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#axzz2pVlFWI
January 14: "Their Ought to be a Law" - The Legislative Process / New 2014 Laws
January 16: Review of Governor's Proposed 2014-15 Budget / Powerful Interest Groups
The Rainmakers: California's top political donors, 2001-2011 / http://rainmaker.apps.cironline.org/groups/
January 21: The Role of Lobbyists / In-Class Exam
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
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/


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


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


February 11: Proposition 30 / Student Weighted Funding Formula


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


February 18: Prison Overcrowding & Recidivism


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


More U.S. companies opening high-tech factories in Mexico / http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-overseas-manufacturing-20131130,0,5614376.story#axzz2m78wE0Wl

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

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


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


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


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