



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	Fall 2021														
F	Sections	<table><tr><th>Sect</th><th>Course</th><th>Days</th><th>Time</th><th>Location</th></tr><tr><td>2556</td><td>POLS 1</td><td>MW</td><td>10:30 – 12:00</td><td>Richard Call 656</td></tr></table>					Sect	Course	Days	Time	Location	2556	POLS 1	MW	10:30 – 12:00	Richard Call 656
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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><u>Communication:</u></p> <p>I usually respond to email within 24 hours from Monday to Friday.</p> <p>When emailing me, please use proper salutations and include your full name and section number.</p> <p><u>Office Hours:</u></p> <p>Tuesday and Thursday from 11:00 to 12:30, Monday from 12:15 to 13:00, and 15:15 to 16:45, and Friday from 12:30 to 13:30 by appointment. To access my office hours, please book a 15 minute appointment on one of those days using the following link.</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 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. 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. (can be found on Canvas) 3. Select readings that can be found on Canvas.														



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><div><div><div><div>90.00 – 100.0</div><div>4</div><div>A</div></div><div>80.00 – 89.99</div><div>3</div><div>B</div></div><div>70.00 – 79.99</div><div>2</div><div>C</div></div><div>60.00 – 69.99</div><div>1</div><div>D</div></div> <div>Less than 59.99</div> <div>0</div> <div>F</div> <div><div>Pass-No Pass (P/NP)</div><div>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.</div><div>You must file for the P/NP option by December 8, 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.</div><div><div>Grading Distribution</div><table><tr><th>Assessment</th><th>Weight</th><th>Due Date</th></tr><tr><td>Attendance and Discussion</td><td>10%</td><td>Weekly</td></tr><tr><td>Quizzes</td><td>15%</td><td>Weekly</td></tr><tr><td>Group Presentation/Discussion</td><td>15%</td><td>See Schedule</td></tr><tr><td>Bibliography and Thesis Statement</td><td>5%</td><td>Sun. Sep. 26 @ 11:59 pm</td></tr><tr><td>Research Paper</td><td>15%</td><td>Sun. Nov. 21 @ 11:59 pm</td></tr><tr><td>Midterm</td><td>20%</td><td>Wed. Oct. 6</td></tr><tr><td>Final Exam</td><td>20%</td><td>TBA</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>100%</td><td></td></tr></table><div>Your final grade will be based exclusively on these course components. If extra credit is offered, it is offered to the whole class. Once posted, grades are final and will not be changed barring a mathematical or clerical error.</div></div></div>			Assessment	Weight	Due Date	Attendance and Discussion	10%	Weekly	Quizzes	15%	Weekly	Group Presentation/Discussion	15%	See Schedule	Bibliography and Thesis Statement	5%	Sun. Sep. 26 @ 11:59 pm	Research Paper	15%	Sun. Nov. 21 @ 11:59 pm	Midterm	20%	Wed. Oct. 6	Final Exam	20%	TBA	Total	100%	
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O	Explanation of Assessments	<div><div>1.</div><div>Attendance and discussion = Students are expected to arrive on time and attend class in its entirety, and to actively participate in class discussions. 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 <i>being</i></div></div>																													



present. Accordingly, half of this grade will be decided by how actively you participate, while the other half will be based on attendance.

2. *Quizzes* = Beginning in week 2 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. *Bibliography and Thesis Statement* = This assignment should give me an idea of what you plan to argue in your paper. It should include a clear thesis statement and a properly formatted, complete list of potential references (a bibliography). It is due on Sunday September 26 at 11:59 pm.

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

4. *Research Paper* = You are expected to write a 2,000 word paper in this course (double spaced, font Times New Roman and 1" margins). Besides course readings, the paper should draw from at least 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 Sunday November 21 at 11:59 pm): 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?

