



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 etextboks 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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Textbook Authors:
 David L. Paletz, Diana Owen, and
 Timothy E. Cook

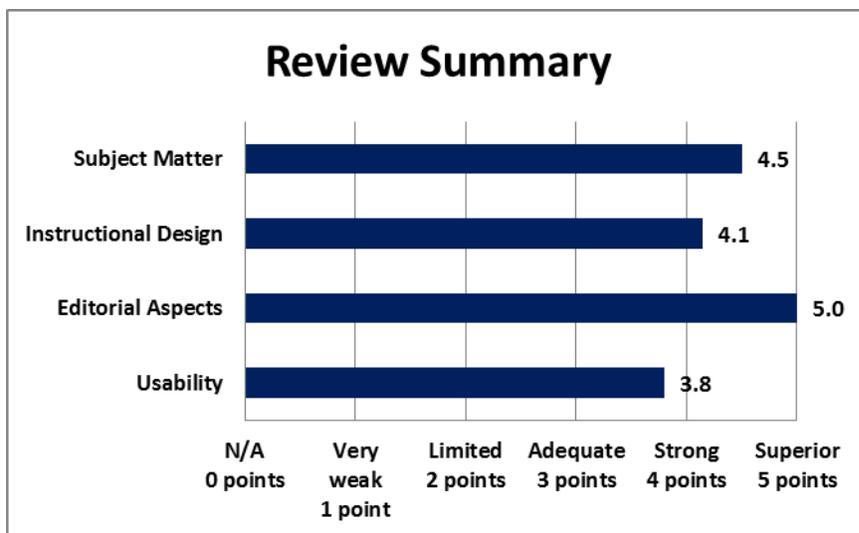
Reviewed by:
 Michael Siler

Institution:
 California State
 University, Los Angeles

Title/Position:
 Professor

Format
 Reviewed:
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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)
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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: 27 out of 30

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

- Overall, the subject matter covers over 17 chapters relevant to understanding American government and politics using a media-centric model.
- Well written and quite thoughtful in organization and relevance.
- Each of the 17 chapters has photographs, tables, figures, links to videos, audio links, research databases and a number of enduring image boxes to provide the curious students a range of learning tools and methodologies to increase and broaden his/her learning horizons on a particular topic.
- For an American government course, take-aways and exercises (questionnaires testing the student's understanding and retention of chapter information) are usually included at the end of the typical chapter; and the reviewed text meets both requirements in a clear and descriptive manner.

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: 29 out of 35

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

- Frankly, the instructional design of the textbook is consistent with the full development and survey of a media-centric approach to the understanding of American government and politics. It is, in fact, a unique approach and the authors have done a very good job in laying out the utility of their approach with very apparent errors.

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

Please provide comments on any editorial aspect of this textbook.

- The editorial strengths of the text is that it is comprehensive, well written, well planned and organized, well edited with clear learning objectives for each chapter clearly demonstrated.
- The editorial weakness perhaps is that there are too many chapters over 17 although it is clearly a good textbook.

Usability (25 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
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: 19 out of 25

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

- There are no visible problems in accessing the textbook. It is a text book that has no real weaknesses since it had a large number of editors who examined the text thoroughly; and the text writers themselves were dedicated experts in the application of media-centric perspectives to the study and understanding of American government and politics. In point of fact, it was surprising that the authors applied a particularly useful media-centric approach to American government and politics with such precision and clarity.

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: 8 out of 10

Overall Comments

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

- Easily readable, thoughtfully written, well organized, a unique perspective towards understanding American politics and government in its great diversity and breadth, and well documented with footnotes at the end of each chapter,

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

- The only real problem that I had with the text is that it is too long and wordy in parts.
- The development of more questions in the exercise portion at the end of the chapter would be helpful and a broader number of take-aways from the chapter's arguments could have been added.
- Nonetheless, a very good book.

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