



A	Course Title & Number	POLS 1: Introduction to United States Government																		
B	Course Attributes	Title 5 Category: AA Degree Applicable ~ Grade or P/NP Transfer Credit: CSU and UC Repeatability: 00 – Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP Recommended Preparation: Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent																		
C	Units	3.00																		
D	Faculty Name	Johannes A.A.M. van Gorp																		
E	Term/ Year	Fall 2020																		
F	Sections	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;">Sect</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Course</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Days</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Time</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Location</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1988</td> <td>POLS 1</td> <td>T</td> <td>10:30 – 12:00</td> <td>Online</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2622</td> <td>POLS 1</td> <td>T</td> <td>13:30 – 15:00</td> <td>Online</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Sect	Course	Days	Time	Location	1988	POLS 1	T	10:30 – 12:00	Online	2622	POLS 1	T	13:30 – 15:00	Online
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G	Instructor Information	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 30%;">Instructor</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Office</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Telephone</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Email</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>J.A.A.M. van Gorp</td> <td>Call 675</td> <td>805-280-8791</td> <td>jvangorp@santarosa.edu</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><u>Communication:</u> I usually respond to email within 24 hours from Monday to Friday. Please do not respond to my feedback to your assignments within the particular assignment page. I do not get notifications about these. Please email me.</p> <p><u>Office Hours:</u> Wednesday from 9:30 to 14:30 and Thursday by appointment.</p>				Instructor	Office	Telephone	Email	J.A.A.M. van Gorp	Call 675	805-280-8791	jvangorp@santarosa.edu							
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J.A.A.M. van Gorp	Call 675	805-280-8791	jvangorp@santarosa.edu																	
H	Course Description from Catalog	Principles and problems of government with emphasis on national, state and local governments in the United States.																		
I	Course Outline	The course outline of record can be found here .																		
J	Student Learning Outcomes	Upon completion of the 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.																		
K	Textbook and other Instructional Material and Resources	Required: 1. Samuel Kernell, Gary C. Jacobson, Thad Kousser and Lynn Vavreck (2020). <i>The Logic of American Politics, 9 Edition</i> . Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press 2. Occasional selections from <i>The Economist's</i> America section. (course website) 3. Select readings that can be found on the course website.																		
L	Teaching and Learning Methodologies	This class relies on multiple teaching and learning methodologies. These include lectures, discussions, and the undertaking of original research.																		



M Grading Scale, Grading Distribution, and Due Dates

Grading Scale

90.00 – 100.0	4	A
80.00 – 89.99	3	B
70.00 – 79.99	2	C
60.00 – 69.99	1	D
Less than 59.99	0	F

Pass-No Pass (P/NP)

You may take this class P/NP. You must decide before the deadline, and add the option online with TLC or file the P/NP form with Admissions and Records. With a grade of C or better, you will get P.

You must file for the P/NP option by September 27, 2020. Once you decide to go for P/NP, you cannot change back to a letter grade. If you are taking this course as part of a certificate program, you can probably still take the class P/NP. Check with a counselor to be sure.

Grading Distribution

Assessment	Weight	Due Date
Discussion Posts	15%	Weekly
Quizzes	15%	Weekly
Research Paper	20%	Sun. Nov. 15
Exam I	15%	Sun. Oct. 11
Exam II	15%	Sun. Nov. 8
Final Exam	20%	Section 1988 – Dec. 15 Section 2622 – Dec. 17
Total	100%	

Your final grade will be based exclusively on these course components. No extra-credit projects will be offered to supplement a final grade. Once posted, grades are final and will not be changed barring a mathematical or clerical error.

