

Political Science 102
State Government and Politics
Fall 2011
Mondays 6:00 p.m. until 8:45 p.m.

Instructor: Fred Keeley
fred.keeley@co.santa-cruz.ca.us
831 227 7906

SCOPE OF THE COURSE. State governments are a unique segment of the United States' organization of governments. The framers of the Constitution of the United States intentionally reserved substantial power to the states, most of which was not enumerated. State governments function as both delivery systems for federal programs, and as independent entities with their own constitutions and duties.

The State of California is particularly unique amongst the states of the union. First, it is the largest in terms of population, and it is so by a very large margin. Second, it is growing fast, growing in diversity, and may or may not be ready for the challenges of the 21st century.

This course is intended to provide the student with a more than basic understanding of the governmental structures and politics that constitute recent, current and near term future functions, challenges, strengths and weaknesses of California.

Because this course is offered once each week for three hours, the class structure will be a bit different from some other classes. Usually, the classroom activities will consist of discussion of the previous week's reading assignment(s), and a substantial amount of discussion amongst and between the instructor and students.

Fred Keeley is the elected county Treasurer of the County of Santa Cruz. Mr. Keeley has held this elected position since January 2005. As County Treasurer, Mr. Keeley is responsible for the daily investment and management of approximately \$700 million of public funds. Prior to his service as County Treasurer, Mr. Keeley was Executive Director of the Planning and Conservation League and the PCL Foundation. These two forty-year-old organizations provide research and policy recommendations in the broad field of environmental and conservation policy. From 1996 through 2002, Mr. Keeley was an elected member of the California Assembly, representing the Monterey Bay area. Mr. Keeley served from 1997 through 2002 as the Speaker pro Tempore of the California State Assembly, the highest ranking member of the Speaker's leadership team. Mr. Keeley's legislative record includes authorship of the two largest park and environmental protection bonds in the nation's (\$4.7 billion). Mr. Keeley also authored the Marine Life Protection Act of 1998, the California Ocean Science Trust Act of 2002. Mr. Keeley led the Assembly's investigation into the unethical practices of then-Insurance Commissioner Charles Quackenbush, which led to his resignation. Prior to his service in the legislature, Mr. Keeley served two four-year terms on the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors. In the 1980's, Mr. Keeley was chief of staff to Congress Member Sam Farr (D-California). Mr. Keeley is a 1974 honors graduate of San Jose State University. Mr.

Keeley serves on the Board of Directors of California Forward, the California Ocean Science Trust, the California Voter Foundation, the Semprevirens Fund, the California Action Fund, and Working Partnerships USA, a progressive “think tank.” Mr. Keeley lives in Santa Cruz, California with his lovely cat, Olivia.

REQUIRED READINGS

Gerston and Christensen, California Politics and Government, most recent edition.
Weekly reading and research assignments, mostly of periodicals (newspapers, journals, magazines, blogs).

ATTENDANCE

While attendance is not required, it is strongly encouraged as a substantial portion of the course grade will be based on student participation in class, and written assignments in class.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

There will be four written assignments (two in-class, two to be turned in at the beginning of class), in addition to a mid-term examination and a final examination. The two in-class written assignments will be required to be completed before the end of those classes (see schedule for those assignments), and will be assigned at approximately the one-quarter mark in the semester, the three-quarter mark in the semester, and at another time of the instructor’s choosing. These in-class written assignments will be no longer than two pages, and will ask the student to use what they have learned in class up to that point, to pose a solution to a state governmental problem, from the point of view of any of several parties involved in the problem or issue. The other two written assignments are set forth in the schedule of the class, and will be due at the beginning of the designated date of class. These two written assignments will be either two or three pages in length. Written assignments that are submitted late will be given an automatic 50% value reduction, unless such lateness is caused by a validated medical condition that prevented submission of the assignment in a timely fashion.

EXAMINATIONS

There will be two examinations in this course: A Mid-Term Examination; and, a Final Examination. Both examinations are required for satisfactory completion of the course. Both examinations will be essay format. The student is required to provide a Blue Book and sufficient writing instruments for each examination, or the assignment can be submitted via email as an attachment (Word Document).

