Fall 2019

POSC 140-5705

Introduction to California Governments and Politics

Welcome Message

Welcome to Fall 2019 at Cuyamaca College! My name is Dr. Josh Franco and my mission is to introduce you to political science through an engaging, empowering, and enlightening course experience. This syllabus provides information about the course, about me, resources to support your success, a weekly schedule, grading categories and assessments, course policies, about the Political Science program, and the Region 10 Strong Workforce Program's 21st Century Skills Matrix.

About POSC 140 Course

Course Website/Canvas Course Shell
- https://gcccd.instructure.com/courses/24211

Meeting Days, Times and Location
- Days: Mondays and Wednesdays
- Times: 11:00am to 12:15pm
- Location: E-229

Course Description
- Examination of the structure and functions of California state and local governments and politics. Attention will be given to the evolution of the principal features, organization, and operation of state and local governments within the framework of U.S. federalism from the time of the nation's founding. Emphasis is on the role of significant events, major ethnic groups, and major social groups in the development of the political structures and processes of California state and local governments and contemporary political issues.

Course Prerequisites
- None

Course Objectives
Students will be able to:
1. Describe and analyze the evolution of the relationship of the states and the U.S. in its entirety, with a special emphasis on U.S. California relations, including the relationship of regions within the U.S.

2. Detail the origins and development of the state of California and how this development reflects the continuity of the American experience and how that experience was derived from other political cultures and shaped by California's geography, economics, and social movements.
3. Compare and contrast California's Constitution with the U.S. Constitution, including the influence of the political philosophies of the framers of the U.S. Constitution as well as the rights and obligations of citizens under the U.S. and California Constitution.
4. Compare and contrast the California governmental system with other sub-national governments in the United States, and with regional and local governments in other selected nations including the relationships of these governments with external regions and powers.
5. Describe and evaluate the contemporary public policy issues facing state and local governments.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Recognize and evaluate the role and power of California state and local government (both uniquely and as a state in a federalist system) relative to the federal government (including the importance of the state and federal constitutions).
2. Analyze and evaluate how political power is wielded in California through political parties, bureaucracies, interest groups, and voters.

Required Textbook

- Van Vechten, Renee B. 2018. California Politics: A Primer. CQ Press.
- Book Cost? $20-35
- Website: https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/california-politics/book257322

Required Technology

- Access to the internet via computer or mobile device. Cuyamaca College has computer labs available for student use in the following locations:
  - Tech Mall (E-121) for all students currently enrolled in Cuyamaca College
  - Stem Center (H-Building, Open Computer Lab)
  - High Tech Center (DSPS C-114)
  - Writing Center (English B-167)
- Google Slides to create the PowerPoint Presentation of the Public Policy Project

Optional Technology

- Graph Commons to create a network graph for the Political Actors assessment of the Simulation
- Data analysis software for the optional technical tasks of the Data Analyst Workflow of the Public Policy Project
  - (R 3.0.1+ and R Studio) OR STATA 16/IC (STATA is not available for download)
  - R and R Studio and STATA 16 are installed in the computer labs located in E-###

- ArcGIS Online to create maps for the optional technical tasks of the GIS Analyst Workflow of the Public Policy Project
- Venngage, Piktochart, Adobe Spark, or another software to design infographics for the optional technical tasks of the Communications Analyst Workflow of the Public Policy Project

About the Professor

About Dr. Josh Franco

- Josh was born in Mexico and grew up in southeast Los Angeles county. After earning Associate of Arts degrees in economics and political science from Cerritos Community College, he transferred to UC Merced. There, he served as the university's 1st Student Body President and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy. After graduating from UC Merced, he worked as a public policy professional in the California State Capitol and Washington D.C. for former Lt. Governor and Congressman John Garamendi. After 5 years in the "real world", Josh returned to UC Merced to earn his Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science.

Communication is Key!

- Canvas Inbox
- Email: josue.franco@gcccd.edu
- Office Phone: 619-660-4253
- Office Mobile Phone: 619-780-5674
- Face-to-Face Office Hours in Room F-515:
  - Mondays and Wednesdays 8:30am to 9:30am
  - Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30pm to 2:00pm
- Online Office Hours: By Appointment via Zoom Video Conference or Telephone
- Website: http://www.joshfranco.com/

Supporting Your Success

Professor Josh Franco

- I am here to support your success in this course and at the college. Please feel free to contact me if you have a question, comment, concern, and suggestion.

Help Desk and Technical Support

- Phone: (619) 660-4395
- Email: c-helpdesk@gcccd.edu
- Students are encouraged to call and leave a voice message or e-mail anytime.

