San José State University
Political Science Department
POLS190, Section 1, Senior Seminar: Welfare State Policy
Spring 2019

Course and Contact Information
Instructor: Dr. Melinda Jackson
Office Location: Clark Hall 471
Telephone: (408) 924-5293
Email: Melinda.Jackson@sjsu.edu (preferred contact method)
Office Hours: Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00am-12:00pm
Fridays 1:00-2:00pm
Also available by phone or Zoom appointment

Class Days/Time: Fridays 9:30am-12:15pm, CL303

Course Description
This is an integrative capstone course serves as a culminating experience for the Political Science major. It will analyze the theory and practice of Welfare State Policy in a comparative political context. From this course, students will gain an in-depth understanding of the historical development and current practice of social policy in different regions of the world. We will focus on a handful of policy areas in more detail, including family benefits, health care, pensions, social assistance, and housing. Students will choose one policy area to research in depth, comparing the United States to one other country.

Since this class will be run like a graduate seminar, regular attendance and participation are crucial to your success in the course. Students must read all assigned readings and be committed to participating in class discussions. For those considering going to graduate school, this course will be a transition into learning at the graduate level.

POLS190H: Honors Thesis
Students with at least a 3.2 overall GPA and 3.5 GPA in the major are eligible to enroll in POLS190H, an additional one unit course that will run simultaneously with POLS190. Honors students must write a longer research paper, complete additional readings, and serve as discussion leader for an additional class meeting.

CANVAS Course Page
Course materials such as syllabus, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas Learning Management System (login at http://sjsu.instructure.com). You are responsible for regularly checking with the Canvas messaging system to learn of any updates (also automatically forwards to your email – make sure your preferred email is listed on MySJSU at http://my.sjsu.edu).
Political Science Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

Upon completion of the Political Science major, students should be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes.

PLO1: Breadth
Students should possess a broad knowledge of the theory and methods of the various branches of the discipline.

PLO2: Application and Disciplinary Methods
Students should be able to formulate research questions, engage in systematic literature searches using primary and secondary sources, evaluate research studies, and critically analyze and interpret influential political texts. Students should be able to apply these techniques to identify, understand, and analyze domestic and international political issues and organizations.

PLO3: Communication Skills
Students should master basic competencies in oral and written communication skills and be able to apply these skills in the context of political science. This means communicating effectively about politics and/or public administration, public policy, and law.

PLO4: Citizenship
Students should acquire an understanding of the role of the citizen in local, state, national, and global contexts and appreciate the importance of lifelong participation in political processes.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

CLO1: Describe the origins and history of the modern welfare state, and the major theories related to its development.

CLO2: Compare the distinctive welfare state models found in various regions of the world, and explain the differences in their origins and development over time.

CLO3: Describe the main areas of social policy that comprise the welfare state: family benefits, health care, pensions, social benefits, and housing, as well as related policy areas such as education and immigration.

CLO4: Analyze one social policy area in depth, comparing the US to one other country in terms of current policy, challenges and successes, political context, and future directions.
Students’ achievement of these learning outcomes will be assessed as follows.

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<th>Course Learning Outcome</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLO1</td>
<td>Seminar Participation, Discussion Boards, Exam 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLO2</td>
<td>Seminar Participation, Discussion Boards, Exam 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLO3</td>
<td>Papers 1-3, Discussion Boards, Exam 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLO4</td>
<td>Final Paper and Oral Presentation</td>
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**Required Texts/Readings**

There is one required book for this class: T.R. Reid. 2009. The Healing of America: A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper, and Fairer Health Care. (New York, NY: Penguin Books). This text can be purchased at the Spartan Bookstore or online. All other course readings will be posted on Canvas unless otherwise noted.

**Other technology requirements / equipment**

You will need reliable access to the internet to complete readings, upload assignments, and access syllabus, announcements, and course updates on Canvas. Computer access is available in the campus library and in Clark Hall 102, and laptops may be checked out at no cost from Student Computing Services (https://library.sjsu.edu/scs).