The examinations will provide the student with a sample factual situation involving an issue concerning state government, and ask the student to write a paper that displays knowledge of the roles of various participants in the situation, and a possible solution.

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Both examinations will be in Blue Book format, or can be submitted via email as an attachment (Word Document).

Examinations cannot be completed on any date other than that established in the course schedule, with the single exception of a validated medical condition that prevented the student from completing the examination in a timely fashion.

ACCOMODATION

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 see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities register with DRC to establish a record of their disability.

EVALUATION

The grading format for this course will be as follows:

Writing Assignments	30%
Mid-Term Examination	25%
In-Class Verbal Participation	20%
Final Examination	25%

University Policy Regarding Academic Integrity – S05-15

Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University, and the University's Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all 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://sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial/Academic Dishonesty Policy.pdf](http://sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial/Academic_Dishonesty_Policy.pdf).

Course Learning Objectives

This course in State Government and Politics will include study of and learning about the following:

The foundations of the political system, including the evolution of the philosophies of the California Constitution, political culture, separation of powers, bureaucracy, federalism, and relations among various levels of government. Students will also analyze the evolving institutions of government, including a study of the powers of the Governor, the Legislature, and the Judiciary; and,

The links between the people and government, including participation and voting, political parties, interest groups, and public opinion and socialization. Students will also

analyze the rights and obligations of citizens, the tension between various freedoms of expression and due process and the maintenance of order, and the efforts to end racial and gender discrimination in both the public and private sectors of society; and,

The operations of California Government, including the similarities and differences between the California and U.S. Constitutions, the relationship between state and local government in California, the basic issues of California politics, and a careful assessment of the impact of demographic changes on the history and politics of the state.

COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC AND READING ASSIGNMENT
Class 1	Introduction and Organization Discussion: Overview of California Politics and Issues. Reading Assignment: None
Class 2	Brief Overview of California Political History (1849-2011) Discussion: Major actions that shaped today's California. Reading Assignment: Chapters 1 and 2 of Gerston and Christensen, California Politics and Government.
Class 3	The Executive Branch: Part 1 Reading Assignment: Chapter 3 California Politics and Government. In Class Writing Assignment Will Be Given at 7:00 p.m.
Class 4	The Executive Branch: Part 2 Reading Assignment: Chapter 4 California Politics and Government
Class 5	The Legislature: Part 1 Discussion: Inside Legislative Leadership. Reading Assignment: Chapter 5 California Politics and Government.

Class 6

The Legislature: Part 2

Writing Assignment: Writing Assignment: An Example of Translating Policy into Practice: A Paper Regarding the Relationship Between the Legislative and Executive Branches of State Government. Due Class 7

Class 7

The Judiciary

Reading Assignment: Chapter 6 California Politics and Government.

Class 8

Mid-Term Examination

Class 9

Is California Governable?

Governance Issues/Potential Solutions

Reading: California Forward Documents

Class 10

The California State Budget – Part 1

Discussion: Does the State Budget Reflect Californian's Values?

In Class Writing Assignment: Given at 7:00 p.m.

Class 11

The California State Budget – Part 2

Discussion: Putting Together a State Budget

Reading Assignment: Executive Summary, Governor's Proposed 2011-12 Fiscal Year Budget

Executive Summary, Legislative Analysts Review of the Governor's Proposed 2011-12 Fiscal Year Budget

Class 12

Local Government

Discussion: Can Local Governments Meet Local Demands?

Reading Assignment: Chapter 9 California Politics and Government

Class 13

State-Federal Relations

Discussion: How Does California Use Its Clout in Washington, D.C.

Reading Assignment: Chapter 10 California Politics and Government

Class 14

Introducing, Managing, Negotiating Legislation – Part 1

Reading Assignment: To Be Determined

Writing Assignment: Based on a Topic of Interest to You, Make a Case for New Law on that Topic. (3 pages). Due at beginning of Class 15.

Class 15

Introducing, Managing, Negotiating Legislation – Part 2

Reading Assignment: To Be Determined

Date TBD

FINAL EXAMINATION