- We will respond on the next, open, business day if a voicemail or e-mail is sent after hours.
- Please have your student ID number at the time of your call.

Please visit Cuyamaca College Help Desk webpage for definitive Help Desk information.

Counseling

The Cuyamaca College Counseling Department is committed to helping students achieve their educational and career goals. Whether the goal is to take one course, earn a certificate or an Associate Degree, or transfer to a four-year college, Cuyamaca Counselors are available to assist.

- One-Stop Center
- Room A-201
- Monday- Thursday: 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- Drop in times vary, please contact the office for more information: (619) 660-4429
- Please visit Cuyamaca College Counseling webpage for definitive Counseling information.

Disabled Student Programs and Services

- The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities.
- Cuyamaca College is committed to make our courses accessible to all students, including students with limited mobility, impaired hearing or vision, and learning disabilities.
- If you believe you have a special need or a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact DSPS by visiting DSPS in the One Stop Center in Room A-113 or call 619-660-4239 or visit the DSPS Webpage.

Weekly Schedule

The table below represents a general weekly schedule for the course.

Please visit the Syllabus Page in the Canvas Course Shell for the definitive list of assessments and due dates and times.

Date	Reading and Activities
Monday, August 19, 2019	Welcome, Introductions, and Syllabus
Wednesday, August 21, 2019	Chapter 1: Introduction to California Politics
Monday, August 26, 2019	Chapter 2: Critical Junctures
Wednesday, August 28, 2019	Journal Article Analysis #1
Monday, September 2, 2019	Labor Day - No Class
Wednesday, September 4, 2019	Chapter 3: Direct Democracy
Monday, September 9, 2019	Chapter 4: The State Legislature

Date	Reading and Activities
Wednesday, September 11, 2019	Simulation - Status Quo
Monday, September 16, 2019	Chapter 5: The Executive Branch
Wednesday, September 18, 2019	Simulation - Political Actors
Monday, September 23, 2019	Chapter 6: The Court System
Wednesday, September 25, 2019	Simulation - Network
Monday, September 30, 2019	Chapter 7: Other Governments
Wednesday, October 2, 2019	Simulation - Bridging
Monday, October 7, 2019	Chapter 8: The California Budget Process Journal Article Analysis #2
Wednesday, October 9, 2019	PPP Day 1: Discussion of Public Problems, Causes, and Effects
Monday, October 14, 2019	Chapter 9: Political Parties, Elections, and Campaigns
Wednesday, October 16, 2019	PPP Day 2: Data Analyst Workflow
Monday, October 21, 2019	Chapter 10: Political Engagement
Wednesday, October 23, 2019	PPP Day 3: GIS Analyst Workflow
Monday, October 28, 2019	Chapter 11: Concluding Thoughts
Wednesday, October 30, 2019	PPP Day 4: Policy Analyst Workflow
Monday, November 4, 2019	OER Chapter 12: From California, With Love: Civil Liberties and Rights Cases
Wednesday, November 6, 2019	PPP Day 5: Communications Analyst Workflow
Monday, November 11, 2019	Veterans Day - No Class
Wednesday, November 13, 2019	OER Chapter 13: Deal Me In: Interest Groups and Budget Trailers Journal Article Analysis #3
Monday, November 18, 2019	OER Chapter 14: To the Appointment: Departments, Boards, and Commissions
Wednesday, November 20, 2019	PPP Day 6: Optional Technical Tasks/Catch Up
Monday, November 25, 2019	OER Chapter 15: A Story of Policy Change: Federal, State, and BART
Wednesday, November 27, 2019	In-Class Activity
Monday, December 2, 2019	PPP Day 7: Optional Technical Tasks/Catch Up
Wednesday, December 4, 2019	In-Class Activity
Monday, December 9, 2019	In-Class Activity
Final Exam Period	Final Exam Period - Wednesday, December 11, 2019 10:30am-12:30pm PPP Day 8: Presentation Pair-Share-Think
Final Exam Period	

Grading Categories and Assessments

Quizzes – 15%
- 15 quizzes

Assignments – 10%
- Update Your Canvas Profile
- My Understanding Assignments x3
- Through the Eyes of a Political Scientist x2

Discussions – 10%
- Introduce Yourself
- How Do We Read?
- Positive or Normative Perspective x2
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion x2
- Current Events x2
- Career Opportunities

Reflections – 15%
- 12 reflections
- SIM Reflection
- JAA Reflection
- PPP Reflection

