

Political Science 195
The California Policy Seminar
Winter 2013
TH 12:00-3:00PM
UC Center Sacramento

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Course Objectives

This course provides students with a set of analytical tools for understanding California politics and public policy. The California setting is unique in many respects, but its politics and policy outcomes can be studied fruitfully using a few basic models and theories of individual decision-making and group behavior.

Substantively, this course addresses the major political processes, institutions, and policy challenges facing the state of California. While our focus is on the contemporary period, these topics and issues have historical roots, and they can only be understood relative to the political development of the state. Challenges and resources of the present are, in short, rooted in choices and events of the past, and this seminar will give attention to the social and political development of politics and public policy in the state.

Requirements

Your course grade is based on the following components:

- Three Summary Reports (10%)
- One Written Assignment (30%)
- One Group Assignment (25%)
- Final Exam (35%)

Final: The final exam will take place on **Tuesday, March 19 at 1:00 p.m. Location: UC Center Sacramento.** The exam will be based on both the readings and the materials discussed in class.

Summary Reports: You will complete brief three summary reports based on the weekly policy presentations at the UC Center Sacramento. The summary reports are designed to reward your regular attendance at the policy presentations and encourage your careful analysis of the main arguments of each presenter. Summary reports are due one week after the date of the policy presentation. **Late assignments will be penalized 5% for each day they are late. Attendance at all policy presentations is expected. Students who miss a policy presentation are required to watch the video of the presentation and write an additional summary report based on it.**

Written Assignment: You will complete a written assignment. The written assignment is designed to encourage you to develop your own arguments and evaluations of the topics in the course. Late

papers will be accepted for one week after the due date. **Late assignments will be penalized 5% for each day they are late.** Written work must reflect your own scholarship, in line with the UC Davis Code of Academic Conduct. For guidelines on avoiding plagiarism, see the SJA at <http://sja.ucdavis.edu/>. You are expected to be well-aware of these guidelines; ignorance does not excuse a violation of these guidelines.

The written assignment will be posted before class in week three and will be due at the **beginning of class on Thursday, February 14.**

Group Assignment: In addition, you will participate in a group assignment. The group assignment is designed to encourage you to work with others and apply your understanding of the topics in the course to a particular problem. Students will self-select into groups of three to five to analyze a public policy issue. Each group will: 1) produce a written policy brief (a readable policy brief of eight to 10 pages with visuals and graphics), 2) deliver a seven- to 10-minute oral presentation, and 3) prepare a handout (no more than two pages) to accompany the presentation.

The written policy brief should provide enough factual information about the issue so that a general reader can understand the analysis in your brief and presentation. The brief should identify and explain different views on the problem and possible solutions, and take a position on what should be done (and who should do it). Late papers will be accepted for one week after the due date. **Late assignments will be penalized 5% for each day they are late.** Written work must reflect your group's scholarship, in line with the UC Davis Code of Academic Conduct.

The group assignment will be posted before class in week five and will be due at the **beginning of class on Thursday, March 14.**

Course Policies

Attendance, Participation, and Class Readings

Attendance and readings are mandatory. All readings for a given date should be done before the beginning of class. Please participate in class discussions.

Late Policy / Make-Up Exams

Make-up exams and extensions will be allowed only in the event of a medical or family emergency. You must have documentation of your emergency (for example, a doctor's note) to be able to take a make-up exam or get an extension. After you provide this documentation, a decision will be made regarding whether and when you may take a make-up exam/get an extension. Similarly, any request for an incomplete must be accompanied by a written medical report.

Grade Appeals

You have one week from when the exams and papers are returned to appeal the grade. All appeals must be made to your TA. You must submit a typed, double-spaced statement explaining why you are requesting a grade appeal and justify it with evidence from your paper, exam, readings, and lectures. If you choose to appeal your grade, your TA reserves the right to decrease the existing grade. His/her decision is final.

Tardiness to Exams

It is expected that you will arrive to exams on time. Arriving late to exams is a disruption for your classmates and increases the probability that exam information has been shared. Students who arrive more than 20 minutes late will not be allowed to sit for the final.

Academic Honesty

Cheating and other violations of academic honesty are serious offenses. Except for the group assignment, graded assignments are not collaborative efforts in this class. You must work independently on all exams and written assignments. Please refer to the UC Davis policy on integrity of scholarship for further details. If you are caught cheating in this course, you will be awarded a letter grade of an F.

Please turn off cell phones and pagers during class.

Materials

There are three main textbooks for this course. Other required readings can be found either online or on the course website. The three main textbooks for the class are:

Gerald Lubenow, Editor. 2006. *Governing California: Politics, Government, and Public Policy in the Golden State*. 2nd Edition. Berkeley: Institute of Governmental Studies Press. **Please make sure you have the 2nd Edition.**

Frederick Douzet, Thad Kousser, and Kenneth P. Miller, Editors. 2008. *The New Political Geography of California*. Berkeley: Institute of Governmental Studies Press.

Kenneth Shepsle. 2010. *Analyzing Politics: Rationality, Behavior, and Institutions*. 2nd Edition. New York: W. W. Norton & Company. **Please make sure you have the 2nd Edition.**

Copies will be available for purchase at the UC Davis Bookstore.

In addition to the assigned readings, students are encouraged to keep up with current events in California. The Rough & Tumble website (www.rumble.com) provides a daily snapshot of California politics and public policy based on reporting from publications across the state.

Readings

As you do the readings, you might find it useful to keep the following questions in mind:

1. TYPE: What type of reading is this? Is it a theoretical piece? Is it a literature review? Is it an empirical piece?
2. PROPOSITIONS/HYPOTHESES: What are the propositions, or hypotheses, advanced by the author?
3. EVIDENCE: If it is a theoretical piece, what are the justifications? If it is a literature review, what are the sources? If it is an empirical piece, what data are analyzed?
4. CONCLUSIONS: What are the conclusions that the author reaches? Are they justified given the evidence presented?
5. REMARKS: What are your reactions to this piece? What questions does it answer? What does it leave unanswered? If you have criticisms, how would you improve upon the piece?

