

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

[The course description and general contours of the class will stay the same for Summer 2017; assignments, speakers and the specifics of course coverage may vary; the primary instructor will be McGeorge Professor Leslie Gielow Jacobs, ljacobs@pacific.edu, (916) 739-7217]

SACR 011: CALIFORNIA POLITICS & PROCESS

Summer 2016 | 4 units
3:30-5:30 PM | Location will vary

Prof. Keith Smith
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the actors, agencies, and day-to-day activities that determine California law and policy. This course is offered in conjunction with a for-credit internship in governmental, nonprofit, or pro-profit agency. Early instruction will prepare students to enter their internships with an understanding of the responsibilities and activities of the entities in which they are placed and of the professional and ethical expectations of the job. The course will combine classroom instruction with guest speakers and on-site experiences, such as city council meetings, agency and legislative hearings, and courtroom proceedings.

Enrollment is by instructor permission only.

Co-requirement: SACR 187: Sacramento Internship

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students should be able to identify and explain the importance of a variety of actors, agencies, and processes that are involved California's governance. Students will also develop their research skills (acquiring information for their final project on the job and on the web), communication skills (written and oral presentations), and professionalism and citizenship skills.

This course develops students' capacities with respect to the following University-wide learning objectives and outcomes: Communication and Critical & Creative Thinking.

COURSE MATERIALS

There is one required text: League of Women Voters of California. 2015. Guide to California Government, 16th ed. ISBN: 978-0963246523

Other material is available on the course Canvas site.

In addition, you should keep current on activities in the capital. Useful for doing so include Rough & Tumble (rtumble.com), Fox & Hounds (foxandhoundsdaily.com), Capitol Weekly (capitolweekly.net), and the California Progress Report (californiaprogressreport.com).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Responses to Site Visits and Guest Lectures (10%)

Following each site visit and guest lecture, you will write a 1-2 page response. Possible topics include remaining questions, how the office/individual relates to your internship, and the significance of the office/individuals in California government and politics.

Class Discussion and Contribution (20%)

You are required to attend class and to participate meaningfully. Top grades will go to students who are alert in class, who make contributions that demonstrate that they have thought about the subject and are prepared, and whose comments are respectful and on-topic.

Mid-Course Short Paper (30%)

The subject of the short paper is plastic bag regulation in California. You should use the web to research the history of plastic bag regulation and write a 3-5 page paper describing the levels of government, the entities of government and the outside groups that impacted the plastic bag law and policy that exists in California today.

Final Project (40%)

The subject of your final project is the entity in which you are placed. You should write for a citizen audience and explain the structure of your entity, where it is located in the federal/state/local and the legislative/executive/judicial structures, its responsibilities, its daily activities, and a case study of law or policy making within the entity. A sample form for the project, with sections, will be posted on CANVAS. Quality projects may be published on the McGeorge School of Law's Under the Dome website (<http://blogs.mcgeorge.edu/lawandpolicy/>).

Copies of student work may be kept for assessment purposes.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance

Consistent attendance in this course is required. Each unexcused absence will lower your Class Discussion and Contribution grade by 5 points. Please let us know as soon as possible if you will miss a class for any reason (e.g., illness or other emergency).

Grading

Scores are based on the following scale: A (100–95), A- (94–90), B+ (89–87), B (86–84), B- (83–80), C+ (79-77), C (76–74), C- (73–70), D+ (69-65), D (64-60), and F (59-0).

Class Conduct

It is imperative that we treat each other with civility, respect, and dignity in this class. As a course about politics and governance, we will likely discuss topics about which people feel passionately and disagree intensely. We will also be responding to each other's work. While both of these activities are part of the academic experience, we must do each in a positive, constructive fashion. Ad hominem attacks, disrespectful language, and disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Such behavior violates the Student Code of Conduct, and, if necessary, offenses will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards.

Late Assignments, Make Up Exams, and Extensions

All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Research papers will be penalized a full grade for each 24-hour period the work is late (e.g., turning an A into a B). All other assignments will be penalized one-third of a letter grade for each 24-hour period that they are late (e.g., turning an A into an A-). Late work must be submitted in person in class or to my office.

Paper and project extensions (1) will only be granted for documented cases of need and (2) must be arranged at least one week before the due date (medical emergencies excepted).

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability who requires accommodations, please contact the Director of the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) for information on how to obtain an Accommodations Request Letter.

3-Step Accommodation Process

- Student meets with the SSD Director and provides documentation and completes registration forms.
- Student requests accommodation(s) each semester by completing the Request for Accommodations Form.
- Student arranges to meet with his/her professors to discuss the accommodation(s) and to sign the Accommodation Request Letter.

