Publications/Detail/4827) (I don’t expect you to read, let alone memorize, every page. Just review the overall trends)  [California’s Tax System: A Visual Guide](https://lao.ca.gov/reports/2018/3805/ca-tax-system-041218.pdf) (yes, I know, it’s from 2015, but trust me, little has changed) |  |
| 7 | October 24 | **No seminar** |  |  |
| 8 | October 31 | California budget & finances – Local government finances | California [Budget Challenge](http://www.budgetchallenge.org/pages/budget_overview) (Click through each page linked on the left. **Do not take the challenge**. | **Reflection Memo #2 due** |

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| 9 | November 7 | California budget & finances – School finances  Meltzer/Schwartz: Introduction | [School Resources and the Local Control Formula](https://www.ppic.org/publication/school-resources-and-the-local-control-funding-formula-is-increased-spending-reaching-high-need-students/) (yes, I know, it’s from 2019, but trust me, little has changed) |  |
| 10 | November 14 | Meltzer/Schwartz: Chapters 1 & 2 | Both chapters in their entirety | **Problem Memo due**  **Discussion Leads:**  **Anaya, Mendoza Partida** |
| 11 | November 21 | Meltzer/Schwartz: Chapters 3 & 4 | Both chapters in their entirety | **Discussion Leads:**  **Cruz Rodriguez, Donner** |
| 12 | November 28 | **No seminar** |  |  |
| 13 | December 5 | Meltzer/Schwartz: Chapters 5 & 6 | Both chapters in their entirety | **Discussion Leads:**  **Ansell, Caniban** |
| 14 | December 12 | Meltzer/Schwartz: Chapters 7 & 8 | Both chapters in their entirety | **Discussion Leads:**  **Schwartz, Cruz** |