San José State University
Department of Political Science
Pols 195A Political Inquiry Section 01, Fall 2016

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Mary Currin-Percival
Office Location:	Clark Hall 406L
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Office Hours:	Mondays and Wednesdays 12:30-2:00pm
Class Days/Time:	Mondays and Wednesdays 4:30-5:45pm
Classroom:	HGH 116
Prerequisites:	Upper Division Standing or Instructor Consent

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as the syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the on Canvas Leaning Management System course login website at http://sjsu.instructure.com. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU *at http://my.sjsu.edu* to learn of any updates.

By enrolling in this course you consent to all course requirements listed in this syllabus, published on our Canvas site, and announced in class. You accept responsibility for accessing the Canvas course website to download any required handouts, assignments, or readings. You also accept responsibility for checking the course website regularly for any announcements. You also accept responsibility for receiving any messages sent via the MySJSU email system. Make sure that MySJSU has your current email address. Contact me within the first week if you cannot access the Canvas website, download and read .pdf files, link to other websites, or send or receive email.

Communication
YOU MUST CHECK OUR CANVAS COURSE PAGE ROUTINELY. This is a course requirement. All course materials will be posted on Canvas. I will also frequently make announcements on Canvas. I will make every effort to promptly return emails between 8am and 6pm M-F. If I do not respond within 48 hours, please send me another email. I will answer emails on the weekends and evenings periodically and more often before exams and around paper due dates. I am available to meet with you by appointment if you have class or work during my regularly scheduled office hours.

Course Description

This course offers an introduction to theory and research methods in political science. It will help you to understand how theory is developed, used, and built upon by scholars in various subfields in the discipline. It will introduce you to and give you a working knowledge of research methods including but not limited to: survey research, content analysis, small-n studies, and experiments. There is no "one-size- fits-all" research

method in political science and you will find researchers use different methods to attempt to answer research questions. The major project in this course is a research design for an original project that you propose. There will be a considerable amount of reading and extensive discussion of the readings each week. You are expected to keep up with these readings and actively participate in our lively class discussions. My office hours are listed at the top of this syllabus. Please do not hesitate to come by during these scheduled times or contact me to schedule an appointment.

Political Science Program Learning Outcomes

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

PSPLO1: Breadth
Students should possess a broad knowledge of the theory and methods of the various branches of the discipline.

PSPLO2: Application
Students should be able to apply a variety of techniques to identify, understand, and analyze domestic and international political issues and organizations.

PSPLO3: Disciplinary methods
Student should be able to formulate research questions, engage in systematic literature searches using primary and secondary sources, have competence in systematic data gathering using library sources, government documents, and data available through electronic sources, should be able to evaluate research studies, and should be able to critically analyze and interpret influential political texts.

PSPLO4: 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.

PSPLO5: 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
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

CLO1. Compare and contrast the ways social scientists study political phenomena.

CLO2. Develop hypotheses and measure and conceptualize variables.

CLO3. Match best-suited research method to research question.

CLO4. Construct a research design for an original social science research project.

CLO5. Interpret original political science research.

Mapping POLS195A Course Learning Outcomes to Political Science PLOs	Program Learning Outcomes	Assessment Methods
CLO1: Compare and contrast the ways social scientists study political phenomena.	PLO1, 2	Quizzes, exams, research design, survey projects, survey reflection paper, problems and exercises
CLO2: Develop hypotheses and measure and conceptualize variables.	PLO1, 3	Quizzes, measurement paper, research design, survey projects, problems and exercises
CLO3: Match best-suited research method to research question.	PLO1, 2	Quizzes, exams, research design, survey projects, problems and exercises
CLO4: Construct a research design for an original social science research project.	PLO2, 3, 4	Research design
CLO5: Interpret original political science research.	PLO1,3	Quizzes, research design, survey reflection paper

Required Texts

Political Science Research Methods, 8th ed. (2016). Janet Buttolph Johnson, H.T. Reynolds, and Jason D. Mycoff. Sage.

Working with Political Science Research Methods: Problems and Exercises, 4th ed. (2016). Jason D. Mycoff. Sage.

Both texts are available for purchase in the Spartan Bookstore. Additional readings are listed in this syllabus and will be posted electronically on the CANVAS course website.

Library Liaison

The library liaison for Political Science is available to answer questions and provide one-on-one help using the library for research. His name and contact info is: **Paul Kauppila,** Librarian (Political Science Liaison). He can be reached by telephone (408) 808-2042 or by email Paul.Kauppila@sjsu.edu.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Course Workload Expectations: Succeeding in a Four-Unit Course
SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. Because this is a **four-unit course**, you can expect to spend a minimum of nine hours per week, in addition to time spent in class, on scheduled tutorials, assignments, or activities. This additional unit will allow for more in-depth investigation and engagement with course topics. 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.