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. *Group Presentations and Discussion* = On designated days of the semester you will have a dual task: (1) to give a group presentation, and (2) to lead a discussion on the readings of that week. Here is what is expected of each:
 1. You will be asked to give a 12 minute group presentation on one of the first ten amendments to the constitution during class at some point during



	<p>the semester (sign-up sheet will be handed out the second week of class). In the presentation you should discuss how and why this amendment still matters today. Ideally the presentation would link theory to current events in American politics. Presentations will be followed by a 10-15 minute Q&A and discussion session you are responsible for leading. Presentations should clearly identify the problem you are presenting on and be in PowerPoint. They should have a clear thesis.</p> <p>2. Following your presentation, you are responsible as a group to lead a discussion for the remainder of the class that discusses and analyzes that week's readings.</p> <p>Suggested sources you can look at for your presentation include: <i>The New York Times</i>, <i>The New Yorker</i>, <i>Rolling Stone Magazine</i>, <i>The Atlantic</i>, <i>Vox News</i>, <i>Talking Points Memo</i>, <i>FiveThirtyEight.com</i>, <i>The Brookings Institute</i>, <i>The Heritage Foundation</i>, <i>The American Enterprise Institute</i>, <i>The Economist</i> and <i>The Financial Times</i>.</p> <p>This really is intended to be a group presentation. This means that both everyone should have approximately equal presenting time: it should <u>not</u> be one person doing most of the presenting – it truly should be a group effort.</p> <p>You will be graded as follows – for the group presentation (2/3 the grade):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Analysis of the material- Communication style- Visuals- Punctuality / completeness <p>For the leading of discussion (1/3 the grade):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Having a thorough grasp of that week's readings;- Having questions prepared that will lead to thought provoking discussions of that week's readings; <p>Audience (10% overall course grade):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Thoughtfully (and respectfully) engaging in discussion. This will require showing awareness of that subjects assigned readings. <p>6. <i>Midterm</i> = The midterm consists of 4 short answer questions (each answer should be about a paragraph in length).</p> <p>7. <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>
P Academic Integrity Policy	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.
Q Accommodation and Access for	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-



Students with a Disability	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 Disability Resources Department (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.
R Course Website and Technology	<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 • 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>
S Course Policies	<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>Covid Protocols</i> – Remember: masks are still required for all indoor SRJC spaces. You are also supposed to sign in when you enter buildings. Before you come to class, you are supposed to self-check if you have any symptoms. If you are not vaccinated, please consider contacting either SRJC Student Health Services, your personal medical provider, or the county health department to schedule a COVID-19 vaccination appointment. For more on SRJC's policies during this pandemic, please check out the following information.

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 / Date	Topic/Readings	Assignment(s)
<u>Part I: The Foundations of U.S. Government</u>		
1. Mon. Aug. 16	Introduction: Collective Action Problems and Institutions Administrative matters, explanation of assignments. No readings.	Extra Credit 1. Canvas Quiz
Wed. Aug. 18	- Kernell, et. al., pp. 3-34 (Chapter 1)	2. Syllabus Quiz