POL 195: The California Policy Seminar
Course Topics and Assigned Readings

WEEK 1: Thursday, 1/10. The Logic of California Politics: Representative Institutions, Rational Politicians and Collective Action Dilemmas.

Samuel Kernell, Gary C. Jacobson, and Thad Kousser, The Logic of American Politics, Ch. 1, in *Logic of American Politics*.

Kenneth A. Shepsle, Rationality: The Model of Choice, Ch. 2, in *Analyzing Politics*.

Peter Schrag, March of the Plebiscites, Ch. 7, in *Paradise Lost*.

WEEK 2: Thursday, 1/17. Common Pool Resource Politics and Policy in California: The Case of Local Government Finance and Land Use.

Elinor Ostrom, Ch. 1 (pp. 1-23), Ch. 2 in *Governing the Commons*.

Revan Tranter, Cities, Counties, and the State, in *Governing California*.

Peter Schrag, The Spirit of 13, Ch. 6, in *Paradise Lost*.

Garrett Hardin, The Tragedy of the Commons, in *Science*, December 3, 1968.

WEEK 3: Thursday, 1/24. The Progressive Movement: The Initiative, Referendum and Recall.

Kenneth A. Shepsle, Ch. 3, Ch. 4 (pp. 53-76), Ch. 5 (pp. 111-123), and Ch. 6 (pp. 156-170, 174-179) in *Analyzing Politics*.

Eugene C. Lee, Direct Democracy: Initiative, Referendum, and Recall, in *Governing California*.

William M. Chandler and Thad Kousser, Governors, Geography, and Direct Democracy: The Case of Arnold Schwarzenegger, in *The New Political Geography of California*.

WEEK 4: Thursday, 1/31. Bargaining Between Governors and the Legislature in the Age of Term Limits.

Kenneth A. Shepsle, Cooperation, Ch. 8 in *Analyzing Politics*.

Patrick Johnston, The Changing Legislative Landscape, in *Governing California*.

Bruce Cain, Thad Kousser, and Karl Kurtz, California: A Professional Legislature after Term Limits, in *Governing California*.

John Jacobs and A. G. Block, The Governor: Managing a Mega-State, in *Governing California*.

WEEK 5: Thursday, 2/7. Movements and Elections, Parties and Redistricting in California.

Kenneth A. Shepsle, Collective Action, Ch. 9 (pp. 262-292) in *Analyzing Politics*.

Frederick Douzet and Kenneth P. Miller, California's East-West Divide, in *The New Political Geography of California*.

J. Morgan Kousser, Redistricting: California 1971-2001, in *Governing California*.

Bruce Cain, Iris Hui, and Karin McDonald, Sorting or Self-Sorting? Competition and Redistricting in California, in *The New Political Geography of California*.

WEEK 6: Thursday, 2/14. The Courts and Criminal Justice Policy in California.

Kenneth A. Shepsle, Public Goods, Externalities, and the Commons, Ch. 10 in *Analyzing Politics*.
Deborah Stone, Ch. 2, Ch. 4 and Ch. 5 in *Policy Paradox: The Art of Political Decision Making*.
Preble Stolz, Jerry Uelmen, and Susan Rasky, The Courts, in *Governing California*.
Legislative Analyst's Office, A Primer: Three Strikes – The Impact After More Than a Decade,
http://www.lao.ca.gov/2005/3_Strikes/3_strikes_102005.htm

WEEK 7: Thursday, 2/21. The Politics of Diversity: Race and Incorporation in California.

John W. Kingdon, pp. 173-204 in *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies*.
Raphael Sonenshein and Susan Pinkus, Latino Incorporation Reaches the Urban Summit: How Antonio Villaraigosa Won the 2005 Los Angeles Mayor's Race, in *PS: Political Science and Politics*, Vol. 38, Issue 4.
J. Morgan Kousser, Has California Gone Colorblind?, in *The New Political Geography of California*.
Morris P. Fiorina and Samuel J. Abrams, Is California Really a Blue State?, in *The New Political Geography of California*.

WEEK 8: Thursday, 2/28. Education Policy and the California Economy.

James A. Anderson, Ch. 6 (pp. 193-238) and Ch. 7 (pp. 245-269) in *Public Policymaking*.
Peter Dreier, The Battle over School Funding: The View from Pasadena, in *California Journal of Politics and Policy*, Vol. 2, Issue 2.
Susanna Loeb, Anthony Bryk and Eric Hanushek, *Getting Down to Facts: School Finance and Governance in California*. Summary.
<http://www.stanford.edu/group/irepp/documents/GDF/summary-paper-final.pdf>.
California Postsecondary Education Commission, *College Costs and Family Income: The Affordability Issue at UC and CSU*. <http://www.cpec.ca.gov/completereports/2011reports/11-02.pdf>.

WEEK 9: Thursday, 3/7. Water Policy and Environmental Politics.

James A. Anderson, Ch. 4 (pp. 119-144) in *Public Policymaking*.
Elinor Ostrom, *Governing the Commons*. Ch. 4.
Megan Mullin, Water in California: A Case Study in Federalism, in *Governing California*.
Ellen Hanak, Jay Lund, Ariel Dinar, Brian Gray, Richard Howitt, Jeffrey Mount, Peter Moyle, and Barton Thompson, *California Water Myths*.
http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R_1209EHR.pdf

WEEK 10: Thursday, 3/14. Final Presentations.

No assigned readings.