N Important Dates

Day class begins	Tue. Sep. 1
Day class instruction ends	Fri. Dec. 11
Last day to drop with refund	Tue. Sep. 15
Last day to drop without a 'W' symbol	Tue. Sep. 22
Last day to opt for Pass/No Pass	Fri. Dec. 18
Last day to drop with a 'W' symbol	Mon. Nov. 16

O Explanation of Assessments

1. *Discussion* = You are expected to be logged in on time and to attend class in its entirety on every Tuesday for our synchronous Zoom meeting. You should also be prepared to actively participate. Participation is not simply a matter of speaking up. It also means demonstrating your comprehension of the reading, asking relevant questions, respecting others' opinions, thinking intelligently about the material, and *being present*. This means readings assigned for that week should be completed beforehand. There also will be graded on-line discussions throughout the course that require about 150 to 200 words of writing a week – this is what your discussion grade will be based on.



2. *Quizzes* = You will have a quiz once a week. These quizzes are there to ensure that you have an incentive to stay on top of your readings. *Economist* readings assigned that week are also included. Quizzes are also there so that the instructor can be sure that you comprehend these readings. There will not be makeup quizzes. However, because life happens the two lowest quiz grades will be dropped.
3. *Research Paper* = You are expected to write a 1,000 word paper in this course (double spaced, font Times New Roman and 1" margins). Besides course readings, the paper should draw from at least 8 other peer-reviewed sources (you may also consult *The Economist*, or other news sources, but these will not count towards your eight *peer-reviewed* sources). Papers should have an introduction, a clear thesis statement, a conclusion and be properly cited using Harvard style. There should be at least two paragraphs a page, with at least two sources referenced per paragraph.

Prompt (due at Sunday November 15 at 11:59 pm): Write an essay on one of the following:

1. How has the role of the presidency changed in the American political system in the course of the 20th century? In your opinion, is this for the better?
2. Has Congress become more dysfunctional? If so, why? If not, why not? What likely implications is this going to have for the future of American politics?
3. Choose one of the first ten amendments to the constitution. Analyze how and why this amendment still matters today by examining a Supreme Court ruling from the last 5 years. Be sure to link theory to practice.

Late submissions will lose 3% of a grade for each day they are late. Thus, a 95% final draft will become a 92% paper if it is handed in the next day, or after class on the day it is due. Similarly, a 95% paper handed in two days late becomes an 89% paper, etc. This policy applies to both the rough and the final drafts.

Plagiarism: When you use other people's words or ideas without giving them credit it is plagiarism. This includes using direct quotes without citation marks, copying directly from the web, an academic article, or a book without a citation. It can also be the borrowing a central idea from an author or a classmate without acknowledging them. Recycling a paper you have previously written for another course, or part of one of your own papers, is also considered plagiarism. It is a serious offense and will result in disciplinary action against you. If you are ever in doubt, please ask me before turning in your written work. For more information, please see the academic integrity policy below.

4. *Exam I* = Exam I consists of 20 multiple-choice questions and 4 short answer questions (each answer should be about a paragraph in length).
5. *Exam II* = Exam I consists of 20 multiple-choice questions and 4 short answer questions (each answer should be about a paragraph in length).