Journal Article Analyses (JAA) – 15%
- Article #1
- Article #2
- Article #3

Simulation (SIM) – 15%
- Status Quo
- Political Actors
- Network
- Bridging

Public Policy Project (PPP) – 20%
- Discussion
- My Public Problem
- Data Analyst Workflow/Check In
- GIS Analyst Workflow/Check In
- Policy Analyst Workflow/Check In
- Communications Analyst Workflow/Check In
- PowerPoint Presentation

- Pair-Share-Think

Course Policies

CP – Communication Policy

Multiple Means of Communication

Communication between us important. Below is a list of methods to communicate with me:

1. Canvas Inbox
2. Email: josue.franco@gcccd.edu
3. Office Phone: 619-660-4253
4. Office Mobile Phone: 619-780-5674
5. Face-to-Face Office Hours in Room F-515:
    a. Mondays and Wednesdays: 8:30am to 9:30am
    b. Tuesdays and Thursdays: 12:30pm to 2:00pm
6. Online Office Hours: By Appointment via Zoom Video Conference or Telephone
7. Website: http://www.joshfranco.com/

Best Ways to Communicate, given a Situation

- If you are going to miss class and it's the morning of class, then please text me at 619-780-5674
- If you have a simple question about course content or assignment, then please Canvas Inbox and/or send an email
- If you have question about Assignment Grading or Rubric Result, please post in Assignment Comments
- If you need me to explain, provide clarification, or walkthrough an assignment, especially the more complex ones like Simulation, Journal Article Analysis, or Public Policy, then we should meet in person, Zoom online, or talk over the phone

CP – Grading Policy

Assignment Available from, Due, and Available to Dates

- Assignments have an Available From date, Due date, and Available Until date.
- Available From date is the date when an assignment is available.
- Due Date is when an assignment should be submitted by.
- After the Due Date, your assignment is considered "missing" and automatically assigned a zero "0" grade.
- Between Due Date and Available To Date an assignment can be submitted but will be considered "late" and deducted 2.5% for each day the assignment is late.

- Available Until Date is the date when an assignment can no longer be submitted for evaluation by the professor. The close date is typically 14 days after the Due Date.

Grading of Assignments

- Auto-Graded Assignments: Some assignments are auto-graded, such as quizzes. So, after you complete a quiz, your grade will change from blank/zero to the score you earned on the quiz.
- Professor-Graded Assignments: Other assignments require the Professor to grade them. After the Professor grades an assignment, your assignment grade will change from blank/zero to the score you earned on the assignment.

Tracking Your Grades

- Our Course Website contains a Grades section where you can view your grades for course assignments.
- You must be responsible for tracking your grades for each assignment. If you have a question or concern with the grade I've given for an assignment, please post a Comment on the assignment.
- By posting a Comment, I receive a notification that allows me to efficiently respond to your question or concern.
- Go to "How do I view assignment comments from my instructor?" to learn how to find, view, and make comments.

Grade Posting

- All grading will be posted to Course Website in a timely fashion
- Final Grades will be uploaded to Course Website no later than **Thursday, December 19, 2019 by 1:00pm**

Grading Letters and Percentages

The following letter grade and associated percentages are a college-wide standard:

- A+: 100% to 97.0%
- A: < 97.0% to 93.0%
- A-: < 93.0% to 90.0%
- B+: < 90.0% to 87.0%
- B: < 87.0% to 83.0%
- B-: < 83.0% to 80.0%
- C+: < 80.0% to 77.0%
- C: < 77.0% to 70.0%
- D: < 70.0% to 60.0%
- F: < 60.0% to 0.0%

Incomplete Grade

Issuing an Incomplete Grade ("I") is only available to students who meet all the following conditions:

1) at the time of request, maintain a 70% overall percentage or higher in the course

2) a documented medical reason, either personal or family
3) the request for an Incomplete is made in the last 4 weeks of the course
4) the [Incomplete Grade Contract form](#) is completed by the student
5) a PDF or hard copy of the student's "Grades" page on Canvas is attached to the Incomplete Grade Contract form

Grade Dispute and Resolution

- If you have a concern regarding your grade, please contact me directly via email or visit me during office hours so we can discuss your concern and resolve it.

Extra Credit

- No extra credit will be offered in this course.

CP – Technology Policy (Face-to-Face Courses)

Cell Phones

Please put your cell phone in "airplane" mode for the duration of class. The use of cell phones is discouraged during class time because it can be distracting to you, your classmates, and myself.

Laptops and Tablets

Laptop computers and tablets are only to be used for following: reviewing lecture slides, note-taking, or completing in-class assignments.

Social Media

Students who are engaging in online chatting or social networking (ex. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, SnapChat, etc.) during class may be asked to post a course-related question on their social media account and share the responses they receive with the class.

