

POL SCI 129 LEC B & CHC/LAT 159 LEC B: KEY CALIF POLICIES (67200)

Class Information

POL SCI 129 & CHC/LAT 159

KEY CALIFORNIA POLICIES

Course Code: 67200

Term: Winter Qtr 2014

Overview: The Politics of Education, Public Safety and Jobs in California.

Class Schedule and Meeting Location

Room: SSL 129

Day & time: Tuesdays/Thursdays 9:30 am to 10:50 am

Professor Information

Jose Solorio

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Office Location: Room 5201, Social Science Plaza B, School of Social Sciences

Office Hours: Thursdays 8:30 - 9:15 am & Tuesdays and Thursdays before and after class by appointment

Class Links

[Rough & Tumble](#)

Course Syllabus

The Politics of Education, Public Safety and Jobs in California

PS 129 – Key California Policies

[Course Syllabus](#)

Course Description:

This course, The Politics of Education, Public Safety and Jobs in California, was designed to give UC Irvine college students an overview of the key policy issues facing our state and offer real-world opportunities to engage with those issues. Students are expected to have read assigned materials before class and be prepared to discuss the materials in class.

During class and as part of graded assignments, students will be asked to engage with policy issues as it occurs in California policy and political settings (e.g., reviews and analysis of current news stories, drafts of sample Facebook and Twitter posts, brainstorming of press release ideas, analysis of legislation, processing steps to take policy positions, and writing of policy letters, etc.).

In addition to learning from the lectures and assigned readings, students will also have the opportunity to hear from guest speakers who are policy experts in their fields.

Required Reading: Below are the two required books for the class. In addition, students will be provided with other free online policy briefs to read throughout the quarter.

California Politics & Government: A Practical Approach by Larry Gerston and Terry Christensen, 2013

Paradise Lost: California's Experience, America's Future by Peter Schrag, 2004 (Looks like no books available at this time.)

Course Requirements & Grading:

Attendance/Participation: 20%

Exams (1 in-class & 1 take home exam: 3 short answer questions & 1 essay): 50%

Policy Analysis Paper: 30%

Course Lectures:

January 7: Introduction to the Class/Review Role of the Three Branches of Government

January 9: What are California's Key Policy Issues and How to Track Them / Proposition Proposal to Create Six States. Really?

California lawmakers face water, prison and budget issues in 2014 / <http://www.latimes.com/local/la-me-legislature-20140105,0,3098405.story#axzz2pVLvIFWI>

Six questions about new plan to split California into six states /

<http://www.news10.net/news/california/article/266570/430/Six-questions-about-new-plan-to-split-California-into-six-states>

January 14: "Their Ought to be a Law" - The Legislative Process / New 2014 Laws

California's new laws: What changes in 2014 - Capitol and California /

<http://www.sacbee.com/2014/01/01/6039380/californias-new-laws-what-changes.html>

January 16: Review of Governor's Proposed 2014-15 Budget / Powerful Interest Groups

Governor Brown proposes 2014-2015 budget at press conference / <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QqkTVdZzAY0>

The Rainmakers: California's top political donors, 2001-2011 / <http://rainmaker.apps.cironline.org/groups/>

January 21: The Role of Lobbyists / In-Class Exam

Lobbyists spend big in California in the first half of the year / <http://articles.latimes.com/2013/aug/03/business/la-fi-mo-california-lobbyists-spending-20130802>

January 23: The State and Role of Media / Press Release Exercises

California Elections, Campaigns and the Media / Chapter 3, California Politics & Government book

40 years at a great newspaper / <http://www.latimes.com/local/la-me-cap-times-20140106,0,172223.column#axzz2paR2uRrp>

The role of media in the U.S. political system: A Panel at Harvard Law School /

http://www.law.harvard.edu/news/2013/04/16_panel-on-role-of-media-in-u-s-political-system.html

January 28: Other Layers of Government/ Debrief of In-Class Exams

California's Local Governments: Politics at the Grassroots / Chapter 9, California Politics & Government book

January 30: Issues in Higher Education

Making All Public Higher Education Free / <http://ucaft.org/content/making-all-public-higher-education-free-bob-samuels>

Google To Launch Play Textbooks In August, Partners With 5 Major Publishing Houses / <http://m.techcrunch.com/2013/07/24/google-to-launch-play-textbooks-in-august-partners-with-5-major-publishing-houses/>

The Gender and Racial Gap Analysis / http://www.collegecampaign.org/files/8913/8756/2695/State_of_Higher_Education_Gender.pdf

February 4: The Legislative Branch/Social Media Exercises

The Legislature: The Perils of Policymaking / Chapter 5, California Politics & Government book

February 6: Issues in K-12 Education

Building the 21st Century Workforce / <http://www.freeenterprise.com/education-workforce/building-21st-century-workforce>

California leads effort to boost English learner success / <http://www.edsource.org/today/2012/california-leads-effort-to-boost-english-learner-success/20360>

