

**POSC 173**  
**GOVERNMENT & POLITICS OF CALIFORNIA**  
Summer 2011, Session II

Instructor: Martin Johnson  
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TA: Carrie Skulley  
Department of Political Science  
Office Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 9:30-11:00 a.m. and by appointment

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**Required Reading**

Most readings for the course will be available via links provided through course site at [ilearn.ucr.edu](http://ilearn.ucr.edu).  
Some readings will be available ON RESERVE at Rivera Library.

**Course Requirements**

Class attendance and participation	10%
Section	10%
Midterm exam	20%
Term paper proposal	5%
Term paper	25%
Final examination	30%

**Course Description**

This is an examination of the political process of California with particular attention paid to both electoral and legislative politics and the contribution they make to the issue of democratic governance under conditions of social diversity.

My primary objective for you is that you will leave the class with a greater knowledge and understanding of the workings of California government, and a sufficient background to begin your own interaction with it – as an activist, public servant, journalist, or voter.

My office hours are listed at the top of this syllabus. Please do not hesitate to come by during these scheduled times or contact me to schedule an appointment.

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*Notes*

Students with permanent and temporary disabilities should contact me to discuss arrangements, as well as contact Services for Students with Disabilities to request services.

All late papers will be graded, but with a 1/3 letter-grade reduction with each day it is late. Any paper that is turned in will receive partial credit.

Any student who plagiarizes, cheats, or fabricates data will receive no credit for the spoiled assignment. All cases will be referred to the Student Conduct and Academic Integrity Programs office.

### **Class Attendance and participation**

You are required to attend class and all of each class meeting. I will call roll every day and note your arrival and departure times if you join us late or leave early. You may miss all or part of two class meetings (the equivalent of entire week of classes) without penalty. Beyond that, you will be penalized one percent of your course grade for each class or portion missed. This is not negotiable; use your two excused absences wisely.

### **Section**

You will also participate in a section meeting each week with Ms. Skulley. She will develop a curriculum that complements the lectures and readings for the class and evaluate your participation and performance in those section meetings.

### **Term paper and proposal**

You will write an 8-10 page paper on an issue California confronts, either exploring the contours of the problem and how media discusses it or a potential solution. The paper will be due on the last day of class, by 5 p.m. August 25. I will offer a more guidance on this as the session progresses, but you will have two main options:

- Compare media coverage of an issue, contrasting how the issue is discussed by mainstream newspapers (e.g., *Los Angeles Times*) versus how it is discussed by bloggers and other on-line sources of information. A particularly strong paper would contrast partisan and mainstream news sources.
- Propose a solution to a problem facing California today. This will require you to identify a problem (and defend that it is a problem using evidence) and indicate that the solution proposed directly addresses the problem identified.

In order to help you take full advantage of this paper and to get a substantial head start, I would like each of you to propose your topic in a 2-page memorandum due **Thursday, August 4**, in class. This memorandum will explain which of these directions you would like to take, offer preliminary insights, and list several sources you intend to incorporate. Based on your proposal, Ms. Skulley and I can make suggestions aimed at helping you with the literature review.

### **Examinations**

You will also complete two examinations. The mid-term exam is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 10, in class**. If you are unable to take the mid-term exam at the scheduled time, you may schedule an alternate time by contacting me **prior to** the scheduled exam time and providing appropriate original-copies documentation (medical, military, etc.) for your inability to take the exam at the scheduled time. Scheduling a makeup exam is your responsibility. I will consider extreme medical emergencies, again with complete original documentation.

The final exam will have a similar but longer format. It will be cumulative. It is scheduled for **Friday, August 26, 1-3 p.m.**

**Course Schedule**Setting the stage

July 25 (M) Course introduction and a discussion of academic integrity

July 26 (Tu) California political history; U.S. context

Mathews, Joe, and Mark Paul. 2010. *California Crack-up: How Reform Broke the Golden State and How We Can Fix It*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. Ch. 2. pp. 16-34; <http://ilearn.ucr.edu>.