1. Quizzes (50 points)

There will be five quizzes (worth 10 points each) covering the assigned readings, given in class, announced in advance. Quizzes will generally be multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, and short-answer. The quizzes are designed to prepare you for the exams.

2. Measurement Paper (25 points)

This paper is one part of your larger research design due at the end of the semester. Completing this part of the paper early gives you an opportunity to obtain early feedback on your project. I will provide a prompt for the measurement paper in week three. The measurement paper is due on October 17, 2016 at the end of class. Late measurement papers will be penalized 2/3's letter grade per day, beginning at 5:46pm on Oct 17th. *****SEE BELOW*****

****IMPORTANT**** You must complete and pass (with at least 75% total grade) the plagiarism quiz in order for your papers to be accepted for this course. You must complete the plagiarism quiz by SEPTEMBER 12 at 9pm to avoid a late penalty applied to your Measurement Paper grade. This late penalty is -1 point per day. This is a required component of the papers.

EMAIL your quiz results to me. Be certain that I receive the score for each of the questions, not just a final score. Your quiz is not considered completed until I receive this. I will reply to your email—look out for it.

3. Research Design (100 points)

The major assignment for this course is a 9-10-page research design for an original research project you propose to study. You will use the skills learned throughout the course to complete this project. **You will not actually have to collect data**; the research design is a comprehensive outline of how you would conduct the project. It will include a discussion of your research question(s), a review of the relevant scholarly literature, a discussion of the theory upon which your hypothesis(es) is/are based, your measurement, your design and your expectations. I will elaborate upon this project in class and give you a detailed prompt for the assignment. The research design is due on December 7, 2016 at the end of class (hard copies only). Late research designs will be penalized 2/3's letter grade per day, beginning at 5:46pm on December 7th.

4. Midterm Exam (100 points)

The midterm exam will cover the material learned in the first half of the course and will include a multiple-choice section (25 questions worth 2 points each and an essay section worth 50 points). The midterm exam is on October 19, 2016.

5. Problems and Exercises (75 points)

You will have frequent at-home and in-class assignments from the *Working with Political Science Research Methods: Problems and Exercises* workbook. You must obtain your own individual copy of this workbook and bring it to every class meeting listed in the syllabus and any additional class meeting announced in class, by email, or on Canvas. It is generally a good idea to bring it every day to use as a study tool. Since quizzes are open-notes and open-book, you should definitely be sure to bring it on quiz days!

These in-class and take-home assignments are worth 5 points each time I grade them. I will not always grade these assignments though, so it is in your best interest to do the work whenever it is assigned. I will not correct every problem, but instead sample your work to determine where I can offer assistance. If you make a strong effort at all of the problems in the assignment, you will likely earn all of the points. We will usually work in small groups on the in-class assignments; however, you must complete the assignment in your own individual workbook while working in the group. Please see me if you have any questions.

6. Final Exam (100 points)

The final exam will cover the material learned in the second half of the course and will include a multiple-choice section (25 questions worth 2 points each and an essay section worth 50 points). The final exam will be held in our usual classroom on December 16, 2016 from 2:45pm-5:00pm.

7. Online Survey Construction Project (75 points)

You are going to construct an original short online public opinion survey using the skills you learn in this class. You will be trained on Qualtrics in the College of Social Sciences Applied Research Center during in-class training sessions. We will work as a group on the project; however, each student will construct and program an individual survey. I will elaborate upon this exciting assignment in class. The training days listed in the syllabus are the only training days available. Be certain to note these days in your schedule. These are regularly scheduled class meetings.

8. In-Person Survey Project (25 points)

Each student will complete one shift (4 hours) conducting in-person interviews for the Northside Neighborhood Survey on September 24, 2016. This is a required class activity. You will be trained for this project (please see the course schedule for the training date).

Points will be based on a number of factors including, but not limited to: completion of interviewing hours, attendance at mandatory training, adherence to the policies taught in training, and on-time attendance at interviewing shift for which you signed up.

9. Survey Reflection Paper (50 points)

You will write a short (3-4 page) paper reflecting upon your learning experiences in both survey projects, incorporating relevant literature in survey research. I will give a detailed paper prompt in Week 5. The survey reflection paper is due on November 9, 2016 (hard copies only) at the end of class. Late survey reflection papers will be penalized 2/3's letter grade per day, beginning at 5:46pm on November 9th.