**Library Liaison**

The library liaison for Political Science is available to answer questions and provide one-on-one help learning using the library for research. His name and contact info is: Paul Kauppila  
University Librarian (Political Science Liaison)  
(408) 808-2042  
Paul.Kauppila@sjsu.edu

The Political Science subject guide is also a useful resource for finding library sources relevant to this class: http://libguides.sjsu.edu/politicalscience

**Course Requirements and Assignments**

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week, with 3 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus. Because this is a **four-unit course**, you can expect to spend a minimum of 9 hours per week, in addition to the time spent in class, on readings, assignments, and other course activities. Careful time management will help you keep up with readings and assignments and enable you to be successful in all of your courses. More details about student workload can be found in University Policy S12-3 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf.
**Papers:** The major assignment for this class is a 20 page policy research paper (30 pages for students taking the POLS190H Honors option) in which you will provide an in-depth comparative analysis of one area of social policy in the United States and one other country of your choosing. Your topic proposal and each section of the paper will be due at regular intervals throughout the semester, to enable you to receive feedback from the professor, and the opportunity to revise the paper on an ongoing basis. The final paper will be due at the end of the semester, and each student will give a 5-minute oral presentation of the paper. Details for each assignment are listed below and on CANVAS.

- **Paper 1:** Topic Description & Bibliography (2 pages; 15 points)  
  Due Friday 3/1
- **Paper 2:** Introduction & History (8-10 pages/2500 words; 25 points)  
  Due Friday 3/22
- **Paper 3:** Current Context & Future Directions (8-10 pages/2500 words; 25 points)  
  Due Friday 4/19
- **Final Paper:** Policy Research Paper (20 pages/5000 words; Honors 30 pages/7500 words; 100 points)  
  Due Friday 5/10
- **Oral Presentation of Final Paper:** 5 minute presentation, 35 points

**In-class Activities and Seminar Participation:** This is a seminar-style class in which students are expected to attend class each week having completed the readings, and prepared to engage in vigorous and respectful discussion and debate with their classmates and professor. Active participation is a crucial element of the learning process for this course and students will therefore be graded based on the quality of their participation in each week’s seminar. Several students will be assigned to lead each week’s discussion, and will submit a list of discussion questions in advance. The quality of students’ leadership on the weeks they are assigned this role will also contribute to their participation grade.

**NOTE:** Although 1-2 absences per semester may be unavoidable due to illness or emergencies, students should make every effort to attend each and every class meeting and should contact the professor as soon as possible if they miss more than 2 classes. *Participation will count for 20% of your overall grade in this class.*

**Online Discussion Boards:** All students will be required to post to an online discussion board on Canvas before our class meeting each week, and to respond to another student’s comment after our class meeting. You are welcome to post more comments and responses if you like, but one comment and response are required for full credit on this portion of your grade. Discussion board contributions will be graded based on timeliness, relevance, and civility.

**NOTE:** This course will address a range of political topics that people will have different opinions about. The purpose of the course is to allow you to develop your knowledge and to explore your own opinions about current social policy issues, while further developing your written and oral communication skills. With this in mind, please keep your comments civil and respectful toward others. Tolerance for different viewpoints is a hallmark of democracy. If you disagree with a comment you see on the online discussion board, or hear in our class seminar discussions, find a way to express your own view in a thoughtful and respectful manner. It is perfectly fine to disagree with someone’s opinion, but it is not OK to attack that person individually (e.g., name calling, belittling).
Grading Information

All assignments are graded based upon a percentage system, which can be converted to letter grades as described below. All assignments and exams total 100% of the course grade. The same letter grade distribution applies to the final course grade as it does for each assignment.

A plus = More than 100 percent
A = 92 to 100 percent
A minus = 90 to 91 percent
B plus = 88 to 89 percent
B = 82 to 87 percent
B minus = 80 to 81 percent
C plus = 78 to 79 percent
C = 72 to 77 percent
C minus = 70 to 71 percent
D plus = 68 to 69 percent
D = 62 to 67 percent
D minus = 60 to 61 percent
F = 59 percent or less

Late Work: Exam make-ups will be allowed only in cases of medical or family emergency for which proper documentation is provided. If you miss an exam, you must contact me immediately to schedule a make-up. Missed online discussion board participation cannot be made up under any circumstances. Late papers and online activities will be penalized 10% for each 24-hour period for the first 5 days. After 5 days, the paper will receive 0. Exams will not be given early under any circumstances, so be sure to plan accordingly.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs’ Syllabus Information web page at http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/” Make sure to review these policies and resources.
## POLS190: Senior Seminar: Welfare State Policy
### Spring 2019 Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice. Announcements will be posted on CANVAS.

