

Political Science 102  
State Government and Politics  
Fall 2009  
HGH 116  
M, W 7:30-8:45

Professor Gerston  
Clark Hall 451 924-5580  
Hours: M, W 6:30-7:25,  
M, W 10:30-11:45  
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### **SCOPE OF THE COURSE**

States are the forgotten components of American politics and government. Removed from the national limelight yet more distant than local power sources, states often are lost in the policy making shuffle. Yet, they are critical to the understanding and operation of the American political process and key players in the current movement to decentralize government power.

The materials for this course are divided into three components. Much like the blocks that build a pyramid, these components depend upon and gain strength from one another.

The first part examines the connection between the states and national politics, a relationship broadly described as "federalism." The second portion of the course chronicles similarities and differences of state political institutions, political values, and selected areas of public policy. In the third portion of the course, the knowledge of federalism and comparative state arrangement will be applied to the case study of California. By blending theory with reality, we will gain insight whether the "Golden State" is an aberration, trendsetter or just a typical American state.

### **REQUIRED READINGS**

Gerston, *American Federalism: A Concise Introduction*, 2007  
Bowman and Kearney, *State and Local Government*, Seventh Edition, 2008  
Gerston and Christensen, *California Politics and Government*, Tenth Edition, 2009

### **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance is not required, but strongly encouraged inasmuch as not all material on the exams comes from the text only.

**CELL PHONES**

*As a courtesy to other students and the professor, please make sure that cell phones are turned OFF. If your phone rings during class, you will be asked to leave. If you text during class, you will be asked to leave. I AM VERY SERIOUS ABOUT THIS ISSUE.*

**EXAMINATIONS AND EVALUATION**

There are three examinations in this course. Exam I will cover materials from the first third of the course; Exam II will cover materials from the second third of the course. Exam III will cover the last third of the course.

Essay and short answer formats will be used for all three examinations. For each examination, you will be required to bring **LARGE NEW blue books** and **pens**. **Only medical problems (with physician's note) are accepted reasons for missing an exam.**

Class performance is evaluated as follows:

Exam I	30%
Exam II	30
Exam III	30
Participation	<u>10</u>
Total:	100%

**SPECIAL EVENING LECTURES**

There will be at least two special lectures by candidates for California governor during the semester as part of the Don Edwards Lecture Series. Edwards served in the U.S. Congress for more than 25 years as a representative from the San Jose area. The lectures will take place at 7:00 p.m. in Morris Dailey Auditorium. **Attendance will be mandatory**; in exchange for attending this lecture, there will be no class on dates established by the professor.

Note: the lecture is videotaped for those with schedule conflicts.

**ACCOMMODATIONS**

If you need particular accommodations because of a disability, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible. Presidential Directive 97-03 also requires that students with disabilities register with DRC to establish a record of their disability to use available services.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San José State University, and the University's Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Note that faculty members are required to report *all infractions* to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The policy on academic integrity can be found at: <http://www2.sjsu.edu/senate/S04-12.pdf>. In other words, plagiarism and cheating on exams, papers, or assignments are serious offenses that may result in grades of F or expulsion from the university. Don't do it!

### **LEARNING ASSISTANCE**

The SJSU **Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC)** provides tutoring assistance on a weekly or drop-in basis. This is an excellent resource skills development. The LARC is located in the Student Services Center, Room 600 (between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Street on San Fernando). Hours: M-R 9-6, F 9-3. Phone: 408-924-2587. All services are offered to registered SJSU students free of charge.

### **READING ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAM SCHEDULE (tentative)**

August 24	Introduction; general remarks
January 24-September 3	Gerston, Chapters 1, 2
September 3-13	Gerston, Chapters 3, 4
September 7	Labor Day—No Class
September 14-20	Gerston, Chapters 5, 6
September 15	Tom Campbell, Republican candidate for governor, Morris Dailey Auditorium, 7 PM
September 21-September 30	Gerston, Chapters 7, 8, 9
<b><i>September 27</i></b>	<b><i>No Class</i></b>
<b><i>October 5</i></b>	<b><i>Exam I Review</i></b>
<b><i>October 7</i></b>	<b><i>Exam I</i></b>

October 8-13	Bowman/Kearney, Chapters 1, 2, 3
<b><i>October 12</i></b>	<b><i>No Class</i></b>
October 14-20	Bowman/Kearney, Chapters 4, 5
October 14	Steve Poizner, Republican candidate for governor, Morris Dailey Auditorium, 7 PM
<b><i>October 19</i></b>	<b><i>No Class—furlough day</i></b>
October 21-29	Bowman/Kearney, Chapters 6, 7, 8
October 30-November 4	Bowman/Kearney, Chapters 9, 12
<b><i>November 4</i></b>	<b><i>Exam II Review</i></b>
<b>November 9</b>	<b><i>Exam II</i></b>
November 10-17	Gerston/Christensen, <i>Cal Politics</i> , Chapters 1, 2
November 18-25	Gerston/Christensen, <i>Cal Politics</i> , Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7
<b>November 26-27</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Recess</b>
November 28-December 4	Gerston/Christensen, <i>Cal Politics</i> , Chapters 8, 9, 10
<b><i>December 7</i></b>	<b><i>Exam III Review;</i></b>
<b>December 10</b>	<b><i>Exam III, 7:15-8:45 AM</i></b>