The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the McCaffrey Center, Rm. 137. Phone: 209-946-3221. Email: ssd@pacific.edu. Online: www.pacific.edu/disabilities

Honor Code

The Honor Code at the University of the Pacific calls upon each student to exhibit a high degree of maturity, responsibility, and personal integrity. Students are expected to:

- Act honestly in all matters
- Actively encourage academic integrity
- Discourage any form of cheating or dishonesty by others
- Inform the instructor and appropriate university administrator if she or he has a reasonable and good faith belief and substantial evidence that a violation of the Academic Honesty Policy has occurred.

Violations will be referred to and investigated by the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards. If a student is found responsible, it will be documented as part of her or his permanent academic record. A student may receive a range of penalties, including failure of an assignment, failure of the course, suspension, or dismissal from the University. The Academic Honesty Policy is located in Tiger Lore and online at <http://www.pacific.edu/Campus-Life/Safety-and-Conduct/Student-Conduct/Tiger-Lore-Student-Handbook-.html>

Plagiarism and cheating are the most common forms of academic dishonesty. Please see a good style manual for what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it. Deliberate plagiarism includes copying text (four words or more) from websites, books or classmates. Deliberate plagiarism or cheating on any of the assignments will result in failing the course and being reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Please note: This schedule may change. Please pay attention to class and Canvas announcements for any changes.

| Date and time | Topic | Content | Assignment |
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| Saturday, June 4, 2016, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. | Introduction to the structure and processes of government; working in a government agency; finding your way around Sacramento | Professors Keith Smith and Mary-Beth Moylan will provide an orientation to the program. Molly Stafford, Director of the McGeorge Career Development Office will take student through exercises | Visit underthedomeca.org ; review Government in the United States – Chart; Government in California – Chart; locate your internship agency on the charts; visit and review its web page. |

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| | | <p>involving resolving practical and ethical hypotheticals, and speed-interviewing among students to practice networking and job-integration skills.</p> <p>Students will also get a briefing about the Sacramento community and things to do in the area.</p> | |
| Monday, June 6, 2016, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. | The Legislature Classroom S1 | Lecture and discussion to be led by Professor Keith Smith | LWV, "Legislative Branch" |
| Tuesday, June 7, 2016, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. | On-site in a Capitol building | McGeorge alumna, Erinn Ryberg, has arranged a visit to a legislative member's office. She will speak about working in the Capitol and give a tour of the building. Professors Smith and Moylan will attend, direct questioning, and lead a discussion afterwards among the students to locate the experience within the other instructional material. | Response to site visits relating to the Legislature are due Friday, June 10, by 9 p.m. |
| Wednesday, June 8, 2016, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. | On-site at a committee hearing | The particular hearing will depend on the hot topics of the session. McGeorge has graduates working with many of the committees. Students will be briefed by the McGeorge contact before the hearing about the work of the committee, the subject | Response to site visits relating to the Legislature are due Friday, June 10, by 9 p.m. |

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| | | of the hearing and the process; then, they will attend the hearing. Professor Smith will attend, direct questioning, and lead a discussion afterwards among the students. | |
| Thursday, June 9, 2016, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. | Recap and Reflections on the Legislature; Researching Bills Classroom S3 | Professor Moylan will lead a discussion about the Legislative process and students will contribute observations made during the visits throughout the week. Professor Moylan will also introduce the research tool www.leginfo.ca.gov and will instruct students on how to begin their research projects on plastic bag regulation. | Response to site visits relating to the Legislature are due Friday, June 10, by 9 p.m. |
| Friday, June 10, 2016, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. | The Executive Branch Classroom S3 | Professor Keith Smith will provide a lecture about the executive branch in state government. | LWV, "Executive Branch" |
| Monday, June 13, 2016, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. | State Executive Branch Offices and Agencies Classroom S4 | Supervising Deputy Attorney General Marc LeForestier will discuss the responsibilities of the Attorney General's Office and a few other key agencies; describe the day-to-day work of lawyers and policymakers in these offices; and describe a recent hot topic. Professors Smith and | Response to the Guest lecture and the site visit relating to the Executive branch are due Friday, June 17, by 9 p.m. |

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| | | Moylan will attend. | |
| Tuesday, June 14, 2016, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. | Elections and Initiatives Classroom S4 | Professors Moylan and Smith will lecture and lead discussion. | LWV, "Voters and Elections" and "How Ballot Measures Get on the Ballot"; Start work on research project |
| Wednesday, June 15, 2016, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. | On-Site in the Governor's Office | Kristina Lindquist, Deputy Legal Affairs Secretary, will talk to students about the workings of the Governor's office. Professors Smith and Moylan will attend, direct questioning, and lead a discussion afterwards among the students to locate the experience within the other instructional material. | |
| Thursday, June 16, 2016, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. | The Courts – On-Site at the Third District Court of Appeal | Justice Ronald Robie and Justice Andrea Hoch will guest lecture about the structure of the California judicial system, and the work of judges and justices at all levels. Professor Moylan will attend and lead a discussion afterwards. | LWV, "Judicial Branch" |
| Friday, June 17, 2016, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. | On-site at the Westland Water District | Deputy General Counsel and McGeorge alum Phil Williams explains the structure, jurisdiction and processes of special districts, such as water districts, explains the workings of his office and how law and policy is established and | LWV, "Special Districts" Response to the site visits relating to local government and special districts are due Tuesday, July 5, by 9 p.m. |