CP – Attendance Policy

Class Attendance

Face-to-Face Course

- I believe attendance is important because showing up and being present is integral to our life. As a university-level student, it is important that you attend course because it strengthens your connection with your peers, the professor and understanding of the materials.

Online Only Course

- I believe it is important that you log into the Course website at least every 48 hours. This will allow you to read any Announcement, check your To Do list, and complete assignments in a consistent manner.

Missing Class

Face-to-Face Course

- Missing class because of a valid excuse, such as a doctor-excused illness, a family emergency, or a documented conflict with another college-sanctioned activity, is permitted. If you know you will have such a valid excuse, please contact me (via Canvas Inbox, regular Email, or Text Message) as soon as practicable.

Online Only Course
- Not logging into the Course website for an extended period (3 or more days) because of a valid excuse, such as a doctor-excused illness, a family emergency, or a documented conflict with another college-sanctioned activity, is permitted. If you know you will have such a valid excuse, please contact me (via Canvas Inbox, regular Email, or Text Message) as soon as practicable.

CP – Withdrawal Policy

- Dropping a course is a difficult choice to make and I am here to consult with you about the decision.
- While I could drop you from a course, I strongly prefer that you take the action to drop yourself from the course if needed.
- Last Day to Drop without "W": **Sunday, September 1, 2019**
- Last Day to Drop with "W": **Sunday, November 10, 2019**

CP – Instructor Drop Policy

Face-to-Face Course
- If you are not present in the 1st and 2nd day of class, you will be considered a "No Show" and dropped from the course.
- If you are absent from class for 2 consecutive periods (1 week) without communicating with me, you will be dropped from the course.
- Please communicate with me if you expect to miss 2 consecutive class periods. See Communication Policy for an exhaustive list of ways to communicate with me.

Online Only Course
- Due to regulations and audits, I am required to drop students who are not participating.
- If you have not completed "Getting Started" assignments and at least one Chapter Quiz, one Classroom Post, and one Discussion post by the assigned Due Dates, you will be considered a "No Show" and dropped from the course.
- Modules are organized by week. Within each module are learning objectives, content, activities and assessments. If you do not complete all items within a module, then you cannot proceed to the next module.
- If you cannot proceed to a following module, because you have not completed all items in the prior module, then you can be dropped from the course for non-participation.

- Please communicate with me if you expect to miss 1 week of module items due to foreseen or unforeseen circumstances. See Communication Policy for an exhaustive list of ways to communicate with me.

CP – Student Conduct and Academic Honesty Policy

Code of Conduct

- The Student Affairs Office, which trains student advocates and grievance hearing committee members on due process procedures, is also a fair and impartial resource for students, who are involved in the student grievance and discipline process. At any time, students can contact the Student Affairs Office at (619) 660-4295 with questions regarding the Student Code of Conduct, which delineates the Cuyamaca College's boundaries for acceptable behavior standards.
- Visit Cuyamaca College Student Conduct webpage to read complete code.

Academic honesty

- Academic honesty is required of all students. Plagiarism–to take and pass off as one's own work the work or ideas of another–is a form of academic dishonesty. Penalties may be assigned for any form of academic dishonesty.
- Questions or clarification as to how to include the ideas and statements of others or how to avoid other forms of academic dishonesty should be discussed with your instructor to avoid unintentional academic dishonesty.
- Read page 30 of the 2019-2020 Catalog for the complete Academic Honesty policy.

How I Address an Instance of Not Honoring the Code of Conduct or Academic Honesty Policy

- I believe colleges and universities are where we go to learn.
- Learning is a function of both our successes and failures. And one of our failures can be not honoring our Code of Conduct or Academic Honesty policy.
- In the event this happens in our course, I will send you a message and ask to speak with over the phone or in person.
- My goal is to explain my concern about the issue, what rule or norm was violated, why the violation matters, offer an analogy of the violation to our lived experiences, and give advice for honoring our Code of Conduct or Academic Honesty policy going forward.
- When it comes to your Conduct or Academic Honesty, I will only communicate with you via phone or in person once. If there is a second violation of our Code of Conduct or Academic Honesty policy, then you will earn a "F" in the course and be referred to Student Affairs.

CP – Freedom from Discrimination and Sexual Harassment

Students have the freedom from discrimination and sexual harassment.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

The Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District (District) is committed to providing learning and working environments that ensure and promote diversity, equity, and inclusion. People backgrounds, perspectives, socioeconomic levels, cultures, and abilities are valued, welcomed, and included in all aspects of our organization. The District strives to provide an educational environment that fosters cultural awareness, mutual understanding, and respect that ultimately also benefits the global community.

