

Political Science 102  
State Government and Politics  
Fall 2018  
Tuesdays 6:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.

Instructor: Fred Keeley  
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Office Hours: By Appointment

**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 powers to the states --- in essence, those powers not enumerated as powers of the federal government. 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 nearly three hours, the class structure will be a bit different than some other classes. Usually, the classroom activities will consist of discussion of the previous week's reading assignment(s), lecture, and a substantial amount of discussion amongst and between the instructor and students.

## **INSTRUCTOR**

The instructor is a 1974 graduate of San Jose State University.

Mr. Keeley served three terms (maximum number of terms permitted under California's term limits law) in the California State Assembly representing the Monterey Bay area. He was Speaker pro Tempore of the Assembly, the highest ranking member of the Speaker's leadership team, under three Speakers. He is recognized for his work during the California energy crisis; hearings that led to the resignation of then-Insurance Commissioner Chuck Quackenbush; and, for his authorship of the Marine Life Management Act, the California Ocean Science Trust Act, and the two largest park and environmental protection bonds in the nation's history (\$4.7 billion). Mr. Keeley also served two four-year terms on the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors. Mr. Keeley served for ten years as the elected county Treasurer of the County of Santa Cruz.

Mr. Keeley has served governors of California and other state constitutional officers, on a special project basis. Such projects include serving jointly with the Secretary of State to investigate ethical issues at the state Department of Conservation, Division of Oil and Gas Regulations; as co-chair of the state Treasurer's Task Force on Public Bond Accountability; and, the Governor's Task Force on the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Economy.

Mr. Keeley is on the board of directors of: the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Foundation; Sempervirens Fund; the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County; and, Working Partnerships USA.

Mr. Keeley is on faculty at the Panetta Institute for Public Policy at CSUMB. The Panetta Institute was founded and is led by former CIA director and Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta.

Mr. Keeley has, on a consulting basis, served as the ethics consultant for the City of Torrance, California and the City of Santa Clara, California.

Mr. Keeley lives in Santa Cruz, California.

## **REQUIRED READINGS**

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

## **ATTENDANCE**

While attendance cannot be required, it is strongly encouraged because 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 six written assignments (three in-class, three to be turned in at the beginning of class), in addition to a mid-term examination and a final examination. The three 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 three 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 three 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 electronic capability to complete and send the assignment via email).

The examinations will provide the student with a sample situation involving an issue of 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. Both examinations will be in Blue Book format (or electronic email format).

Examinations cannot be submitted 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, UNIVERSITY POLICY, AND COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

### **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.

Additional learning objective are 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, and the basic issues of California politics.

### **COURSE SCHEDULE**

#### **CLASS SESSIONS    TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**

Class 1

#### **Introduction and Organization**

Discussion: Overview of Course

Reading Assignment: None

Class 2

#### **Brief Overview of California Political History (1849-2018)**

Discussion: Major actions that shaped today's California.

Reading Assignment: Chapters 1 and 2 of Gerston and Christensen, California Politics and Government, eighth edition, 2005.

Class 3                    **Basic Overview of California Government**

Reading Assignment: Chapter 3 California Politics and Government.

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

Class 4                    **Diving in to the Executive Branch**

Reading Assignment: Chapter 4 California Politics and Government

Class 5                    **The Legislature**

Reading Assignment: Chapter 5 California Politics and Government.

Writing Assignment: Based on a Subject of Your Interest, What Was the Most Important Legislation on that Topic in the 2017-18 Legislative Session? (Two pages, Due at beginning of Class 6.)

Class 6                    **The Judiciary**

Discussion: The Courts and Ballot Measures

Reading Assignment: Chapter 6 California Politics and Government.

Writing assignment defined in Class 5 due at the beginning of this session.

Class 7                    **Mid-Term Examination**

Class 8                    **Is California Governable?**

Reading Assignment: Chapter 7 California Politics and Government

Writing Assignment: An Example of Translating Policy into Practice: A Paper Regarding the Relationship Between the

Legislative and Executive Branches of State Government. (Three pages. Due at beginning of Class 9.)

Class 9

**The California State Budget – Part 1**

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

Writing assignment defined in Class 8, due at beginning of this session.

Class 10

**The California State Budget – Part 2**

Discussion: Putting Together a State Budget

Reading Assignment: Executive Summary, Governor's Adopted 2018-19 Budget Department of Finance Executive Summary, Legislative Analyst's Review of the Governor's Proposed 2018-19 Budget

Class 11

**Local Government**

Discussion: Can Local Governments Meet Local Demands?

Reading Assignment: Chapter 9 California Politics and Government

Class 12

**State-Federal Relations**

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

Reading Assignment: Chapter 10 California Politics and Government

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

Class 13

**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 14 )

Class 14

**Introducing, Managing, Negotiating Legislation – Part 2**

Reading Assignment: To Be Determined

Writing assignment defined in Class 13 due at beginning of this session.

TBD

**Final Examination (TBD)**