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
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| 1    | Fri. 1/25 | Course Introduction: What is the Welfare State?  
Weekly Discussion Leader Assignments |
| 2    | Fri. 2/1 | **Scope and Origins of the Welfare State**  
Readings: ALL READINGS POSTED ON CANVAS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED  
2. Stein Kuhnle & Anne Sander. 2010. Ch.5: The Emergence of the Western Welfare State (OH)  
ALL: Online Discussion Board: post due before class Fri. 2/1, response due by midnight Sun. 2/3 |
| 3    | Fri. 2/8 | **Theories of the Welfare State**  
Readings:  
2. Desmond King & Fiona Ross (2010). Ch. 4: Critics and Beyond (OH)  
ALL: Online Discussion Board: post due before class Fri. 2/8, response due by midnight Sun. 2/10 |
| 4    | Fri. 2/15 | **Varieties of the post-war Welfare State**  
Readings:  
ALL: Online Discussion Board: post due before class Fri. 2/15, response due by midnight Sun. 2/17 |
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| 5    | Fri. 2/22 | Influences on post-war Welfare States  
Readings:  
ALL: Online Discussion Board: post due before class Fri. 2/22, response due by midnight Sun. 2/24 |
| 6    | Fri. 3/1 | Readings: Gender and Family Policies  
1. Mary Daly. 2010. Ch. 9: Families Versus State and Market (OH)  
ALL: Online Discussion Board: post due before class Fri. 3/1, response due by midnight Sun. 3/3  
Paper 1: Topic Description and Bibliography DUE on Canvas by midnight Fri. 3/1  
*Schedule individual meeting with Dr. Jackson* |
| 7    | Fri. 3/8 | EXAM 1 – In class exam, instructions posted on Canvas |
| 8    | Fri. 3/15 | Health & Health Care Policies  
Readings:  
ALL: Online Discussion Board: post due before class Fri. 3/15, response due by midnight Sun. 3/17 |
| 9    | Fri. 3/22 | Health & Health Care Policies  
Readings:  
ALL: Online Discussion Board: post due before class Fri. 3/22, response due by midnight Sun. 3/24  
Paper 2: Introduction & History DUE on Canvas by midnight Sun. 3/24 |
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| 10   | Fri. 3/29 | **Health & Health Care Policies**  
Readings:  
1. Richard Freeman & Heinz Rothgang. 2010. Ch.25: Health (OH)  
3. Other readings TBD  
ALL: Online Discussion Board: post due before class Fri. 3/29, response due by midnight Sun. 3/31 |
| 11   | Fri. 4/5 | **NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK** |
| 12   | Fri. 4/12 | **Old-Age Pensions and Social Assistance**  
Readings:  
2. Thomas Bahle, Michaela Pfeifer & Claus Wendt. 2010. Ch. 31: Social Assistance (OH)  
3. Other readings TBD  
ALL: Online Discussion Board: post due before class Fri. 4/5, response due by midnight Sun. 4/7 |
| 13   | Fri. 4/19 | **Housing Policy**  
Readings:  
1. Tony Fahey & Michelle Norris. 2010. Ch. 33: Housing (OH)  
2. Other readings TBD  
ALL: Online Discussion Board: post due before class Fri. 4/19, response due by midnight Sun. 4/21  
Paper 3: Current Context & Future Directions DUE on Canvas by midnight Sun. 4/21  
*Schedule individual meeting with Dr. Jackson* |
| 14   | Fri. 4/26 | **Regional Variations on the Welfare State**  
Readings: (Choose TWO of the chapters below to read)  
2. Bruno Palier. 2010. Ch. 41: Continental Western Europe (OH)  
5. Evelyne Huber & Juan Bogliaccini. 2010. Ch. 44: Latin America (OH)  
6. Ito Peng & Joseph Wong. 2010. Ch. 45: East Asia (OH)  
7. Linda J. Cook. 2010. Ch. 46: Eastern Europe and Russia (OH)  
ALL: Online Discussion Board: post due before class Fri. 4/26, response due by midnight Sun. 4/28 |
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| 15   | Fri. 5/3 | The Future of the Welfare State  
Readings:  
  2. Other readings TBD  
ALL: Online Discussion Board: post due before class Fri. 5/3, response due by midnight Sun. 5/5 |
| 16   | Fri. 5/10 | Student Oral Presentations |
| 17   | Fri. 5/17 | Final Paper DUE on Canvas by midnight Fri. 5/17 |
| Finals Week | Mon. 5/20 | Exam 2 in class, instructions posted on Canvas (8:00-9:30am) |