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| | | changed, with emphasis on current draught-related policy issues. Professor Smith will attend. | |
| Monday, June 20, 2016, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. | On-Site at the Federal Court | Judge Morrison England or Magistrate Judge Allison Claire will explain the workings of the federal court. Students will also speak with students who are serving as law clerks or externs for the judges about the daily work they do. Professor Smith will attend. | Response to the site visits relating to the Judicial branch are due Friday, June 24, by 9 p.m. |
| Tuesday, June 21, 2016, 3:00 to 5:30 p.m. | On-Site at Mental Health Court Extra Experience: City Council Meeting, 6 p.m. | Judge Larry Brown will have student observe his mental health court at the main courthouse downtown. He will then meet with students to discuss the workings of the court and the role of the judge in this type of court proceeding. After a dinner downtown, students will attend a Sacramento City Council Meeting. Steve Hansen will attend? | Materials about the mental health court will be provided ahead of time. Response to the site visits relating to the Judicial branch are due Friday, June 24, by 9 p.m. |
| Wednesday, June 22, 2016, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. | On-Site at the Fair Political Practices Commission | Communications Director Jay Wierenga and Legislative and External Affairs Director Phillip Ung will explain the workings of the commission; how it is | |

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| | | structured; how it makes regulations; how it regulates politicians. Professor Smith will attend. | |
| Thursday, June 23, 2016, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. | Power and Influence Classroom S3 | McGeorge adjunct professor Chris Miceli will lead the lecture and discussion. Professor Smith will attend. | Gerston, Interest Groups: The Power Behind the Dome (Canvas) |
| Friday, June 24, 2016, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. | On-Site at the Personal Insurance Federation | McGeorge Adjunct Professor Rex Frazier explains the work of trade federations; how lobbyists participate in and influence lawmaking; he explains the day-today activities lobbyists. Professor Smith will attend, direct questioning, and lead a discussion afterwards among the students to locate the experience within the other instructional material. Professor Smith will attend. | Response to the site visits relating to lobbying and political regulation are due Friday, June 24, by 9 p.m. |
| Monday, June 27, 2016, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. | In Class with Professor Smith Classroom S3 | Discussion and recap of site visits to date. | |
| Tuesday, June 28, 2016, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. | On-Site Williams R Ridgeway Family Relations Courthouse | Judge Steven Gevercer will talk to the students about conservatorships and probate court and Judge Jim Mize will talk to the students about family law. The students will also receive a tour of the Ridgeway Courthouse and Professors Moylan and Smith | Reading to be provided. |

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| | | will be on hand for questions. | |
| Wednesday, June 29, 2016, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. | Case Study: Water Law Classroom S3 | McGeorge Professor Kirlin presents the structure of water law and policy making, with emphasis on current policy disputes related to the draught and how they get resolved. | Reading for this class will be posted on Canvas. Please prepare the reading ahead of class time. * Mid-Course Paper Due at 9 p.m. |
| Thursday, June 30, 2016, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. | The Role of the Advocate in the Courts Courtroom | McGeorge Professors Jay Leach and Cary Bricker will guest lecture about the role of advocacy in the adversarial system of the United States Courts. They will provide a demonstration of part of a trial and provide students with an opportunity to try their hand at trying parts of a case. | Case file to be assigned on Canvas. Please review before class. |
| Friday, July 1, 2016, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. | NO CLASS | FOURTH OF JULY | HOLIDAY |
| Monday, July 4, 2016 | NO CLASS | FOURTH OF JULY | HOLIDAY |
| Tuesday, July 5, 2016, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. | Case Study: Public Health Classroom S3 (Skype Presentation) | McGeorge Professor Emily Whelan Parento explains the structure of public health law and policy making, including the example of the Affordable Care Act, and the state and local role in implementation. A representative explains the workings of the department, who it serves, current challenges, how it implements and tries | |

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| | | to influence policy. Professors Smith will attend, direct questioning, and lead a discussion afterwards among the students to locate the experience within the other instructional material. | |
| Wednesday, July 6, 2016, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. | On-Site: Sacramento BREATHE | Head of Government Relations and McGeorge alum Matt Read explains his role, what his entity does, how it is funded, what he does day-to-day to influence policy. Professors Smith and Moylan will attend. | |
| Thursday, July 7, 2016 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. | Local Government Overview Classroom S3 | McGeorge Adjunct Professor Gary Winuk will lead the lecture and discussion. Professors Smith and Moylan will attend. | LWV, "County Government" and "City Government" Final Dinner with Mentors, Professors, and Students |
| Friday, July 8, 2016, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. | NO CLASS | | * Final Project Due Sunday, July 10, at 5 p.m. |