



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 or appropriate placement based on AB705 mandates																			
C	Units	3.00																			
D	Faculty Name	Johannes A.A.M. van Gorp																			
E	Term/ Year	Spring 2021																			
F	Sections	<table><tr><th>Sect</th><th>Course</th><th>Days</th><th>Time</th><th>Location</th></tr><tr><td>6534</td><td>POLS 1</td><td>M</td><td>10:30 – 12:00</td><td>Online</td></tr><tr><td>6535</td><td>POLS 1</td><td>T</td><td>10:30 – 12:00</td><td>Online</td></tr></table>					Sect	Course	Days	Time	Location	6534	POLS 1	M	10:30 – 12:00	Online	6535	POLS 1	T	10:30 – 12:00	Online
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G	Instructor Information	<table><tr><th>Instructor</th><th>Office</th><th>Telephone</th><th>Email</th></tr><tr><td>J.A.A.M. van Gorp</td><td>Call 675</td><td>805-280-8791</td><td>jvangorp@santarosa.edu</td></tr></table> <p><b><u>Communication:</u></b></p> <p>I usually respond to email within 24 hours from Monday to Friday.</p> <p>When email me, please use proper salutations and include your full name and section number.</p> <p><b><u>Office Hours:</u></b></p> <p>Wednesday 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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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 <a href="#">here</a> .																			
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. Kernell, S., Jacobson, G. C., Kousser, T. and Vavreck, L. (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	<div><u>Grading Scale</u></div> <table><tr><td>90.00 – 100.0</td><td>4</td><td>A</td></tr><tr><td>80.00 – 89.99</td><td>3</td><td>B</td></tr><tr><td>70.00 – 79.99</td><td>2</td><td>C</td></tr><tr><td>60.00 – 69.99</td><td>1</td><td>D</td></tr><tr><td>Less than 59.99</td><td>0</td><td>F</td></tr></table> <div><u>Pass-No Pass (P/NP)</u></div> <p>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.</p> <p>You must file for the P/NP option by May 21, 2021. 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.</p> <div><u>Grading Distribution</u></div> <table><tr><th>Assessment</th><th>Weight</th><th>Due Date</th></tr><tr><td>Discussion Posts</td><td>15%</td><td>Every Other Week</td></tr><tr><td>Quizzes</td><td>15%</td><td>Weekly</td></tr><tr><td>Outline and Thesis Statement</td><td>5%</td><td>Sun. Mar. 7 @ 11:59 pm</td></tr><tr><td>Research Paper</td><td>20%</td><td>Sun. May 2 @ 11:59 pm</td></tr><tr><td>Midterm</td><td>20%</td><td>Thu. Apr. 1 @ 11:59 pm</td></tr><tr><td>Final Exam</td><td>25%</td><td>TBA</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>100%</td><td></td></tr></table> <p><i>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.</i></p>			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	Assessment	Weight	Due Date	Discussion Posts	15%	Every Other Week	Quizzes	15%	Weekly	Outline and Thesis Statement	5%	Sun. Mar. 7 @ 11:59 pm	Research Paper	20%	Sun. May 2 @ 11:59 pm	Midterm	20%	Thu. Apr. 1 @ 11:59 pm	Final Exam	25%	TBA	Total	100%	
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O	Explanation of Assessments	<div><div>1.</div><div>Discussion = There will be graded on-line discussions throughout the course. These will happen every other week and will be based on a prompt given to you that week. You will be asked to integrate that week’s readings into your discussion post. The first post for that week will be due on Thursday by 18:00. You will then have until Friday at 20:00 to respond to two classmates. Because</div></div>																																									



we can't always deliver our best work, the lowest discussion grade will be dropped.

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. They are also there so that the instructor can be sure that you are comprehending these readings. There will not be makeup quizzes. Because life happens the two lowest quiz grades will be dropped.
3. *Outline and Thesis Statement* = Your outline should give me an idea of what you plan to argue in your paper. It should include a clear thesis statement, an overview of how your argument is going to develop itself, and a properly formatted, complete list of potential references (a bibliography). The outline itself should be 1 page long, and the bibliography should be on another page. It is due on XXXX at 11:59 pm.

Late submissions will lose 3% of a grade for each day they are late. Thus, a 95% paper will become a 92% paper if it is handed in one day late. Similarly, a 95% paper handed in two days late becomes an 89% paper, etc.

4. *Research Paper* = You are expected to write a 1,200 word paper in this course (double spaced, font Times New Roman and 1" margins). Besides course readings, the paper should draw from at least 4 other peer-reviewed sources (you may also consult *The Economist*, or other news sources, but these will not count towards your four *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 XXXX at 11:59 pm): Analyze the ways in which the Trump presidency was similar and different (behaviorally and institutionally) compared to other presidencies, as well as compared to that which is described in the Constitution.

Late submissions will lose 3% of a grade for each day they are late. Thus, a 95% paper will become a 92% paper if it is handed in one day late. Similarly, a 95% paper handed in two days late becomes an 89% paper, etc.

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.

