

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 120-4 (73512)
INTRODUCTION TO CALIFORNIA
POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT
ONLINE
FALL 2017**

**PALOMAR COLLEGE
1140 WEST MISSION ROAD
SAN MARCOS, CA 92069**

CONTACT INFORMATION

Gary Castañeda

E-mail: gcastaneda@palomar.edu

Please allow at least 24-48 hours for a response

OFFICE HOURS

Office hours: See syllabus schedule

COURSE READINGS

Field, Mona. 2012. *California Government and Politics Today* (14th ed.). New York: Longman Publishing Group.

COURSE OBJECTIVE

This is an abbreviated, one (1) unit course designed to acquaint students to the political/electoral system, processes and political culture of California government. Topics shall include the political/ideological culture of the California electorate, the various segments of California's economy and industry, voting behavior, California's electoral direct ballot initiative system, the state legislature and the state's plural executive/governorship. This course, when completed, helps satisfy the CSU California Institutions requirement.

I hope that at all times you will feel comfortable to ask questions and add whatever thoughts or opinions you might have about the given topic at hand. I want to have a fun and free atmosphere where we can all engage in an open dialogue. Have no fear! Speak your mind. Please feel free to contact me any time during the semester if you have any questions or problems relating to the class.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND GOALS

1. Students will understand better how CA governments and politics function.
2. Students will reach their own conclusions about politics more often rather than simply accepting the opinions of others.
3. Students will acquire a better understanding of CA role in the United States and world.
4. Students will care more about CA political issues and community.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADES

#	Assignments	Due Date	Points
1.	Syllabus Quiz	August 26 th	20
2.	Citation Exercise	August 26 th	20
3.	Paper Topic	August 26 th	10
4.	CA History Journal	August 26 th	20
5.	Citations and References Quiz	September 2 nd	36
6.	Sources and Citations Quiz	September 2 nd	10
7.	CA Executive and Legislature Quiz	September 2 nd	22
8.	CA Executive and Legislature Journal	September 2 nd	20
9.	Paper Outline	September 2 nd	20
10.	Student Self Report	September 9 nd	10
11.	Writing Tips Quiz	September 9 th	10
12.	CA Judiciary Journal	September 9 th	20
13.	CA Budget Journal	September 16 th	20
14.	CA Judiciary and Budget Quiz	September 16 th	20
15.	Final Paper	September 16 th	100
16.	Final Thoughts	September 16 th	10
17.	Total Points		368

Grading Scale		
331-368 points	90-100%	A
294-330 points	80-89.99%	B
257-293 points	70-79.99%	C
220-256 points	60-69.99%	D
0-219 points	0-59.99%	F

PARTICIPATION AND GRADING

- Quizzes and journals will generally be available at the beginning of the week and due Saturday (11:59pm). Be sure to check if there are other due dates.
 - Quizzes will be automatically graded and entered into Blackboard grades.
 - Please allow 1-2 weeks for journal grading.
- Class exercises are worth 20 points.
- Student Responsibilities
 - Expected to have already read the appropriate week's material.
 - Knowing the submission dates for all assignments, exams, etc.
 - Regularly checking the appropriate e-mail accounts for class and personal messages from the professor.
 - Regularly checking grades on Blackboard for errors.
- Assignments
 - Must use proper American Political Science Association (APSA) citation and reference formats. Handouts are available on Blackboard.
 - Paper assignments must be submitted via Blackboard to the proper hyperlink.

- c. Cut and pasted into e-mails or Blackboard **are not acceptable**. Try different web browsers or computers if there are problems with Blackboard submissions.
 - d. Late assignments accrue penalties each calendar day.
 - e. Make-ups are held only in cases of **demonstrated** medical emergencies, religious holidays, or college business. A full two weeks' notice is **required** for appropriate situations.
5. Extra credit
- a. Extra credit is generally not offered in this course. Any extra credit given will have additional instructions provided. Extra credit cannot harm any grade only improve it if done. Extra credit will not alter the Grading Scale either.
6. Grade Appeals
- a. Students should feel free to speak to the professor if they feel they have not received a fair grade and think it should be changed. However, ***have a clear argument as to why*** the grade should be changed. ****Please Note!**** A request to review a grade means that it may be improved but may also be lowered or simply left the same!
 - b. Grade appeals must be done within one week after they have been returned to students. ***No grades will be reviewed after that one week.***
 - c. Students must have a personal meeting with the professor before contacting other parties regarding class and grade disputes

CLASS CONDUCT

- 1. Please at all times observe appropriate behavior and common courtesy.
- 2. Because this is an online course, please observe proper *netiquette*.
- 3. Students are expected to adhere to the Student Code of Conduct at all times. Students who violate the Student Code of Conduct may be removed from class by the faculty for one week (5 instructional days).
- 4. Incidents involving removal of a student from class will be reported to the college disciplinary officer for follow up.
- 5. In order to ensure compliance with class policies (e.g., responding to messages, submitting assignments, complying with other class policies) students may be...
 - a. Blocked by the professor from...
 - i. Access to Blackboard and its class resources. Accessing Blackboard, documents, or assignments in anyway once a student has been blocked is grounds for further action determined by the professor.
 - ii. Taking exams.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic dishonesty of any type by a student provides grounds for disciplinary action by the instructor or college. Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to using "cheat notes" during an exam, copying answers of another student, allowing another student to copy your work either inside or outside of class, and using work from previous semesters. In addition, submitting the same paper to two classes is also considered cheating because the work is not original for both classes.

In written work, no material may be copied from another without proper quotation marks, citations, or appropriate documentation. This means that you ***must use*** proper citation formats for your papers.

Any work of academic dishonesty, plagiarism, or other form of cheating will be given an automatic zero (0) and referral to the administration for further punishment.

DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (DRC) STATEMENT

Students with disabilities who may need academic accommodations should discuss options with Disability Resource Center (DRC) and/or the professor during the first week of class.

ACCESABILITY OF COURSE MATERIALS

Every effort has been made to make this course accessible to all students, including students with disabilities. If you encounter a problem accessing anything in this course, please contact me immediately. Students with disabilities should email me and also contact the college's Disability Resource Center (DRC).

REQUIRED SOFTWARE

1. Microsoft WORD (available at college library if you do not have copies)
2. PowerPoint (available at college library if you do not have copies)
3. PDF reader
4. Zoom: <https://zoom.us/>

Tentative Schedule (subject to change)

Week One: California History

Required Week's Readings

Field, Chapter 1 – “California Politics in Perspective”

Field, Chapter 2 – “The Californians: Land, People, and Political Culture”

Field, Chapter 3 – “California's Historical Development”

Field, Chapter 4 – “Freedom and Equality: California's Delicate Balance”

Week Two: California Executive and Legislature

Office hours (online) via Zoom, December 1st, 5-6pm

Required Week's Readings

Field, Chapter 8 – “The California Legislature”

Field, Chapter 9 – “California's Plural Executive”

Week Three: California Courts

Required Week's Readings

Field, Chapter 5 – “Media Influences and Interest Groups

Field, Chapter 6 – “Political Parties and Other Voluntary Organizations”

Field, Chapter 7 – “Campaigns and Elections: Too Many?”

Field, Chapter 11 – “California Courts and Judges”

Field, Chapter 12 – “Criminal Justice and Civil Law”

Week Four: California Budget

Required Week's Readings

Field, Chapter 10 – “Paying the Bills for the Golden State”

Field, Chapter 13 – “City Governments: Providing the Basics”

Field, Chapter 14 – “Beyond Cities: Counties, Special Districts, Education Districts, and Regional Agencies

Field, Chapter 15 – “Challenges for California's Future”