July 27 (W) Grim diagnosis for California

Korey, John L. 2011. "California: A Failed State or Too Big to Fail?" *California Journal of Politics and Policy*, 3(2): Article 4. <http://www.bepress.com/cjpp/vol3/iss2/4>; <http://ilearn.ucr.edu>.

Mathews, Joe, and Mark Paul. 2010. *California Crack-up: How Reform Broke the Golden State and How We Can Fix It*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. Ch. 1. pp. 7-15; <http://ilearn.ucr.edu>.

California people politics

July 28 (Th) Public attention to and opinions about California government

McGhee, Eric. 2010. "How Much Does the Public Know about the State Budget, and Does it Matter?" *California Journal of Politics and Policy*, 2(3): Article 6. <http://www.bepress.com/cjpp/vol2/iss3/6>; <http://ilearn.ucr.edu>.

Baldassare, Mark, Dean Bonner, Sonja Petek, and Jui Shrestha. 2011. *Californians and Their Government, May 2011*. San Francisco, CA: Public Policy Institute of California. <http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=981>; <http://ilearn.ucr.edu>.

Aug. 1 (M) Partisanship in California

Lascher, Edward L., Jr., and John L. Korey. 2011. "The Myth of the Independent Voter, California Style." *California Journal of Politics and Policy*, 3(1): Article 2. <http://www.bepress.com/cjpp/vol3/iss1/2>; <http://ilearn.ucr.edu>.

Kousser, Thad. 2009. "How Geopolitics Cleaved California's Republicans and United Its Democrats." *California Journal of Politics and Policy*, 1(1): Article 4. <http://www.bepress.com/cjpp/vol1/iss1/4>; <http://ilearn.ucr.edu>.

Aug. 2 (Tu) Civic engagement

Ramakrishnan, S. Karthick, and Mark Baldassare. 2004. *The Ties That Bind: Changing Demographics and Civic Engagement in California*. San Francisco, CA: Public Policy Institute of California. <http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=410>; <http://ilearn.ucr.edu>. ch. 2-4. pp. 9-46.

Aug. 3 (W) Immigration

Ramakrishnan, S. Karthick, and Mark Baldassare. 2004. *The Ties That Bind: Changing Demographics and Civic Engagement in California*. San Francisco, CA: Public Policy Institute of California. <http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=410>; <http://ilearn.ucr.edu>. ch. 5-6. pp. 47-80.

Bohn, Sarah. 2009. *New Patterns of Immigrant Settlement in California*. San Francisco, CA: Public Policy Institute of California. <http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=812>; <http://ilearn.ucr.edu>. pp. 6-21.

- Aug. 4 (Th) Immigration as a political issue in California  
 Branton, Regina P., and Johanna Dunaway. 2009. "Spatial Proximity to the US-Mexico Border and Local News Coverage of Immigration Issues." *Political Research Quarterly* 62(2):289-302.; <http://ilearn.ucr.edu>.  
 McGhee, Eric M., and Neiman, Max. 2010. "Concern over Immigration and Support for Public Services." *California Journal of Politics and Policy*, 2(1): Article 2. <http://www.bepress.com/cjpp/vol2/iss1/2>; <http://ilearn.ucr.edu>

Term paper proposal due in class

California institutions

- Aug. 8 (M) The California Legislature  
 DeBow, Ken, and John C. Syer. 2006. *Power and Politics in California*, 8<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Pearson Longman. Ch. 7. pp. 147-170. **ON RESERVE**  
 Kousser, Thad B. 2010. "Does Partisan Polarization Lead to Policy Gridlock in California?" *California Journal of Politics and Policy*: 2(2): Article 4. <http://www.bepress.com/cjpp/vol2/iss2/4>; <http://ilearn.ucr.edu>

- Aug. 9 (Tu) Term limits and mid-term review  
 Alexandar, Ava. 2011. *Citizen Legislators or Political Musical Chairs? Term Limits in California*. Los Angeles, CA: Center for Governmental Studies. pp. 11-44. [http://www.cgs.org/images/publications/cgs\\_musical\\_chairs\\_071911.pdf](http://www.cgs.org/images/publications/cgs_musical_chairs_071911.pdf)

