

San José State University
15A Introduction to American History and Government,
History/Political Science (Section 8) Fall 2011

Instructor:	Dr. Constantine Danopoulos, Ph.D. (Political Science)
Office Location:	Clark Hall (CH) 449
Telephone:	924-5555
Email:	constantine.danopoulos@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	TTh 8:00-10:20 and by appointment
Instructor:	Dr. Margo McBane, Ph.D. (History)
Office Location:	Dudley Moorehead Hall (DMH) Rm 321
Telephone:	408 924-5530
Email:	margo.mcbane@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Oct. 13 th -Dec. 9 T/TH 2-3 pm or by appointment
Class Days/Time:	T/TH 12-1:15 pm
Classroom:	Dudley Moorehead Hall (DMH) 150
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	15 A/B Fulfills American Institutions Requirements for U.S. History; U.S. Constitution, and California State Government. 15A/B 6 units of GE in Comparative Systems and Social Sciences. Only one semester satisfies none of graduation requirements. You must pass with D or better average of both history and political science portions of each class each semester, and pass both semesters 15 A/B to satisfy requirement.

Faculty Web Page

Prof. McBane's and Prof. Danopoulos' copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, etc. may be found on [my faculty web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/people/margo.mcbane) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/people/margo.mcbane> or <http://www.sjsu.edu/people/constantine.danopoulos> accessible through the Quick Links>Faculty Web Page links on the SJSU home page.

Course Description

History/Political Science 15A/B is a two-semester, team-taught course. When taken in

consecutive semesters and taught by the same instructors, the 15A/B sequence fulfills the University's **American Institutions requirements** for U.S. History, U.S. Constitution, and California State Government. Upon completion of the sequence, the student also will receive **six units of General Education credit in Comparative Systems and Social Sciences**. The entire sequence must be completed to fulfill the requirements; **either semester alone will satisfy none of the graduation requirements** (other than three units of elective credit). A student who already has taken Political Science 001 or Political Science 101 should not take the 15A/B sequence, for those two courses already satisfy part of the American Institutions requirements. Those courses may be paired with History 170 to satisfy the American Institutions requirements.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

Students who honestly and diligently pursue the work of His 15A/B will learn the principal events, developments, ideas, politics, and international relations in the United States from the beginning of this society until the present. An emphasis will be placed on the pluralistic nature of American society, including the influence of women, immigrants, and other "minorities" on American history. You will learn how the United States developed politically, economically, culturally, socially, and internationally. You will come to recognize that many contemporary problems have historical antecedents and that few things are inevitable. You will understand better what it means to be an American and the historical meaning of such concepts as liberty, democracy, capitalism, racism, sexism, and imperialism in the American context. You will appreciate America's cultural diversity and acknowledge the limits of equality, opportunity, and freedom in the past and present. You will study how individuals and groups may affect the decision-making process. You will realize that historians and political scientists are never "objective" and that their scholarly work is an endless process of argument, interpretation, and reinterpretation.

The course is designed to assist students to develop critical thinking skills via presenting an analytical paper at the end of the course or analytical journal throughout the semester. Ultimately, the goal of the course is to familiarize students with key events, issues, and institutions that continue to impact life in these United States, so that students may fulfill more active and productive roles in society.

American Institutions Graduation Requirements

To fulfill the requirements for U.S. History, students will consider the principal events, developments, ideas, politics and international relations in all the territories now in the United States from the beginnings of this society until the present. Included within the study of these themes will be a consideration of women and gender relations from the colonial period to the present; the history and experience of racial and ethnic minorities; emigration to the United States and the experiences of these immigrants to this country; and pattern of race and class relations from the period of European colonization to the present. To fulfill the requirements for U.S. Constitution and California Government, students will study how political decisions are made, their consequences for individuals and society, and how individuals and groups may affect the decision making process. As

students study the meaning and content of the democratic process as it has evolved in the United States and California, at a minimum, they will recognize:

- 1) The foundations of the political system, including the evolution of the philosophies of the U.S. and California constitutions, political culture, separation of powers, bureaucracy, federalism, and relations among various levels of government. Students will also analyze the evolving institutions of government, including a study of the powers of the President, Congress, and the Judiciary;
- 2) The links between the people and government, including participation and voting, political parties, interest groups, and public opinion and socialization. Students will also analyze the rights and obligations of citizens, the tension between various freedoms of expression and due process and the maintenance of order, and the efforts to end racial and gender discrimination in both the public and private sectors of society; and
- 3) The operations of California government, including the similarities and differences between the California and U.S. constitutions, the relationship between state and local government in California, the basic issues of California politics, and a careful assessment of the impact of demographic changes on the history and politics of the state and nation.