Once lured by incentive grants, most teachers stuck around at new campuses / http://edsource.org/today/2013/once-lured-by-incentive-grants-most-teachers-stuck-around-at-new-campuses-study-suggests/50269#.UpWvmsRDv_Q

Jobs for skilled workers are going unfilled / <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-skill-shortage-20120608,0,3748210.story>

Jerry Brown 'haunted' by high school test question about a leaf / <http://blogs.sacbee.com/capitolalert/latest/2013/12/jerry-brown-haunted-by-high-school-test-question-about-a-leaf.html>

February 11: Proposition 30 / Student Weighted Funding Formula

Proposition 30 Analysis by Legislative Analyst's Office / http://www.lao.ca.gov/ballot/2012/30_11_2012.aspx

New CA Statewide Poll: California Voters Strongly Support Student Testing / <http://www.tulchinresearch.com/2013/09/03/new-ca-statewide-poll-calif-voters-strongly-support-student-testing/>

February 13: Term Limits / Open Primaries/Discuss Take-Home Exam

California Elections, Campaigns, and the Media / Chapter 3, California Politics & Government book

The Legislature: The Perils of Policymaking / Chapter 5, California Politics & Government book

Law of unintended consequences: CA's top-two primary helps cement intra-party control /
<http://www.calitics.com/diary/15356/law-of-unintended-consequences-cas-toptwo-primary-helps-cement-intraparty-control>

February 18: Prison Overcrowding & Recidivism

A Status Report: Reducing Prison Overcrowding in California /
http://www.lao.ca.gov/reports/2011/crim/overcrowding_080511.aspx

February 20: Money in Politics / The Role of Political Parties

California's Political Parties and Direct Democracy / Chapter 2, California Politics & Government book

Successful state Senate candidates raise an average of \$1 million / <http://www.latimes.com/local/political/la-me-pc-successful-state-senate-candidates-raise-an-average-of-1-million-20131212,0,4152030.story#axzz2pqDzkyWO>

February 25: Gang Injunctions / Process for Taking Policy Positions

Gang Injunction Approved for Trendy L.A. Neighborhood / www.healthycal.org/archives/13650

February 27: Prison and Parole Realignment Reform / Take-Home Exam Due

Prison reform's unintended consequences / <http://www.healthycal.org/archives/10737>

AB109 Reentry - Collaboration in San Luis Obispo County /
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z32Fz8SgLTg&feature=youtu.be>

March 4: Low Wage vs. High Wage Jobs/Poverty in America / Policy Letter Writing Exercises

Top CEO pay equals 3,489 years for typical worker / <http://finance.yahoo.com/news/top-ceo-pay-equals-3-100555581.html>

Fast-Food Wages Come With a \$7 Billion Side of Public Assistance / <http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2013-10-15/mcdonalds-low-wages-come-with-a-7-billion-side-of-welfare>

More U.S. companies opening high-tech factories in Mexico / <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-overseas-manufacturing-20131130,0,5614376.story#axzz2m78wEOWI>

State is outpacing nation in creating good jobs / <http://www.oeregister.com/articles/jobs-514782-california-new.html>

What are poverty rates among working adults? / <http://poverty.ucdavis.edu/faq/what-are-poverty-rates-among-working-adults>

March 6: The Innovation Economy / Tax Credits & Incentives for Businesses / Debrief of Take-Home Exams/ Discuss Final Policy Analysis Assignment

California manufacturing—it's better than you think / <http://www.cafwd.org/reporting/entry/california-manufacturing-its-better-than-you-think>

Good news, Jerry Brown: CA again world's eighth largest economy / <http://blog.sfgate.com/nov05election/2013/07/11/good-news-jerry-brown-ca-again-worlds-eighth-largest-economy/>

California politicians, interests play 'economic impact' game / http://www.sacbee.com/2013/12/29/6032410/dan-walters-california-politicians.html#mi_rss=Dan%20Walters

March 11: Labor Policy Issues

How Workers Can Get a Fair Shake / <http://front.moveon.org/how-workers-can-get-a-fair-shake-a-labor-day-message-from-robert-reich/#.Usn1HbQ0NiM>

Pension funds seriously underfunded, studies find / <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-pension-shortfalls-20120718,0,2745757.story>

California retirement savings bill advances in the Senate / http://blogs.sacbee.com/the_state_worker/2012/04/california-retirement-savings-bill-advances-in-the-senate.html

March 13: State Budget vs. Appropriations Process

Taxing and Spending: Budgetary Politics and Policies / Chapter 8, California Politics & Government book

March 20: Policy Exam Presentations / Final Policy Exam Due

Sample Policy Memo: http://www.hks.harvard.edu/var/ezp_site/storage/fckeditor/file/pdfs/degree-programs/registrar/sample-policy-memo.pdf

Modern Language Association (MLA) Citation Guidelines:
<http://libguides.lib.uci.edu/content.php?pid=128525&sid=1102804>

Campus Resources

Academics

Academic Honesty policies

Registrar: Calendar

Center for Excellence in Writing and Communication

Libraries

Research resources

Computing

Computing labs