

**POLS 70 Course Outline as of Fall 2024****CATALOG INFORMATION**

Dept and Nbr: POLS 70 Title: CALIF STATE &amp; LOCAL GOVT

Full Title: California State &amp; Local Government

Last Reviewed: 11/13/2023

Units		Course Hours per Week		Nbr of Weeks	Course Hours Total	
Maximum	3.00	Lecture Scheduled	3.00	17.5	Lecture Scheduled	52.50
Minimum	3.00	Lab Scheduled	0	6	Lab Scheduled	0
		Contact DHR	0		Contact DHR	0
		Contact Total	3.00		Contact Total	52.50
		Non-contact DHR	0		Non-contact DHR	0

Total Out of Class Hours: 105.00

Total Student Learning Hours: 157.50

Title 5 Category: AA Degree Applicable

Grading: Grade or P/NP

Repeatability: 00 - Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

Also Listed As:

Formerly:

**Catalog Description:**

In this course, students will be introduced to a survey of California government and politics. The course content is designed to familiarize students with the institutions, operation, and current issues of California state and local governments.

**Prerequisites/Corequisites:****Recommended Preparation:**

Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent

**Limits on Enrollment:****Schedule of Classes Information:**

Description: In this course, students will be introduced to a survey of California government and politics. The course content is designed to familiarize students with the institutions, operation, and current issues of California state and local governments. (Grade or P/NP)

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent

Limits on Enrollment:



- B. California Today
  - 1. Diversity of California
    - a. People, regions, natural resources, economy
  - 2. Current challenges facing California
- II. The California Legislature
  - A. The organization and function of the Assembly and Senate
  - B. The legislative process
  - C. Powers and duties of the legislature
- III. The Executive Branch of California
  - A. Offices of the plural executive
  - B. Powers and duties of the governor
  - C. The California bureaucracy
- IV. The California Judiciary
  - A. Structural organization and operation of judicial system
  - B. Election of judges
  - C. Criminal justice
- V. Local Government in California
  - A. Duties and structure of local government
  - B. Funding of local government
  - C. Relationship between local and state government
- VI. Direct Democracy
  - A. Initiative, referendum, and recall
  - B. Use and impact of California's direct democracy processes
- VII. Political Parties, Campaigns, and Elections
  - A. The role and influence of political parties
  - B. Campaign finance
  - C. The election process
  - D. Vote choice and political behavior of Californians
- VIII. Interest Groups and the Media
  - A. Types of interest groups
  - B. The impact of interest groups
  - C. The role of the media
  - D. Evaluation of sources of information
- IX. The State Budget
  - A. The budget process
  - B. Sources of state revenue
  - C. Expenditure of state funds
- X. Federalism: California and the Federal Government
  - A. Provisions established in the U.S. Constitution
  - B. Court cases concerning the balance of power between national and state governments
  - C. Comparison of California to other state governments and policies
- XI. California Public Policy
  - A. Abortion policy
  - B. Education policy
  - C. Environmental policy
  - D. Immigration policy
  - E. Social programs
  - F. Additional current policy issues

**Assignment:**

1. Read weekly assigned course texts (20-40 pages per week)

2. Complete out-of-class writing in the form of analytical, research, or reaction papers (2,500-5,000 words)
3. Written homework
4. Essay examinations (2-4), which may include additional multiple-choice components
5. Additional assignments as determined by instructor may include:
  - A. Quizzes
  - B. Participation
  - C. Presentations
  - D. Debates

**Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:**

**Writing:** Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

Analytical, research, or reaction papers; written homework	Writing 30 - 60%
<b>Problem Solving:</b> Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.	Problem solving 0 - 0%
None	
<b>Skill Demonstrations:</b> All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.	Skill Demonstrations 0 - 0%
None	
<b>Exams:</b> All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.	Exams 40 - 60%
Exams; quizzes (if assigned)	
<b>Other:</b> Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.	Other Category 0 - 10%
Participation, presentations, debates	

**Representative Textbooks and Materials:**

Governing California in the 21st Century. 8th ed. Anagnoson, J. Theodore, et. al. Norton. 2021.  
 California Politics a Primer. 6th ed. Van Vechten, Renee B. CQ Press. 2021.  
 Democracy in California: Politics and Government in the Golden State. 5th ed. Janiskee, Brian, and Masugi, Ken, and Villegas, Christina. Rowman & Littlefield. 2020.