2. Mon. Aug. 23	<u>The Study Roots of the Republic and the Constitution</u> - Kernell, et. al., pp. 37-52 (Chapter 2) - Kernell et. al., <i>The Declaration of Ind.</i> , pp. 678-680 (Appendix 2)	
Wed. Aug. 25	- Kernell, et. al., pp. 52-69 (Chapter 2)	Quiz 1
3. Mon. Aug. 30	<u>Ratifying the Constitution</u> - Kernell, et. al., pp 70-90 (Chapter 2) - Kernell et. al., <i>Fed. No. 10</i> , pp. 694-698 (Appendix 4) - Kernell et. al., <i>Fed. No. 51</i> , pp. 699-701 (Appendix 2)	
Wed. Sep. 1	<u>Research Process and Discussion Constitution</u> Please read the following: 1. Writing tips for college students ; 2. The University of Vermont's Tips from Tutors: Constructing an Argument (Political Science) ; 3. Review the Harvard Manual Citation Guide .	Quiz 2
4. Mon. Sep. 6	<u>Federalism, American Style</u> - Kernell, et. al., pp 93-107 (Chapter 3)	
Wed. Sep. 8	- Kernell, et. al., pp 107-133 (Chapter 3)	Quiz 3
5. Mon. Sep. 13	<u>California Government and Politics</u> Presentation 1 and Discussion Federalism - Anagnoson et. al., Chapter 1 + Chapter 2 (available on Canvas)	
Wed. Sep. 15	- Anagnoson et. al., Chapter 1 + Chapter 2 (available on Canvas)	Quiz 4
<u>Part II: Citizens and the State</u>		
6. Mon. Sep. 20	<u>Civil Liberties and the Incorporation of the Bill of Rights</u> - Kernell, et. al., pp 185-197 (Chapter 5)	
Wed. Sep. 22	- Kernell, et. al., pp 197-227 (Chapter 5) Presentation 2 and Discussion Civil Liberties	Bibliography and Thesis assignment due Sun. Sep. 26 by 11:59 pm Quiz 5
7. Mon. Sep. 27	<u>Civil Rights: American Slavery, American Freedom</u> - Kernell, et. al., pp 135-152 (Chapter 4)	
Wed. Sep. 29	- Kernell, et. al., pp 152-182 (Chapter 4)	Quiz 6
8. Mon. Oct. 4	<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) Presentation 3 and Discussion Civil Rights	
Wed. Oct. 6	Midterm	
<u>Part III: Government Institutions</u>		
9. Mon. Oct. 11	<u>The Executive Branch</u> - Kernell, et. al., pp 297-304 (Chapter 7) - Kernell, et. al., <i>Article II of the Constitution of the United States</i> , p. 684-686	
Wed. Oct. 13	- Kernell, et. al., pp 304-340 (Chapter 7)	Quiz 7



10. Mon. Oct. 18 Wed. Oct. 20	<u>The Legislative Branch</u> - Kernell, et. al., pp 231-257 (Chapter 6) - Kernell, et. al., <i>Article I of the Constitution of the United States</i> , p. 681-684 - Kernell, et. al., pp 257-294 (Chapter 6)	Quiz 8
11. Mon. Oct. 25 Wed. Oct. 27	<u>The Federal Judiciary</u> - Kernell, et. al., pp 389-409 (Chapter 9) - Kernell, et. al., <i>Article III of the Constitution of the United States</i> , p. 686 - Kernell, et. al., pp 409-428 (Chapter 9) Presentation 4 and Discussion Federal Judiciary	Quiz 9
<u>Part IV: Linkage Institutions</u>		
12. Mon. Nov. 1 Wed. Nov. 3	<u>Public Opinion</u> - Kernell, et. al., pp 431-454 (Chapter 10) - Kernell, et. al., pp 454-471 (Chapter 10) Presentation 5 and Discussion Public Opinion	Quiz 10
13. Mon. Nov. 8 Wed. Nov. 10	<u>Voting, Campaigns, and Elections</u> - Kernell, et. al., pp 475-488 (Chapter 11) Professional Development Day – No Class	
14. Mon. Nov. 15 Wed. Nov. 17	<u>Voting, Campaigns, and Elections cont.</u> - Kernell, et. al., pp 488-509 (Chapter 11) Presentation 6 and Discussion Campaigns and Elections	Research Papers due Sunday Nov. 21 by 11:59 pm
15. Mon. Nov. 22 Wed. Nov. 24	<u>The Role of the Media</u> - Kernell, et. al., pp 607-632 (Chapter 14) - Kernell, et. al., pp 632-641 (Chapter 14) Presentation 7 and Discussion Media	Quiz 11
16. Mon. Nov. 29 Wed. Dec. 1	<u>Political Parties</u> - Kernell, et. al., pp 513-531 (Chapter 12) - Kernell, et. al., pp 531-559 (Chapter 12) Presentation 8 and Discussion Political Parties	Quiz 12
17. Mon. Dec. 6 Wed. Dec. 8	<u>Interest Groups</u> - Kernell, et. al., pp 563-581 (Chapter 13) - Kernell, et. al., pp 581-603 (Chapter 13)	