Grading Information

Prompts for each paper will be posted on Canvas. Your grade will be based upon the following:

1) how well the paper addresses the points/questions in the prompt
2) the quality of arguments and conclusions-are these logical and backed up by research in political science and related disciplines?
3) adherence to methodological design—does the paper use appropriate political science research methods?
4) the quality (and appropriate quantity) of the sources cited within the paper as well as the proper use of APA, APSA, or Chicago formatting
5) the quality of the writing

Each paper assignment will have specific requirements that must be addressed. Please refer to the prompt on Canvas for further information.

Exam essay grades are generally graded the same way as papers, though I do not expect you to include a References page. I do expect you to refer to authors by name when you refer to their work however.

You are welcome to meet with me for additional review of quizzes or workbook problems. Please email me to set up a time to meet. Taking notes while we review the quizzes is an excellent way to prepare for the exams, as the multiple-choice sections of the exams are very similar to the multiple-choice on the quizzes.

Determination of Grades

Your grade will be calculated as follows. You may keep track of your grade in the class on the CANVAS course website.

	Points
Quizzes (5 quizzes 10 points each)	50
Measurement Paper	25
Research Design	100
Midterm Exam	100
Problems and Exercises	75
Final Exam	100
Online Survey Construction Project	75
In-person survey project	25
Survey Reflection Paper	50
Total	600

Your final grade will be calculated by dividing your total points by 600. For example, consider the following: Total points = 528. 528/600= .88 = 88% Using the scale below, this individual would be assigned a B+.

Final letter grades for the course will be assigned based on the following scale:

100%-98 = A+	89%-87% = B+	79%-77% = C+	69%-67% = D+
97-93% = A	86%-83% = B	76%-73% = C	66%-63% = D
92%-90% = A-	82%-80% = B-	72%-70% = C-	62%-60% = D-
			59% or less = F

Make-up/Late Policy

There are no make-up exams or other assignments without appropriate documentation (serious medical illness or serious medical emergency, religious holiday, pre-approved university-sanctioned event or activity, military orders, family emergency) that you were unable to complete the assignment on time.

This also applies to in-class assignments. If you are seriously ill, you must notify me as soon as possible by email or on my office phone that you will be unable to complete an assignment on time. Except in cases of medical emergency, you **MUST** notify me before the scheduled assignment.

Out of fairness to your colleagues, work, missing an alarm, and generally not feeling well **will not be** accepted excuses for missing assignments. Make sure you schedule all of our assignments right away. If you have a vacation or similar event planned during one of these assignment days, take this course during another semester.

Late papers will be graded; however, these will be penalized 2/3's letter grade for each day they are late. For example, a late B+ paper would earn a B-. The late period begins at 5:46pm on the day the paper is due. Late papers will NOT be accepted after the last day of class.

Classroom Policies and Protocol

Attendance and participation

It is expected that you will attend class regularly. The survey projects require active in-class planning and participation from all students. If you miss class, please notify me as soon as possible. It is your responsibility to find out what you missed. Please come to class on time. If you are late, please do not be disruptive. If you know that you need to leave early, let me know before class and sit near the door. Every student is expected to participate in class discussion regularly.

Cellphones, laptops, and other technology

YOU MAY NOT USE YOUR CELL PHONE IN CLASS. If you need to have it on for family reasons, please turn it on vibrate and leave it out of sight. If you must make an emergency text, feel free to step outside of class. All other texting needs to take place before or after class. Laptops, tablets, and other such technology are not allowed in class except on designated dates. Please see me if you have questions about this policy or questions regarding SJSU academic accommodations related to this policy.

Recording of Lectures

NO AUDIO OR VIDEO RECORDING OF LECTURES OR OTHER CLASS ACTIVITIES ALLOWED WITHOUT INSTRUCTOR PERMISSION IN ADVANCE. It is common courtesy to obtain permission from people before you record them; therefore, out of respect to your colleagues and to me, do not record this class without my explicit permission.