	<p>6. <i>Final Exam</i> = Consists of short answer questions and an essay.</p>
<p>P Academic Integrity Policy</p>	<p>All written work is to be original; plagiarism of any kind will result in a failing grade on that assignment. Students who plagiarize or cheat may be suspended – for one or two class meetings by the instructor – and referred to the Conduct Dean for discipline sanction, in cases of egregious violation. Please see Policy 3.11 for Academic Integrity.</p>
<p>Q Accommodation for Students with a Disability</p>	<p>If you need disability-related accommodations for this class, such as access to notes, test taking services, special furniture, etc., please provide the Authorization for Academic Accommodations (AAA letter) from the Disability Resources Department (DRD) to the instructor as soon as possible. You may speak with the instructor privately during office hours about your accommodations. Please contact DRD if you have not received authorization for accommodations. DRD is located in the Bertolini Student Center on the Santa Rosa campus, and Jacobs Hall on the Petaluma Campus.</p>
<p>R Course Website and Technology</p>	<p>Students will use the Canvas course website for assignment instructions, finding source materials, submitting assignments, viewing classmates’ work, sharing resources, and viewing grades.</p> <p>You need to make sure you have the following software installed and working properly on your computer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adobe Reader• QuickTime Player• Flash Player• Open Office (If needed) <p>You should ensure that all your programs are up to date. If you have Zoom installed on your computer, please ensure you regularly update it to the latest software.</p>
<p>S Course Policies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Student conduct</i> – Attendance and active participation are important for the successful completion of this course. Students should conduct themselves in a manner that reflects awareness of common standards of decency and the rights of others. All students are expected to know the Student Conduct Policy and adhere to it in this class. Students who violate the code may be suspended from 2 classes and may be referred to the Conduct Dean for discipline.• <i>Class Notes</i> – Students are responsible for their own class notes. Students absent from class should obtain notes from their fellow students. The instructor’s notes are not available.• <i>Make up Quizzes and Exams</i> – The scheduled exam dates are firm. In case of an emergency situation (e.g. illness, death in the family), inform the instructor at least twenty-four hours in advance of the scheduled exam. A missed exam lacking appropriate documentation will count as zero points in the final grade.• <i>Technology and Papers</i> – Last minute computer or typing crises (corrupted USB keys, crashing hard-drives, etc.) are not considered as acceptable emergencies.• <i>Netiquette</i> – When engaging in online discussion, remain courteous at all times. Remember that you are communicating with other humans; there is a real person with real feelings on the receiving end of your email or discussion post. While the exchange of diverse thoughts and ideas is important in a scholarly environment, this should happen in a constructive and respectful manner, especially when



engaging with someone who has different ideas. Capitalizing whole words is generally seen as shouting and is often perceived as offensive by the reader. Be careful when using sarcasm and humor. Since there are no social cues like facial expressions or body language in an on-line environment, such remarks can come across as hurtful or offensive. Finally, writing should be professional and consist of complete sentences, be free of grammatical errors, and avoid spelling mistakes.

SCHEDULE

Readings are to be completed before the class for which they are assigned. Readings are listed below under the title of each lecture.

Table with 3 columns: Week, Topic/Readings, and Assignment(s). It is divided into three parts: Part I: The Foundations of U.S. Government, Part II: Government Institutions, and Part III: Linkage Institutions. Each row lists a week, the corresponding topic and readings, and the assigned quiz and discussion.



10. Mon. Nov. 2- Sun. Nov. 8	<u>The Role of the Media</u> - Kernell, Jacobsen, Kousser and Vavreck, Chapter 14	Exam II – Covers Week 6-10, due Sun. Nov. 8 at 11:59 pm.
11. Mon. Nov. 9- Sun. Nov. 15	<u>Political Parties</u> - Kernell, Jacobsen, Kousser and Vavreck, Chapter 12	Quiz 10 Discussion 9
12. Mon. Nov. 16- Sun. Nov. 22	<u>Interest Groups</u> - Kernell, Jacobsen, Kousser and Vavreck, Chapter 13	Research Paper due Nov. 15 at 11:59 pm
<u>Part IV: Citizens and the State</u>		
13. Mon. Nov. 23- Sun. Nov. 29	<u>Civil Liberties and the Incorporation of the Bill of Rights</u> - Kernell, Jacobsen, Kousser and Vavreck, Chapter 5	Quiz 11 Discussion 10
14. Mon. Nov. 30- Sun. Dec. 6	<u>Civil Rights: American Slavery, American Freedom</u> - Kernell, Jacobsen, Kousser and Vavreck, Chapter 4	Quiz 12 Discussion 11
15. Mon. Dec. 7- Thu. Dec. 10	<u>Civil Rights – The Legacy of the Civil Rights Movement</u> - Ta-Nahisi Coates (2014). “The Case for Reparations”. <i>The Atlantic</i> . (available on Canvas)	Quiz 13 Discussion 10
Thu. Dec. 17	<u>Final Exam</u>	