5. *Midterm* = The midterm 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> = The final exam will consist of 4 short answer questions (each answer should be about a paragraph in length) and an essay.</p>
<b>P Academic Integrity Policy</b>	<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>
<b>Q Accommodation and Access for Students with a Disability</b>	<p>It is the mission of the Santa Rosa Junior College to support inclusive learning environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or to accurate assessment of achievement—such as time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, or the use of non-captioned videos—please notify the instructor as soon as possible. Students are also welcome to contact the <a href="#">Disability Resources Department</a> (DRD). DRD is a resource for students that provides authorization for academic accommodations, training and access to assistive technology, and collaborates on strategies for academic success.</p>
<b>R Course Website and Technology</b>	<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"><li>• <a href="#">Adobe Reader</a></li><li>• <a href="#">QuickTime Player</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Open Office</a> (If needed)</li></ul> <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>
<b>S Course Policies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <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.</li><li>• <i>Attendance</i> – We have a Zoom session once a week that is mandatory during the listed class time. Not all of the required class material for that week can be covered during that session. Therefore, there will about 1.5 hours of asynchronous material you have to work through on your own time.</li><li>• <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.</li><li>• <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.</li><li>• <i>Technology and Papers</i> – Last minute computer or typing crises (corrupted USB keys, crashing hard-drives, etc.) are not considered as acceptable emergencies.</li></ul>



- *Netiquette* – 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.

Week	Topic/Readings	Assignment(s)
<b><u>Part I: The Foundations of U.S. Government</u></b>		
1. Mon. Jan. 25- Sun. Jan. 31	<u>Introduction</u> - Kernell, Jacobsen, Kousser and Vavreck, Chapter 1	Quiz 1 – Canvas Quiz 2 – Syllabus Discussion 1 - Introductions
2. Mon. Feb. 1- Sun. Feb. 7	<u>The Study of Politics – Collective Action Problems and Institutions</u> - Kernell, Jacobsen, Kousser and Vavreck, Chapter 1  <u>The Research Process – A Primer</u> Please read the following: 1. <a href="#">Writing tips for college students</a> ; 2. The University of Vermont's <a href="#">Tips from Tutors: Constructing an Argument (Political Science)</a> ; 3. Review the <a href="#">Harvard Manual Citation Guide</a> .	Quiz 3
3. Mon. Feb. 8- Sun. Feb. 14	<u>The Founding Era – Roots of the Republic and the Constitution</u> - Kernell, Jacobsen, Kousser and Vavreck, Chapter 2	Quiz 4  Discussion Week 3
4. Mon. Feb. 15- Sun. Feb. 21	<i>Monday Feb. 15 – Holiday, no Zoom class for Section 6534</i>  <u>Federalism, American Style</u> - Kernell, Jacobsen, Kousser and Vavreck, Chapter 3	Quiz 5
5. Mon. Feb. 22 - Sun. Feb. 28	<u>California Government and Politics</u> - Anagnoson et. al., <i>Governing California in the Twenty-First Century</i> , Chapter 1 + Chapter 2 (available on Canvas)	Quiz 6  Discussion Week 5



<b><u>Part II: Government Institutions</u></b>		
6. Mon. Mar. 1 - Sun. Mar. 7	<u>The Executive Branch</u> - Kernell, Jacobsen, Kousser and Vavreck, Chapter 7	Quiz 7  Outline and Thesis Statement due Sunday March 7 by 11:59 pm
7. Mon. Mar. 8 - Sun. Mar. 14	<u>The Legislative Branch</u> - Kernell, Jacobsen, Kousser and Vavreck, Chapter 6	Quiz 8  Discussion Week 7
8. Mon. Mar. 15 - Sun. Mar. 21	<u>The Federal Judiciary</u> - Kernell, Jacobsen, Kousser and Vavreck, Chapter 9	Quiz 9
9. Mon. Mar. 22 - Sun. Mar. 28	<i>Spring Break – No Class</i>	
<b><u>Part III: Linkage Institutions</u></b>		
10. Mon. Mar. 29 - Sun. Apr. 4	<u>Public Opinion</u> - Kernell, Jacobsen, Kousser and Vavreck, Chapter 10	Midterm due Thursday April 1 by 11:59
11. Mon. Apr. 5 - Sun. Apr. 11	<u>Voting, Campaigns, and Elections</u> - Kernell, Jacobsen, Kousser and Vavreck, Chapter 11	Quiz 10  Discussion Week 11
12. Mon. Apr. 12 - Sun. Apr. 18	<u>The Role of the Media</u> - Kernell, Jacobsen, Kousser and Vavreck, Chapter 14	Quiz 11
13. Mon. Apr. 19 - Sun. Apr. 25	<u>Political Parties</u> - Kernell, Jacobsen, Kousser and Vavreck, Chapter 12	Quiz 12  Discussion Week 13
14. Mon. Apr. 26 - Sun. May 2	<u>Interest Groups</u> - Kernell, Jacobsen, Kousser and Vavreck, Chapter 13	Research Papers due Sunday May 2 by 11:59 pm
<b><u>Part IV: Citizens and the State</u></b>		
15. Mon. May 3 - Sun. May 9	<u>Civil Liberties and the Incorporation of the Bill of Rights</u> - Kernell, Jacobsen, Kousser and Vavreck, Chapter 5	Quiz 13  Discussion Week 15
16. Mon. May 10 - Sun. May 16	<u>Civil Rights: American Slavery, American Freedom</u> - Kernell, Jacobsen, Kousser and Vavreck, Chapter 4	Quiz 14
17. Mon. May 17 - Fri. May 21	<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)	Discussion Week 17