- Visit Cuyamaca College Title 9 webpage to read complete notice.

Sexual Harassment/Assault Prevention and Awareness

The sexual harassment of students, including the crime of sexual violence, is a form of sex discrimination and interferes with students' right to receive an education free from discrimination and, in the case of sexual violence, is a crime.

- Visit Cuyamaca College Title 9 webpage to read complete prevention and awareness information.

Reporting Discrimination or Sexual Harassment

If you, or fellow student, has been a victim of discrimination or sexual harassment, please visit the Cuyamaca College Title 9 webpage.

CP – Options for Returning Students

Returning students are students who have taken a POSC course with Dr. Josh Franco in a prior semester.

To give you the opportunity to build on your knowledge, skills, and abilities earned in prior POSC courses taught by Dr. Franco, returning students have the following options:

- Complete 1 of the following options in lieu of SIM 1:
    - SIM 2 – Status Quo
    - ABM – Agent-Based Modeling module
- Complete 1 of the following options in lieu of the PPP:
    - Co-author an Open Education Resource with Dr. Franco
    - Co-author a Public Policy Blog Post with Dr. Franco

Returning students wishing to exercise one or more of these options need to consult with Dr. Franco and complete the "Exercise Option" form by 11:59pm on the Last Day to Drop without a W deadline.

Political Science @ Cuyamaca College

About

Political Science @ Cuyamaca College is an Associate of Arts-Transfer (AA-T) degree program that offers a dynamic blend of theoretical, conceptual, and practical training in political science and public policy.

Motto

Our motto is "With you every step of the way"

Mission

The mission of Political Science @ Cuyamaca College is to: inspire publicly spirited and scholarly minded residents and citizens; introduce students to the academic discipline of political science and community of political scientists and public policy practitioners; and utilize integrative political science pedagogy which merges lectures, journal article analyses, simulations, and public policy projects into an active learning experience.

Vision

The vision of Political Science @ Cuyamaca College is to: engage, enlighten, and empower the next generation of residents, citizens, leaders and civic entrepreneurs; develop and hone their interpersonal and group communication skills, organizational, analytical, and critical thinking abilities; and prepare them to transfer to and be successful at the 4-year university and confidently enter the public policy workforce.

Website

- Visit our website to learn more: http://bit.ly/PSatCC

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) are what students who earn an Associate of Arts degree in Political Science from Cuyamaca College should be able to do.

PLO #1

- Discuss major theories and concepts of political science.

PLO #2

- Analyze political issues and formulate solutions.

PLO #3

- Participate knowledgeably as a U.S. citizen in civic-oriented environments.

PLO #4

- Demonstrate an understanding of U.S. and world politics.

PLO #5

- Comprehend enduring political thoughts and ideas throughout history.

Brief History of Political Science @ Cuyamaca College

- March 19, 2019: Curriculum Committee approves POSC 170 – Introduction to Political Science Research Methods

- January 22, 2019: Josh Franco, Ph.D. hired as full-time tenure-track Assistant Professor of Political Science
- May 1, 2018:
  - Curriculum Committee approves POSC 121 – Introduction to U.S. Government and Politics, POSC 124 – Introduction to Comparative Government and Politics, POSC 130 – Introduction to International Relations, POSC 140 – Introduction to California Governments and Politics
- April 21, 2015: Curriculum Committee approves POSC 120 – Introduction to Politics and Political Analysis
- October 2013: Associates of Arts-Transfer degree in Political Science established

In the fall of 2018, the California Community College Region 10 Strong Workforce Program sent a "21st Century Skills & Core Competencies" survey to all community college faculty who teach at the 10 institutions in the region. The matrix below shows how the course Assessments map to the skills listed in the survey.

Skill	Quizzes	Assignments	Discussions	Reflections	Journal Article Analysis	Simulation	Public Policy Project
Adaptability	1						
Aesthetic Awareness							1
Collaboration			1				
Communication		1	1	1	1	1	1
Creative Thinking		1			1	1	1
Critical Thinking		1			1	1	1
Cultural Competence			1				
Education/Career Navigation Skills		1					
Empathy			1			1	
Entrepreneurial Mindset							1
Environmental Awareness							
Ethical Reasoning/Action							1
Information Literacy/Digital Fluency					1	1	1
Leadership							
Learning Skills/Metacognition				1	1	1	1
Personal Responsibility/Self-Management	1						1
Problem-Solving							1
Resilience/Grit	1				1	1	1
Self-Awareness	1			1			
Social Responsibility							1