

## POL S 1: Introduction to U.S. Government

Instructor: Rev. Michael J. Ludder

Office hours: for the Fall semester my office hours will be via email, or zoom or by phone if needed, and by appointment. The times for my office hours TBA in my first class

Email: [mludder@santarosa.edu](mailto:mludder@santarosa.edu)

Office: Santa Rosa Campus, Emeritus 1548 (unavailable until further notice)

Mail Box: Social Sciences Department Service Center, Emeritus Hall (ground floor)

### **Special Requirements for Fall 2020:**

We will be required to teach this class remotely during the fall semester.

The class will be on ZOOM at the regularly scheduled day/times. You will receive the zoom link in your cubby portal before the start of each class.

### **Required Text: Online Reader American Contradictions**

Go to: [www.grlcontent.com](http://www.grlcontent.com)

The current required online reader can be purchased at this site.

**Each week students will be responsible for reading the assigned online reader sections and articles.**

Recommended for students unfamiliar with the American Government

(not required, use only an older edition)

Struggle for Democracy

Greenberg & Page

To highlight articles in the online text, you may find it useful to download one of these free applications:

<http://superuser.com/questions/467981/how-to-highlight-and-collect-highlighted-text-from-webpages-in-chrome>

**Recommended: To register for a free subscription to the New York Times go to:**

1. Google: [libraries.santarosa.edu/databases](http://libraries.santarosa.edu/databases)
2. Hit the link to "A-Z databases"
3. Scroll down to: "New York Times (registration required)" and create your free account

**Attendance Policy:** The student is responsible for all materials covered in class, exams, and changes in lecture topics, due dates, exam times and locations. There are no exceptions to this policy. A student may be dropped at the instructor's discretion if he/she is absent more than 10% to the total class hours. A student who fails to attend, at least, one of first two class periods in the semester may also be dropped to allow other students to enroll in the course. See:

Attendance Policy (Procedure 8.5.1P):

<http://www.boarddocs.com/ca/santarosa/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=A83PZ466E31A>

**Course Evaluation/Grading:** There will be three required major exams that will include: multiple-choice/fill-in questions (50%). You will receive points for every correctly marked answer and minus points for every marked incorrect answer. In addition, you will have to write, at minimum, six policy-related essays (50%) of over 3000 words. Submit *your* essay and cite your sources. (See: Academic Integrity Policy below) Points earned over the semester will be placed on a 100-point scale for your final grade. There is no curve. See:

Grading (Procedure 3.10P):

<http://www.boarddocs.com/ca/santarosa/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=A9CN465E0FB4>

Your grade for the course will be based upon a standard format of: A = 90-100%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, F = 60% or less (no curve).

Late exams and assignments will be accepted only at the discretion of the instructor.

See:

Grading (Policy 3.10):

<http://www.boarddocs.com/ca/santarosa/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=A9CMYV5D94CD>

**Optional Activities:** The student can increase his/her grade by 15 points (maximum) with one of these optional activities: four hours of community service in an approved public or non-profit agency, a cop ride along of 4 hours, and/or a three-page (typed, double-spaced) report on an instructor-approved political science book. Again, the student must obtain **prior approval** from the instructor before using any of these options.

Students will be limited to only two of these outside “optional activities.” See your instructor for further details or questions.

**Standards of Conduct:** Students shall conduct themselves in a manner, which reflects their awareness of common standards of decency, the rights of others, and District policies. See:

Student Conduct: <https://student-conduct.santarosa.edu/discipline-due-process>

**Plagiarism, Cheating, and other acts that violate Academic Integrity:**

If plagiarism, cheating, and other acts that violate academic integrity policies occur; the student will, at minimum, receive an “F” on the particular assignment. Violations will be reported per District policies and procedures. See:

Academic Integrity (Procedure 3.11P):

<http://www.boarddocs.com/ca/santarosa/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=A63TM C78051C>

**Disruptive use of cell phones, tablets, and laptops** not related to class work will be seen as a violation the Code of Student Conduct:

<https://student-conduct.santarosa.edu/discipline-due-process>

**Sexual Assault/Harassment:** Students and staff are to work and learn together in an atmosphere free of violence, harassment, exploitation or intimidation. For further information and to contact the Title IX coordinator see:

<https://titleix.santarosa.edu/resources-and-support>

and

<https://titleix.santarosa.edu/sites/titleix.santarosa.../SRJC%202.15%20and%202.15P.pdf>

**College Services:** Because the campus is closed to face-to-face services, here is the site to connect to College Services:

<https://onlinestudentservices.santarosa.edu/>

SRJC Tutoring: <https://college-skills.santarosa.edu/tutorial-centers-online-tutoring>

On the Santa Rosa Campus students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact Disability Resources (527-4278), 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Bartolini, as soon as possible, to better ensure such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. The DRD's Assessment & Testing Office is in Plover Hall.

