CRAFTON HILLS COLLEGE

FALL 2018

POLIT 102: CALIFORNIA POLITICS AND CULTURE

Section: 01 Ref: 1512 TTh 4 pm – 5:50 pm Room: CTL 209

INSTRUCTOR: Steve Hellerman

Office: SSA 334 Tel: 389-3337 email: shellerman@craftonhills.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Political Science 102 is an introductory course in the fundamentals of California government and politics, covering state, county and municipal government with some emphasis on California's unique history, culture, people and politics. This includes analysis of the state's heritage, governing institutions, the state Constitution, major "linkage" institutions (bureaucracy, elections, political parties, mass media, public opinion) and infrastructure, ongoing political and economic issues, interest groups and resource management, as well as the role of federalism and the ballot initiative process in the state's political and public policy development. Current events and elections as they relate to the subject matter of the class -- particularly those that currently confront the state, region, Inland Empire, and local municipalities -- will also be examined.

Students will attain an understanding of California's governing institutions and how they operate; the major documents, institutions, actors, politics and policy at state and local levels; and the varied culture and history of the people of California. Finally, students should attain and utilize the ability to critically identify, analyze and propose viable solutions to the state's policy issues.

SLO's: Identify the elective offices and institutions at the state, county and local levels of government and their respective responsibilities. Define federalism and describe its influence in California politics and public policy. Analyze and assess the unique key components of the Constitution of the State of California, including the ballot initiative, the referendum, the recall, and term limits. Recognize and evaluate the importance of key historical and cultural factors relevant to California politics. Recognize and assess key political, economic and social issues confronting the state of California, Southern California, and the Inland Empire.

TEXTBOOK AND READING ASSSIGNMENTS

Van Vechten, Renee B. <u>California Politics: A Primer</u> 5th Edition (Los Angeles: Sage CQ Press, 2018), ISBN-9781506380353.

Order directly from Sage by phone: 1-800-818-7243 / 1-805-499-9774

Constitution of the State of California, access from the internet at: http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/const-toc.html

Additional reading assignments and stock textbook quiz questions are available electronically online on the Crafton Hills College website, listed under (1) Departments; (2) Political Science (listed under Social Sciences) (3) the instructor's name (4) Personal Pages. (If necessary, ask for assistance at the Library.)

Students are expected to read state and local stories from *The Los Angeles Times* and local newspapers (*San Bernardino Sun*, *Redlands Daily Facts*, *Yucaipa News Mirror*, etc.) on a regular basis. Monitoring local television news (channels 2, 4, 5, 7, and 9, as well as the public television

stations) and news radio stations (1070, 970, 640, 590 AM; Public Radio on 89.3 and/or 89.9, <u>91.9 FM</u>) will also prove useful. Listen to the news in the car, particularly 91.9 on your way to and from campus.

EXPLANATION OF GRADING PROCEDURES, EXAMS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Grades will be based upon the following:

6 (out of 10) multiple choice quizzes (30 percent)

Take-home Assignment #1 (5 percent)

Take-home Assignment #2 (10 percent)

Position Paper, Local or State Government/Election Analysis, or Municipal Incorporation Report (30 percent)

Team Project (15 percent)

Attendance and Participation (10 percent)

Quizzes will be multiple-choice based on text book readings. NO MAKE-UP OUIZZES ALLOWED

There will be a total of <u>ten quizzes</u> during the semester, <u>six of which will count</u> for a total of 30 percent of the total course grade. **The instructor will drop the lowest four quiz scores from the student's grade**. Hence, each counted quiz is worth five percentage points, or a fraction thereof, toward the total course grade.

One point extra will be given for each score of "5" after six exams scoring "5"; 5 full points for "5's" on all ten quizzes. So a student could attain more than 30 points for the quizzes, up to 35 points total for all ten.

Each quiz consists of 30 multiple choice questions (except Quiz #6 which has 25 questions), almost all of which are derived directly from the textbook readings. Quizzes will be given either before or after the relevant lecture, at the discretion of the instructor. The grading scale for the quizzes:

Number Correct	Percent	Score (out of 5)
27-30 (A)	90-100%	5
25-26 (B+)	83.5-86.5%	4.5
24 (B)	80%	4
21-23 (C)	70-76.5%	3.5
18-20 (D)	60-66.5%	3
15-17	50-56.5%	2.5
12-14	40-46.5%	2
9-11	30-36.5%	1.5
6-8	20-26.5%	1
1-5	0.3-16.5%	0.5

Take-home Assignment #1 is a "Fill-in-the-Map." Take-home Assignment #2 will cover basic state, county and local governments and their office holders.

