

**POL 193: Special Studies in American Politics, UC Davis Political Science
Announced Fridays 3:10pm - 4:00pm, at UCCS**

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:00am-11:00am and 1:00pm-2:00pm, and by appointment

Recommended Textbooks

See book list included below

Course Objectives

California offers many unique opportunities for examining politics and public policy. To understand current public policy issues in California this course will focus on the popular discourse related to original public policy research. This course will provide students with an opportunity to engage in the current public policy discourse related to their unique research interests.

Course Outline*

Friday, 10/6: Book Selection

Friday, 11/3: Book Analysis

Grading

Course grades for POL 193 are based on the two following components, all work submitted must be original work completed by the student [a passing grade is equivalent to a C- on a graded scale]:

- Book Selection: questions 1-3 should constitute no more than a half page PDF turned in on Canvas [10%]
- Book analysis, question 4 should constitute approximately 1000-1500 words PDF turned in on Canvas [90%]

*Course schedule subject to change/adjustment.

Potential Book List

- The American Way of Poverty: How the Other Half Still Lives
Sasha Abramsky
- Lords of Finance: The Bankers Who Broke the World
Liaquat Ahamed
- The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness
Michelle Alexander
- To the End of June: The Intimate Life of American Foster Care
Cris Beam
- After the Music Stopped: The Financial Crisis, the Response, and the Work Ahead
Alan S. Binder
- Far From the Tree: Parents, Children, and the Search for Identity
Alan S. Binder
- On Immunity: An Inoculation
Eula Biss
- Between the World and Me
Ta-Nehisi Coates
- The Taste of War: World War II and the Battle for Food
Lizzie Collingham
- When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present
Gail Collins
- Lower Ed: The Troubling Rise of For-Profit Colleges in the New Economy
Tressie McMillan Cottom
- Shop Class as Soulcraft: An Inquiry into the Value of Work
Matthew B. Crawford
- \$2.00 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America
Kathryn J. Edin and H. Luke Shaefer
- Rights Gone Wrong: How Law Corrupts the Struggle for Equality
Richard Thompson Ford
- The Origins of Political Order: From Prehuman Times to the French Revolution
Francis Fukuyama
- Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End
Atul Gawande

- Building a Better Teacher: How Teaching Works (and How to Teach It to Everyone)
Eliazbeth Green
- Four Fish: The Future of the Last Wild Food
Paul Greenberg
- Rule and Ruin. The Downfall of Moderation and the Destruction of the Republican Party:
From Eisenhower to the Tea Party
Geoffrey Kabaservice
- Thinking, Fast, and Slow
Daniel Kahneman
- This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate
Naomi Klein
- The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History
Elizabeth Kolbert
- All the Devils are Here: The Hidden History of the Financial Crisis
Bethany McLean and Joe Nocera
- The Shape of the New: Four Big Ideas and How They Made the Modern World
Scott L. Montgomery and Daniel Chirot
- To Save Everything, Click Here: The Folly of Technological Solutionism
Evgeny Morozov
- Why the West Rules—for Now: The Patterns of History, and What They Reveal about the
Future
Ian Morris
- Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer
Siddhartha Mukherjee
- The Unwinding: An Inner History of the New America
George Packer
- Origins: How the Nine Months before Birth Shape the Rest of Our Lives
Annie Murphy Paul
- The Better Angels of our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined
Steven Pinker
- Spillover: Animal Infections and the Next Human Pandemic
David Quammen
- Methland: The Death and Life of an American Small Town
Nick Reding

- The Death of Josseline: Immigration Stories from Arizona Borderlands
Margaret Regan
- Detained and Deported: Stories of Immigrant Families under Fire
Margaret Regan
- The Smartest Kids in the World: And How They Got That Way
Amanda Ripley
- The Prize: Who's in Charge of America's Schools?
Dale Russakoff
- Terrorizing Latino/a Immigrants: Race, Gender, and Immigration Politics in the Age of Security
Anna Sampaio
- Neurotribes: The Legacy of Autism and the Future of Neurodiversity
Steve Silberman
- How Children Succeed: Grit, Curiosity, and the Hidden Power of Character
Paul Tough
- The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of American Great Migration
Isabel Wilkerson
- The Quest: Energy, Security, and the Remaking of the Modern World
Daniel Yergin

Questions

1. What book have you selected?
2. Why did you choose this particular book?
3. How does this book relate to your research, or your own life experience?
4. Imagine that the book's author was called to testify at a committee hearing of the California State Legislature:
 - What sort of bills or policies are pertinent to the book?
 - Why is it important for the Committee to hear the author's point of view?
 - What would the author say in testimony?
 - If you were the Committee Chair, what questions would you ask?

Course Policies

Attendance, Participation, and Weekly Readings: Class attendance and any additional corresponding on-on-one meetings are mandatory.

Late Policy and Extensions: Extensions will be allowed only in the event of a medical or family emergency. The emergency must be documented [doctor's note] in order to be able to take a make-up exam or to have an extension. If documentation is provided, then a decision will be made regarding the length of your extension. Any requests for an incomplete must be accompanied by a written medical report.

Grade Appeals: Students will have one week from when grades are posted to appeal their grade. All appeals must include a typed, double spaced statement explaining why you are requesting a grade appeal, and you must justify with evidence from your exam, paper, or summaries. If you choose to appeal your grade, the instructor reserves the right to increase or decrease the existing grade.

Academic Honesty

As a University of California student, you have agreed to abide by the University's academic honesty policy. Cheating and other violations of academic honesty are serious offenses. Students are expected to work independently on all graded assignments. Please refer to the UC Davis policy on integrity of scholarship for further details. Students who engage in cheating will earn an F grade.

Students with Disabilities

Any student who, because of a disability, may require some special arrangements in order to meet any of the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary accommodations. It is the responsibility of the student to request accommodation for individual learning needs. UC Davis will make every attempt to accommodate all qualified students with disabilities.