Disability Resources Handbook:

[http://online.santarosa.edu/homepage/dept15/forms/DRD\\_Faculty\\_Guide.pdf](http://online.santarosa.edu/homepage/dept15/forms/DRD_Faculty_Guide.pdf)

The Student Health Services (527-4445) and Student Psychological Services (524-1595) are in the Race Building.

On the Petaluma Campus the DRD office is in 101 Jacob Hall (778-249) and the Student Health Services is in the Call Building (778-3919).

There are several resources on each campus that might be helpful to you. They include: The Writing Lab, the Tutorial Center, and **in your “My Cubby” is a link for online help @ Smart Thinking Online**. In your online text, look at the “Resources” link for more information on whatever topic you want to explore.

**Please ask your instructor for help in connecting with any services you might need.**

**Safety and Evacuation Guidelines:** “Are You Ready?” may be helpful:

<http://www2.santarosa.edu/f/?nDYyYKQ>

OR see:

**Emergency Preparedness Handbook:**

<https://ehs.santarosa.edu/sites/ehs.santarosa.edu/files/EmergencyHandbook-2008-09.pdf>

**POLS 1: Course Outline:**

Student is also expected to keep abreast of daily political events through television, radio, online, magazines and newspapers reports. This class will stress current issues and topics.

This class will look at American political institutions, processes, and behavior, both historical and at present. A special emphasis will be made to show how the "theory" of political science is "applied" (experienced) in the real world of politics. Come to class prepared, ready to have your beliefs and values challenged, and to participate in discussions and exercises. Several guest speakers from the field of politics may also be invited to share their experiences and expertise with the class over the semester.

### **COURSE CONTENT**

The Course Outline of Record for POLS 1 can be found at:

[https://portal.santarosa.edu/SRweb/SR\\_CourseOutlines.aspx](https://portal.santarosa.edu/SRweb/SR_CourseOutlines.aspx)

### **COURSE CONTENT**

#### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze American political institutions and processes.
2. Assess how government impacts their daily lives.
3. Engage in discourse about contemporary political problems and issues, applying critical thinking skills and analysis to support a point of view.

#### **Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Formulate and examine their own political values and beliefs.
2. Research contemporary political issues drawing on diverse sources.
3. Assess and distinguish between factual and interpretive sources

of information.

4. Trace how and why American political structures and institutions at the state and federal levels have evolved over time and discuss current controversies in light of these developments.
5. Evaluate different forms of political communication and the methods employed to shape public opinion.
6. Assess the influence of political institutions on the American population and the methods by which citizens can participate in the political process and shape policy outcomes.

**Each week students will be responsible for reading the appropriate online reader articles.**

Week 1-3	Political Values and Political Economy. Orientation. Truth and Lies, Values and Ethics. Survey Exercises. American Politics. Definitions. Analytical Framework. Political Economy, public opinion, polling, political socialization. Reader: Section 1 & 2
Week 4-5	Revolution/Counter-Revolution. Read the Declaration of Independence, the U. S. Constitution and Federalists Papers #10 and #51. Examination of a democracy vs. a republic, law and order, personal security (coercion), and the Constitution as an economic document furthering the protection of private property and creating a nationally-controlled economic system. Bill of Rights, incorporation, individual liberties and civil rights, philosophical influences
Week 6	Federalism. Is power returning to the States? Follow the money. Changing roles/responsibilities of each level of government (Federal, California, state, county, and local governments), budgets, cooperation, conflicts, advantages and disadvantages of federalism, legal and constitutional arguments and outcomes, key current public policy issues will be discussed.
Week 7	Review and Midterm Exam.
Week 8	Congress. Does it actually work? Functions, structure, inner dynamics (polarization and partisanship). Power resides in the committees. Diversity, behavior of members. How a law is passed or obstructed.
Week 9	The Presidency. The changing "roles" of president's roles, responsibilities. The powers and abuses of power of the president. Checks on presidential power.
Week 10	The Executive Branch. The "fourth" branch of government.

Does it serve the public's interest? Common behaviors, structure, independent power (rules and regulations, enforcement and appeal processes), role of lobbyists and special interests.

Week 11 The Courts. Arbitrators or policy-makers? Structure and processes. Crime and punishment statistics and trends. Brown and Roe court decisions. Civil rights and civil liberties.

Week 12 Review and Exam.

Week 13-14 Voting/Elections and Political Parties. Does the majority rule? Do the dominant political parties serve the public's interest? Role of political parties. Political participation and behavior, role of media, National and California campaign strategies in primary and in general elections, dynamics, including turnout, demobilization techniques, and possible reforms, and related court decisions

Week 15 Interest Groups. Who really runs America? The golden rule is \$\$\$!  
Role of interest groups, the wealthy, corporations, non-profits on campaign finance, laws, court decisions, lobbyists, and their impact on elections and government policy

Week 16 Current Public Policy Issue: TBA in class  
Elite Decision Making

Week 17 Review of Final Exam  
Final Exam