<u>IMPORTANT</u>: STUDENTS WHO FAIL TO HAND-IN ASSIGNMENT #1 OR #2 WILL BE DROPPED FROM THE CLASS!!!!

The team project assignment will be completed by groups of three to five students. Each team will be responsible for mapping out a campaign strategy that will result in the successful passage of their initiative. The basic requirements for the project include a paper that will outline the team's argument for a ballot initiative and the strategy for first getting the initiative on the state ballot and subsequently passed by the state's voters; a bumper sticker (specifically, a slogan for your "movement" and/or campaign), brochure and television and/or radio commercial; a press conference (last day of class) during which the team will explain their position to the mass media (the class) and display their commercial(s), bumper sticker and brochure. A handout with further information regarding this project assignment will be provided by the instructor.

In the written position paper (7-10 pages; typed, double-spaced), the student may examine an ongoing issue facing California policymakers and present a good argument for one or both sides of the issue based on researched evidence, and rational and coherent premises. A handout with further information regarding this paper will be provided by the instructor. Alternatively, a student may examine the process and issues regarding Municipal Incorporation, or an explication of local and state government and recent elections.

Handouts will elaborate on these projects.

Students may earn extra credit (up to ten points!) by providing a presentation, debate or leading a discussion – usually at the beginning of class – regarding a news story relevant to the subject matter of the course, including the upcoming election (PARTICULARLY THE CANDIDATES AND BALLOT PROPOSITIONS). Students will provide a brief description of a news event that is on-going or has occurred since the last class meeting and discuss its significance and/or implications. Use of visual aids (perhaps something as simple as a newspaper clip and/or the election booklet, or as sophisticated as Powerpoint) are encouraged. Sufficient detail should be presented to make clear that you understand the issue and its "pros and cons" (one may utilize the issue that will be used for the Position Paper). You may also provide your own opinion regarding the story. Other students (as well as the instructor) will be invited to comment and ask questions.

The grading scale for the total course grade is as follows:

A = 90 to 100 points

B = 80 to 89

C = 70 to 79

D = 59 to 69

ATTENDANCE REQUIRMENTS (AND DROPPING THE CLASS)

Students are expected to attend every class and to arrive before the lecture, quiz, or discussion begins. Attendance will be considered a factor toward a student's final course grade, particularly after THREE recorded absences. Arriving late to class or leaving early may be counted as an absence. The instructor may deduct one grade point for every recorded absence after THREE recorded absences.

The instructor will <u>not</u> necessarily drop a student with any other grade than an "F" after the "drop date," i.e., the last day to drop the class and receive a "W". So if you stop attending class before the "drop date," you likely will receive an "F" (which will permanently appear on your transcripts) if you do not "formally withdraw" from the class by the "drop date."

It is <u>NOT necessary to contact the instructor regarding an absence</u> unless you are absent for a scheduled in-class presentation.

Students are <u>responsible for material covered in all lectures, even if they are not in</u> attendance.

It is strongly advised that you arrange in advance to get the class notes and/or assignments from a fellow student if/when you miss a class. (Use the "Buddy System".)

DISABILITIES

Any student with a disability (e.g., a learning disability) requiring special consideration should notify the instructor as soon as possible (after class). Appropriate accommodations will be developed in consultation with the appropriate offices.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students should review the college regulations concerning academic misconduct and dishonesty, which will be enforced in this class. In particular, plagiarism should be avoided at all costs. Anyone who cheats on a quiz or exam, plagiarizes, or directly duplicates the work of another student or cuts and pastes directly off of a website (i.e., anyone who tries to pass off someone else's work as his or her own) will be referred to the Vice President of Student Services for appropriate action and penalties. While students are encouraged to study and work together whenever possible, EACH STUDENT IS REQUIRED TO INDIVIDUALLY WRITE THEIR OWN PAPERS AND HAND IN THEIR OWN WORK. It goes without saying that a take-home paper or essay exam answer based on plagiarism or directly duplicating that of another student will be given a grade of "F", and such action will certainly affect the final course grade; and quite possibly your transcript (permanently!).

CIVILITY

There is often a great deal of disagreement over issues raised in class, which is natural and positive. However, while students should feel free to disagree with the instructor and/or other students, they should not feel free to be rude, crass or insulting when expressing their opinion, nor should they ever engage in *ad hominem* attacks. Students not capable of engaging in civil discourse will be asked to leave the class for the remainder of the session.

REASONABLE PEOPLE CAN DISAGREE!

