



Faculty Review of Open eTextbooks

The [California Open Educational Resources Council](http://www.cool4ed.org) has designed and implemented a faculty review process of the free and open etextbooks showcased within the California Open Online Library for Education (www.cool4ed.org). Faculty from the California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California were invited to review the selected free and open etextbooks using a rubric. Faculty received a stipend for their efforts and funding was provided by the State of California, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Textbook Name:

American Government and Politics in the Information Age, v. 2.0



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American Government and Politics in the Information Age, v. 2.0 by David L. Paletz, Diana Owen, and Timothy E. Cook is licensed under @2014 Flat World Education, Inc. [Terms of Use](#).

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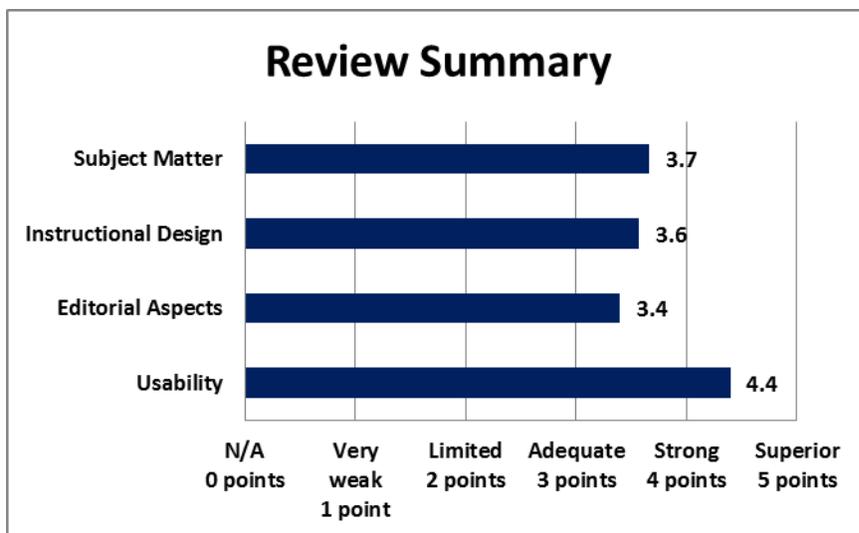
Institution:
 Fresno City College

Title/Position:
 Professor

Format
 Reviewed:
[Online](#)

A small fee may be associated with various formats.

Date Reviewed:
 December 2015



California OER Council eTextbook Evaluation Rubric

CA Course ID: [POLS 110](#)

Subject Matter (30 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the content accurate, error-free, and unbiased?					X	

Does the text adequately cover the designated course with a sufficient degree of depth and scope?				X		
Does the textbook use sufficient and relevant examples to present its subject matter?					X	
Does the textbook use a clear, consistent terminology to present its subject matter?					X	
Does the textbook reflect current knowledge of the subject matter?					X	
Does the textbook present its subject matter in a culturally sensitive manner? (e.g. Is the textbook free of offensive and insensitive examples? Does it include examples that are inclusive of a variety of races, ethnicities, and backgrounds?)				X		

Total Points: 22 out of 30

Please provide comments on any aspect of the subject matter of this textbook:

- The textbook examines all the major subject matter of American politics, but taking a media approach to American government and politics is questionable, particularly for those professors who believe that there are too much media in the lives of students and not enough reflection and reading.
- The textbook does meet that need, but it is proprietary. It has test banks, exercises, and PowerPoint slides for a fee to the student and restrictions on instructor access.

Instructional Design (35 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Does the textbook present its subject materials at appropriate reading levels for undergrad use?					X	
Does the textbook reflect a consideration of different learning styles? (e.g. visual, textual?)					X	
Does the textbook present explicit learning outcomes aligned with the course and curriculum?				X		
Is a coherent organization of the textbook evident to the reader/student?				X		
Does the textbook reflect best practices in the instruction of the designated course?				X		
Does the textbook contain sufficient effective ancillary materials? (e.g. test banks, individual and/or group activities or exercises, pedagogical apparatus, etc.)					X	
Is the textbook searchable?					X	

Total Points: 25 out of 35

Please provide comments on any aspect of the instructional design of this textbook:

- The textbook is good on learning objectives, which are found throughout the chapter.
- The textbook is very good in being searchable.
- Footnotes are well-linked to the textual reference.

Editorial Aspects (25 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the language of the textbook free of grammatical, spelling, usage, and typographical errors?				X		
Is the textbook written in a clear, engaging style?					X	
Does the textbook adhere to effective principles of design? (e.g. are pages laid out and organized to be clear and visually engaging and effective? Are colors, font, and typography consistent and unified?)				X		
Does the textbook include conventional editorial features? (e.g. a table of contents, glossary, citations and further references)				X		
How effective are multimedia elements of the textbook? (e.g. graphics, animations, audio)					X	

Total Points: 17 out of 25

Please provide comments on any editorial aspect of this textbook.

Usability (25 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
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Is the textbook compatible with standard and commonly available hardware/software in college/university campus student computer labs?						X
Is the textbook accessible in a variety of different electronic formats? (e.g. .txt, .pdf, .epub, etc.)						X
Can the textbook be printed easily?					X	
Does the user interface implicitly inform the reader how to interact with and navigate the textbook?						X
How easily can the textbook be annotated by students and instructors?				X		

Total Points: 22 out of 25

Please provide comments on any aspect of access concerning this textbook.

- Ease of access is very good when viewing the textbook online.

Overall Ratings						
	Not at all (0 pts)	Very Weak (1 pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3 pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
What is your overall impression of the textbook?				X		
	Not at all (0 pts)	Strong reservations (1 pt)	Limited willingness (2 pts)	Willing (3 pts)	Strongly willing (4 pts)	Enthusiastically willing (5 pts)
How willing would you be to adopt this book?			X			

Total Points: 5 out of 10

Overall Comments

If you were to recommend this textbook to colleagues, what merits of the textbook would you highlight?

- I would recommend the textbook because of the resources available, such as PowerPoint, and, in particular, the test bank maintained by the publisher.

What areas of this textbook require improvement in order for it to be used in your courses?

- All content of the textbook would have to be available at no cost to the student. I would rather adopt the free version of the textbook from the Saylor Foundation. It has the same content.
- It is unlikely that I would adopt this textbook, because of its media approach. While media are important in American politics and increasingly so, the subject matter is derivative of the underlying substance of American politics, the constitutional structure, values, and political processes of American politics and government.

We invite you to add your feedback on the textbook or the review to [the textbook site in MERLOT](#) (Please [register](#) in MERLOT to post your feedback.)



For questions or more information, contact the [CA Open Educational Resources Council](#).



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