

### **Political Science 103**

Local Government and Politics

Fall 2009 – Hugh Gillis Hall 116

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Mon, 6:00-8:45 p.m.

Former Speaker of the United State House of Representatives Thomas “Tip” O’Neal famously said, “All politics is local.” His point was that the basic notion of politics is between people, but also that local politics have a significant impact on policy and politics at state and national levels.

In this class, we will focus on local politics (both the institutions of local government, and the politics that drive policy decisions). This class will delve into politics in communities, and about politics more broadly.

This class will examine the structure of local governments and their relationships to other governmental, non-governmental, and civic organizations and life. Rather broadly, this class will use San Jose and Santa Cruz as living examples.

The instructor for this class, Fred Keeley, is a graduate of San Jose State University (1974, Social Sciences). Mr. Keeley is currently the elected Treasurer of the County of Santa Cruz. From 1996 to the end of 2002, Mr. Keeley was three times elected to represent the Monterey Bay Area in the California State Assembly, where he served as Speaker pro Tempore for more than four years. Mr. Keeley was recognized as “Legislator of the Year” in 2002 by the California Journal. At the end of his service in the California Legislature, Mr. Keeley was asked by the Governor to become Director of the Department of Finance. Mr. Keeley respectfully declined, and became Executive Director of the Planning and Conservation League, and the PCL Foundation for two years. From 1988 to the end of 1996, Mr. Keeley was an elected member of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors. For five years prior to his service on the Board of Supervisors, Mr. Keeley served as Chief of Staff to Sam Farr, who represents the central coast in the United States House of Representatives. Mr. Keeley currently serves on the California Ocean Science Trust, the Governor’s Commission on the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Economy, the Board of Directors of Save Our Shores, and is on the Leadership Council of California Forward. Mr. Keeley also serves as a special projects consultant to the Governor of California and the Secretary of the California Resources Agency. Mr. Keeley lives in Santa Cruz with his wonderful cat, Olivia.

#### **In this course, you will be expected to learn:**

1. How to understand, participate in and affect politics in your own community – as a citizen, a public official, a private sector professional, and as a member of the media.
2. How to obtain the information that you need to expand and deepen your knowledge of your current and future communities.

3. To synthesize ideas from varied sources to enrich your understanding of local politics and institutions.
4. To think critically and analyze local politics, and politics more generally.

### **Required Reading**

1. Terry Christensen and Tom Hogen-Esch, *Local Politics*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, ME Sharpe, 2006.
2. Local daily and weekly newspapers and various sites on the Internet.

### **Evaluation**

The Standard format for grading will be 20% for the final examination, 20% for the mid-term examination, 20% for a paper on city council meetings, 10% each for the role model paper, participation in the city politics simulation, and a civic engagement paper, and 10% for class participation.

1. **The Civic Engagement Paper.** This will require you to attend a neighborhood association meeting or volunteer for a local government campaign of your choice. Apply Chapter 10 of the text as your guide for this paper. This paper will be 3-4 pages.
2. **The City Council Paper.** This will require attendance of at least two meetings of the San Jose City Council or other approved city council, and a 6-8 page paper analyzing what you observe, with appropriate application of readings.
3. **Mid-Term Examination.** Approximately half way through the course, there will be a mid-term examination. The examination will be in essay format.
4. **The Role Model Paper.** This paper will be 3-4 pages in duration and will concentrate on a person like the one you will play in the city politics simulation. Once you have been assigned a role, you will then find a local, real-life parallel and research that person through public records, the Internet, newspapers or interviews. Your brief paper should describe this person and his/her political activities and put them in the larger context provided by the text and reader, which must be cited in footnotes.
5. **The City Politics Simulation.** This will be enacted near the end of the semester. A course handout will provide more details as we approach that exercise.
6. **The Final Examination.** This will be comprehensive essay questions covering lecture and readings.

### **Notices**

Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University, and the University's Academic Integrity Policy require you to be honest in all of your academic course work. Faculty are required to report all infractions to the Office

of Judicial Affairs. The policy on academic integrity can be found at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S04-12.pdf>.

Late papers will be penalized with lower grades. Missed quizzes may not be made up unless students are excused in advance. Plagiarism or cheating on quizzes, tests or papers are serious offenses that may result in grades of F or expulsion from the university. Late arrivals, early departures, ringing cell telephones or other disruptions of class in any form are unacceptable.

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or schedule to see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities register with DRC to establish a record of their disability.

### **Course Outline**

August 24	<b>Introduction and Organization</b>  Proposition 13, Property Tax, Redevelopment Financing and State Budget – “Basics” Lecture
August 31	<b>Independent Study</b> – No Class Attendance Required This Date
September 7	<b>The Environment of Local Politics: Characteristics of Urban Places.</b>  Reading: Local Politics, Chapters 1 and 2.
September 14	<b>The Evolution of Urban Places: Where People Live and Why.</b>  Reading: LP, Chapter 3.
September 21	<b>The Intergovernmental Environment of Local Politics</b>  Reading: LP, Chapter 4.

- September 28      **Forms of Government: Machines and Reform**
- Reading: LP, Chapter 5.
- Guest Speaker: Peter Detwiler, Staff Director, Senate Local Government Committee, California State Senate
- October 5      **Forms of Government Continued: Reform and Counterreform**
- Bureaucracies in Local Politics**
- Reading: LP, Chapters 6,7 and 8.
- Guest Speaker: Greg Larson, Town Manager, Town of Los Gatos, former Chief of Staff, California State Controller Steve Westly.
- October 12      **Inputs in Local Politics: Elections, Campaigns and the Media.**
- Reading: LP, Chapter 9.
- Paper: Civic Engagement Paper Due.
- Guest Speaker: Phil Trounstone
- October 19      **Mid-Term Examination**
- October 26      **Community Power Structures: Official and Unofficial Decision Makers.**
- Reading: LP, Chapter 11.
- Paper: City Council Paper Due.
- Guest Speaker: Cindy Chavez, former Vice-Mayor, City of San Jose
- November 2      **Budget Politics: Getting and Spending Money**
- Reading: LP, Chapter 12.
- Role Model Assignments Made in Class
- November 9      **Public Policy: Local Issues and Battles. The Politics of Growth.**
- Reading: LP, Chapter 13; and, Course Reader, Section 13

November 16	<b>City Simulation Preparation</b>
	Paper: Role Model Paper Due
November 23	<b>Review of Course to Date</b>
November 30	<b>City Simulation</b>
TBD	<b>Final Examination</b>