SIDE CONVERSATIONS AND OTHER DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!!!!! (GO OUTSIDE)

Don't be a schmuck or P.I.T.A.!

Continued rudeness or disruptiveness may result in being ejected from the class and, eventually, dropped from the course!!!!!

Please be sure that <u>ALL CELL PHONES</u>, pagers, and hand-held devices <u>ARE TURNED OFF</u> or on "vibrate only" (i.e., <u>WILL NOT RING or make other noises</u>) during class.

NO TEXTING DURING CLASS!!!!! (GO OUTSIDE)

OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT

The instructor may meet with students <u>immediately after class</u>, <u>by appointment</u>, <u>or during office hours</u> in SSA 334: <u>Tues. and Thurs</u>, <u>1-2:30 pm</u>.

The instructor can be contacted by **email**: **shellerman@craftonhills.edu**

<u>PLEASE</u>: NEVER EVER simply assume that email has been received and/or read, or that email has been or not been sent! Follow up may be necessary in "The Land of Email." (Follow up w/a phone call, even!)

The instructor may be contacted in his office either in person or by phone: 909-389-3337. Please leave a message w/ a call-back tel. #.

<u>PLEASE</u>: NEVER EVER simply assume that a voice message has been received and/or heard. Follow up may be necessary in the "The Land of Voice Mail." (Follow up w/ an email, even!)

COURSE LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE

(Note: Class lectures and discussions will sometimes include issues relating to current events as well as other topics not specified in this syllabus, including appearances by guest lecturers and ELECTION ANALYSIS. The instructor reserves the right to change, revise and/or update this syllabus at any time during the semester. Readings, Quizzes and Assignment Due Dates MAY BE POSTPONED OR MOVED UP!

Week One (9/11-13): Van Vechten, Chap. 1.

Course Introduction; California Geography: Physical, Social, Cultural, Economic; "Crises and more Crises".

Take-Home Assignment #1 (Due 9/20)

Week Two (9/18-20): Van Vechten, Chap. 1.

The California State Constitution; Progressive Era Reforms.

9/20: Take-Home Assignment #1 Due

Take-Home Assignment #2 (Due 10/6)

QUIZ #1 (Van Vechten 1)

Week Three (9/25-27): Van Vechten, Chap. 2.

Federalism and the State(s); Levels of Government.

OUIZ #2 (Van Vechten 2)

Week Four (10/2-4): Van Vechten, Chap.3.

Direct Democracy

10/2 (TUES.): STUPID MORONIC FLEX DAY, NO CLASS!!!!!!

10/3: AL Wild Card Game: YANKEES!

10/4: Position Paper/Incorporation Report Assignment (Due 12/12)

Week Five (10/9-11): Van Vechten, Chap.4.

State Legislature.

QUIZ #3 (Van Vechten 3)

10/9: Take-Home Assignment #2 Due; Team Project Assignments

Week Six (10/16-18): Van Vechten, Chap. 5.

Executive Branch.

QUIZ #4 (Van Vechten 4)

Week Seven (10/23-25): Van Vechten, Chap. 6.

The Governor; Elected Officials and Institutions of the Executive Branch. Cal History Digression: Water; Court System.

QUIZ #5 (Van Vechten 5)

Week Eight (10/30-11/1): Van Vechten, Chap. 7. The Courts; County and Municipal Government; Special Districts.

QUIZ #6 (Van Vechten 6)

11/1: Team Project Report: How We Got it On the Ballot

Week Nine (11/6-8): Van Vechten, Chap. 7.

County and Municipal Government: Budget Process; Election Analysis.

VOTE!!!!!

QUIZ #7 (Van Vechten 7)

Week Ten (11/13-15): Van Vechten, Chap. 8.

Budget Process. Election Analysis.

QUIZ #8 (Van Vechten 8)

Week Eleven (11/20): Van Vechten, Chap. 9.

Political Parties, Elections and Campaigns; Growth Policies.

11/22: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY!!!!

Week Twelve (11/27-11/29): Van Vechten, Chap. 9.

Political Parties, Elections and Campaigns; Political Engagement.

QUIZ #9 (Van Vechten 9)

Week Thirteen (12/4-6): Van Vechten, Chap. 10.

Political Engagement; Course Summation.

QUIZ #10 (Van Vechten 10)

Week Thirteen (12/11-13): Van Vechten, Chap. 11

Political Engagement; Course Summation.

12/11: MUNCIPAL INCORPORATION REPORT/POSITION PAPERS DUE

12/13: Team Presentations

MERRY X-MAS!!!!!! HAPPY CHANUKAH!!!!!!! GOOD KWANZA!!!!!!!