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/"

Pols 195A / Political Inquiry, Fall 2016 Course Schedule

The schedule is subject to change with fair notice. All changes will be announced in class and posted on Canvas.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Wed Aug 24	Introduction to course Empirical Research in Political Science **Read:** syllabus **Assignment:** online plagiarism tutorial and quiz at: http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/tutorial/plagiarism/index.htm

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
2	Mon Aug 29	The Scientific Study of Politics **Read:** Johnson and Reynolds, chs 1-2 **Assignment:** workbook ch 1 and ch 2 (exercises TBA) **In-class Assignment**: bring your workbook to class
2	Wed Aug 31	Research Questions and Literature Reviews **Read:** Johnson and Reynolds, ch 3 **In-class Assignment**: bring your workbook to class.
3	Mon Sept 5	Labor Day—no class meeting
3	Wed Sept 7	Literature Reviews, cont. **Read:** Johnson and Reynolds, ch 3 **In-class Assignment**: bring your workbook to class.
4	Mon Sept 12	Intro to Survey Research and Interviewing **Read:** Johnson and Reynolds, ch 6 pps. 203-209, ch 10 **Assignment: PLAGIARISM QUIZ RESULTS DUE BY EMAIL BY 9PM TODAY**
4	Wed Sept 14 **Mandatory class meeting**	In-class training for in-person survey project
5	Mon Sept 19	Hypotheses, and Variables **Read:** Johnson and Reynolds, ch 4 **Assignment:** workbook ch 4 (exercises TBA) **In-class Assignment**: bring your workbook to class.
5	Wed Sept 21	Hypotheses, and Variables **Read:** Johnson and Reynolds, ch 4 **In-class Assignment**: bring your workbook to class. **In-class Assignment**: Quiz #1 at the beginning of class

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
6	Mon Sept 26	Measurement **Read:** Johnson and Reynolds, ch 5 **Assignment:** workbook ch 5 (exercises TBA) **In-class Assignment**: bring your workbook to class.
6	Wed Sept 28	Measurement **Read:** Johnson and Reynolds, ch 5 **In-class Assignment**: bring your workbook to class.
7	Mon Oct 3	Sampling **Read:** Johnson and Reynolds, ch 7 **Assignment:** workbook ch 7 (exercises TBA) **In-class Assignment**: Quiz #2 at the beginning of class
7	Wed Oct 5	Survey Research, Part II Questionnaire Design **Read:** Johnson and Reynolds, ch 10 **In-class Assignment**: bring your workbook to class. **Assignment:** workbook ch 10 (exercises TBA)
8	Mon Oct 10	Survey questionnaire construction
8	Wed Oct 12	Survey questionnaire construction
9	Mon Oct 17	Midterm Exam Review **Assignment: Measurement Paper Due at the end of class today**
9	Wed Oct 19	**Assignment: Midterm Exam**
10	Mon Oct 24	Individual meetings about research designs
10	Wed Oct 26	Qualtrics Training and Programming
11	Mon Oct 31	Qualtrics Training and Programming

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
11	Wed Nov 2	Qualtrics Training and Programming
12	Mon Nov 7	Experimental designs Quasi-Experimental Designs **Read:** Johnson and Reynolds, ch 6 **In-class Assignment**: bring your workbook to class. **Assignment:** workbook ch 6 (exercises TBA)
12	Wed Nov 9	Experimental designs Quasi-Experimental Designs **Read:** Johnson and Reynolds, ch 6 **In-class Assignment**: bring your workbook to class. **Assignment: Survey Reflection Paper due at the end of class today**
13	Mon Nov 14	The Research Project, The Research Presentation **Read:** Johnson and Reynolds, ch 15 Individual meetings about research designs
13	Wed Nov 16	Other Types of Research Designs—Observational Studies **Read:** Johnson and Reynolds, ch 8 **In-class Assignment:** Quiz #3 at the beginning of class **Assignment:** workbook ch 8 (exercises TBA)
14	Mon Nov 21	Other Types of Research Designs—Observational Studies, cont. **Read:** Johnson and Reynolds, ch 8 **In-class Assignment**: bring your workbook to class.
14	Wed Nov 23	No class meeting—Thanksgiving Break
15	Mon Nov 28	Document Analysis and Content Analysis **Read:** Johnson and Reynolds, chs 9 **Assignment:** workbook ch 9 (exercises TBA)

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
15	Wed Nov 30	Intro to Descriptive Statistics **Read:** Johnson and Reynolds, ch 11 **In-class Assignment**: bring your workbook to class. **In-class Assignment:** Quiz #4 at the beginning of class
16	Mon Dec 5	Intro to Descriptive Statistics **Read:** Johnson and Reynolds, ch 11 **Assignment:** workbook ch 11 (exercises TBA)
16	Wed Dec 7	Intro to Inferential Statistics **Read:** Johnson and Reynolds, ch 12 **Assignment: Research Design due at the end of class today** **In-class Assignment:** Quiz #5 at the beginning of class
17	Mon Dec 12	Final Exam Review
Final Exam	Friday, Dec 16	The final exam is in HGH 116 2:45pm-5:00pm