

**PALOMAR COLLEGE**  
**COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD FOR**  
**DEGREE CREDIT COURSE**

Transfer course     A.A. degree applicable course

(check all that apply)

**COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE:**        Posc 102:    Introduction to United States and  
California Government

**UNIT VALUE:**                    3

**MINIMUM NUMBER OF SEMESTER HOURS:**        48

**BASIC SKILLS REQUIREMENTS:**        Appropriate language skills

**ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS**

**PREREQUISITE:**                    None

**COREQUISITE:**                    None

**RECOMMENDED PREPARATION:**        None

**SCOPE OF COURSE:**

An examination of the structure and functions of the governments of the United States and California and how these governments interact with each other within our federal system. The course also explains the contemporary relationships between local governments and the national government. In order to show this interrelationship, the course includes sections on the economy, grant-in-aid programs, federal mandates and the making of foreign policy.

**SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The successful student will:

- I        Explain the organization and functions of the Congress with special emphasis on the committee structure and its influence on public policy-making.
- II       Analyze the institution of the Presidency by focusing on the Constitutional powers the President possesses, the traditional roles a President fulfills, and the evolution of the office in the twentieth century.
- III      Explain the structure of the federal court system with emphasis on the scope and operation of the Supreme Court and Judicial Review.
- IV      Analyze the national budget preparation process with the concomitant responsibilities of the President and Congress.
- V       Discuss the primary tools used to manage fiscal and monetary policy.
- VI      Identify the components of the public policy cycle and be able to explain the impact of issue networks or "iron triangles" on this process.

- VII Describe the organization of state government in California: describe the state's political culture, and identify and analyze prominent state issues such as water supply and the environment.
- VIII Analyze the complexity of local government in California with emphasis on jurisdictional disputes, financing local government services, and attempts at regional solutions to common problems.
- IX Understand the contemporary relationships of state and local governments with the Federal government, the resolution of conflicts and the establishment of cooperative processes under the constitution of both the state and nation and the political processes involved.

**CONTENT IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC BODY OF KNOWLEDGE:**

- I The Congress
  - A. Congressional elections
  - B. Tasks and roles assumed by Members of Congress
  - C. Comparisons between House and Senate folkways, responsibilities, and structure
  - D. Demographic analysis of the Congress
  - E. The prospect for congressional reform
- II The Presidency
  - A. Constitutional roles
  - B. Extra-constitutional Presidential roles
  - C. The development of the Executive Office of the President (EOP)
  - D. The dispute over War Powers
  - E. Dr. Barber's typology of presidential leadership
- III The Federal Court System
  - A. Determining justiciable questions
  - B. Selection of judges
  - C. Organization of the federal judicial system
  - D. Judicial philosophy of restraint and activism
  - E. The incorporations doctrine
- IV The National Budget
  - A. Sources of national revenue
  - B. Major national government expenditures
  - C. The function of entitlement programs
  - D. The role of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in budget preparation
  - E. The role of the Congressional budget Office (CBO) in the review process
  - F. The balanced budget amendment
- V California State and Local Government
  - A. The Constitution of the State of California
    - 1. Why it is a poor example of a state constitution
    - 2. How it is changed
  - B. The structure of the California executive branch
  - C. The organization and functions of the California legislature
  - D. The state judicial branch
  - E. Local government organization
  - F. Financing California government: Proposition 13 and the Gann Spending Limit
  - G. Issues in California government such as water supply, economic growth and the quality of life, immigration, and the homeless

- H. Contemporary relationships of the state and local governments with the National government
1. Grant-in-aids programs
  2. Federal Mandates

**REQUIRED READING:**

One of the following texts will be chosen by the individual instructors:

Burnes, James., *et. al.* *Government by the People*. 16<sup>th</sup> edition. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, Inc., 1995.

McKenna, George. *The Drama of Democracy*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Guilford, Connecticut: Dushkin, 1994.

Patterson, Thomas, *The American Democracy*. New York: McGraw-Hill Publishing Company, 1994.