- Aug. 10 (W) Midterm exam, in class  
 Note: Midterm will cover all material July 25-August 9

- Aug. 11 (Th) The California Governor and Executive branch  
 DeBow, Ken, and John C. Syer. 2006. *Power and Politics in California*, 8<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Pearson Longman. Ch. 8. pp. 171-194. **ON RESERVE**  
 ADDITIONAL READING TBA

- Aug. 15 (M) The California Judicial branch  
 DeBow, Ken, and John C. Syer. 2006. *Power and Politics in California*, 8<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Pearson Longman. Ch. 10. pp. 217-234. **ON RESERVE**  
 ADDITIONAL READING TBA

- Aug. 16 (Tu) Direct democracy in California  
 Mathews, Joe, and Mark Paul. 2010. *California Crack-up: How Reform Broke the Golden State and How We Can Fix It*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. Ch. 3. pp. 35-57.  
 Gerber, Elizabeth R., Arthur Lupia, Mathew D. McCubbins, and D. Roderick Kiewiet. 2001. *Stealing the Initiative: How State Government Responds to Direct Democracy*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall. Ch. 2. pp. 8-14

Aug. 17 (W) Proposition 13 and California tax policy  
 Citrin, Jack. 2009. "Proposition 13 and the Transformation of California Government." *California Journal of Politics and Policy*, 1(1): Article 16. <http://www.bepress.com/cjpp/vol1/iss1/16>;  
<http://ilearn.ucr.edu>

McCubbins, Colin H., and Mathew D. McCubbins. 2010. "Proposition 13 and The California Fiscal Shell Game." *California Journal of Politics and Policy* 2(2): Article 6.  
<http://www.bepress.com/cjpp/vol2/iss2/6>; <http://ilearn.ucr.edu>

Aug. 18 (Th) An institutional assessment of California  
 Cain, Bruce E., and Roger Noll. 2010. "Institutional Causes of California's Budget Problem." *California Journal of Politics and Policy*, 2(3): Article 1. <http://www.bepress.com/cjpp/vol2/iss3/1>;  
<http://ilearn.ucr.edu>

#### Policy issues facing the state

Aug. 22 (M) Higher education  
 Douglass, John Aubrey. 2011. "Revisionist Reflections on California's Master Plan @50." *California Journal of Politics and Policy*, 3(1): Article 1. <http://www.bepress.com/cjpp/vol3/iss1/1>;  
<http://ilearn.ucr.edu>

#### *Optional*

Moore, Colleen, Jeremy Offenstein, and Nancy Shulock. 2011. *Consequences of Neglect: Performance Trends in California Higher Education*. Sacramento, CA: Institute for Higher Education Leadership & Policy, California State University, Sacramento.  
[http://www.csus.edu/ihelp/PDFs/R\\_Consequences\\_of\\_Neglect.pdf](http://www.csus.edu/ihelp/PDFs/R_Consequences_of_Neglect.pdf)

Aug. 23 (Tu) K-12  
 Rose, Heather, Jon Sonstelie, Ray Reinhard, and Sharmaine Heng. 2003. *High Expectations, Modest Means: The Challenge Facing California's Public Schools*. San Francisco, CA: Public Policy Institute of California. Summary; Ch. 3-4. pp. v-xv; 21-46.  
 Baldassare, Mark, Dean Bonner, Sonja Petek, and Jui Shrestha. 2011. *PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Education, April 2011*. San Francisco, CA: Public Policy Institute of California.  
<http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=977>.

Aug. 24 (W) Water  
 Hanak, Ellen, et al. 2011. *Managing California's Water: From Conflict to Reconciliation*. San Francisco, CA: Public Policy Institute of California. **Executive Summary**.  
<http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=944>

Aug. 25 (Th) Transportation and air pollution  
 Bedsworth, Louise, Ellen Hanak, and Jed Kolko. 2010. *Driving Change: Reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled in California*. San Francisco, CA: Public Policy Institute of California. **Executive Summary**.  
[http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R\\_211LBR.pdf](http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R_211LBR.pdf)

Final paper due by 5 p.m.

Aug. 26 (F) Final exam, 1 – 3 p.m.