Schmidt, Steffen., *et al.* *American Government and Politics Today*. New York: West Publishing Company, 1995.

Wayne, Stephen., *et al.* *American Government and Politics Today*. New York: West Publishing Company, 1995.

For the California Government segment of the course, one of the following texts will be used:

Christensen, Terry and Larry Gerston. *Politics in the Golden State*. 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Glenview, Illinois: Scott, Foresman/Little Brown College Divisio, 1995.

Culver, John and John Syer. *Power and Politics In California*. 4<sup>th</sup> edition. New York: John Wiley and Sons Co., 1994.

Gerston, Larry. *California Politics and Government: A Practical Approach*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Belmont, California: Wedsworth Publishing, 1995.

Lammare, James, *California, The Politics*. Minneapolis/St. Paul: West Publishing Co., 1994.

Lawrence, David. *California, the Politics of Diversity*. Minneapolis/St. Paul: West Publishing Co., 1995.

Or equivalent college-level text book.

Outline of California Government

Instructors also distribute handouts to students derived from newspaper or magazine articles or from instructor research and study. These handouts reflect departmental expectations and are used to supplement lectures. Examples of selected handouts include the following:

1. Congressional Committees involved in the budget process
2. The new tax measures and the laws they will replace
3. The promise of SDI
4. State and local finances in California

5. Revision of the California Constitution
6. California government outline (9 pages)
7. Water supply in California
8. Current articles from *Time*

### **SUGGESTED READING:**

Barber, James David. *The Presidential Character*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, 1985.

Blair, George. *Government at the Grassroots*. 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Pacific Palisades, CA: Palisades Publishers, 1986.

Fay, James, et al., ed. *California Almanac*. 8<sup>th</sup> edition. Santa Barbara, CA: Pacific Data Resources, 1994.

Fisher, Louis. *Constitutional Conflicts Between Congress and the President*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton, University Press. 1985.

Greenstein, Fred, ed. *Leadership in the Modern Presidency*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1988.

Janis, Irving. *Victims of Groupthink*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1972.

Judd, Dennis. *The Politics of American Cities*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Glenview, Illinois: Scott, Foreman/Little Brown College Division, 1988.

O'Brien, David. *Storm Center: The Supreme Court in American Politics*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. New York: Norton and Company, 1955.

Smith Hedrick. *The Power Game*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1988.

### **REQUIRED WRITING:**

All political Science 102 instructors require writing. The specifics vary according to each instructor. Some may administer essay exams involving six to fifteen handwritten pages during the semester. Others may require research papers varying in length from four to twelve typed pages. Some may required both essay exams and research papers.

### **OUTSIDE ASSIGNMENTS:**

**Students are expected to spend a minimum of three hours per unit per week in class and on outside assignments, prorated for short term classes.**

Students are expected to read the text (at least 400 pages), complete written assignments, and study for exams.

**INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY:**

Check all that apply:

- lecture
- laboratory
- lecture-laboratory combination
- directed study

This course may be offered as a distance education course and meets Title 5 regulations 55370, 55372, 55374, 55376, 55378, and 55380.

Yes  No

If yes, check all that apply. (See guidelines for preparation for definitions.)

- telecourse
- mediated instruction
- computer assisted instruction

**GRADING POLICY AND STANDARDS (include methods of determining whether the stated objectives have been met by students):**

Typically the course will be graded as follows:

- 20% of course grade = final
- 80% of course grade = exams 1-4
- Portions of exams are essay

Those instructors requiring research papers use the research papers to help determine a student's grade.

**IS COURSE REPEATABLE FOR REASON(S) OTHER THAN DEFICIENT GRADE?**

Yes  No  Number of times course may be taken for credit: 1

If yes, identify specific provision of Title 5 Division 2 section(s) 55761-55763 and 58161 which qualifies course as repeatable:

**CONTACT PERSON:** Roy R. Archer

***SIGNATURES ON FILE***