General Education Requirements in the Social Sciences D2 & D3

Students will be able to identify and analyze the social dimension of society as a context for human life, the processes of social change and social continuity, the role of human agency in those social processes, and the forces that engender social cohesion and fragmentation. Students will be able to:

- 1) Place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts;
- 2) Identify the dynamics of ethnic, cultural, gender/sexual, age-based, class, regional, national, transnational, and global identities and the similarities, differences, linkages, and interactions between them;
- 3) Evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues.

For Comparative Systems, Cultures and Environments (D2) students will compare and contrast two or more ethnic groups, cultures, regions, nations, or social systems.

For Social Issues (D3) students will apply multi disciplinary material to a topic relevant to policy and social action at the local, national, and/or international levels.

Students will demonstrate their fulfillment of these objectives through their performance on weekly quizzes, essay exams, and assigned papers.

Course Content for the Fall Semester–History

This course is intended to familiarize students with their nation's history so that they may function responsibly and knowledgeably in the decision making process of our democratic society. Ideally, this will help students to participate in America's political culture and maximize the benefits of their citizenship. Throughout the course we will examine the pluralist nature of American society and emphasize the roles of women,

immigrants, and other “minorities” in the shaping of America. As we look at the varied perspectives of people throughout the unfolding of our history, we will examine the choices and options available to them and the consequences of their decisions. Thomas Jefferson two centuries ago insisted that, to be good citizens, Americans must be well informed.

By the end of your two semesters with us, you will have considered how the United States evolved from its earliest beginnings to its current position as a great world power. This semester you will examine such topics as the First Americans (American Indians), European colonization, the American Revolution and the Early Republic, territorial and economic expansion, the Civil War and Reconstruction. Through a multi cultural lens, you will analyze gender relations and the history and experiences of racial groups, ethnic minorities, and societal classes. As you study the creation of America’s culturally diverse society through the constant impact of immigration, you will be challenged to explain why diversity in America has so often been expressed in recurrent cycles of confrontation and cooperation.

Course Content for the Fall Semester–Political Science

The Political Science component of this course will introduce you to government through the study of values and political institutions in California and in the greater United States. A central element of the course is to trace the evolution of American society to its place as a “representative democracy” within the modern industrial State. We will devote considerable attention to the political process as it has developed from important underlying political theories to evolving and increasingly democratic institutions. We will investigate the impact of social and political participation in the United States from a multi-cultural perspective, including the interaction between populist movements, civil rights, civil liberties, and linkage institutions. We will cover the development of public opinion, gender relations, political campaigns, interest groups, political parties, and the process of policy formation and implementation. Fundamentally, the course will encourage critical thinking about political issues and values and their implications for the American political system.

Required Texts/Readings - History

Textbooks

Jones/Wood/Borstelmann/May/Ruiz. *Created Equal: A Social and Political History of the United States*. Brief Second Edition. New York: Pearson Longman, 2008. ISBN-13: 978-0-321-42980-3 (Complete Edition). Available Spartan Bookstore

Takaki, Ronald. *A Different Mirror: A History of Multicultural America*. Revised Edition. New York: Back Bay Books, 2008. ISBN: 978-0-316-02236-1. Available Spartan Bookstore

Required Texts/Readings – Political Science

Textbooks

Ginsberg, Benjamin, Theodore J. Lowi and Margaret Weir, *We The People: An Introduction to American Politics*, Shorter 8th ed. (W.W. Norton 2011) ISBN 9780393935240 (for use in Fall & Spring semesters)

Classroom Protocol

Turn off your cell phone and put it away when you come to class. Do not answer phone class in class. Do not send, receive, or read text messages in class. Do not leave the room to use your cell phone. Do not record, transmit, or broadcast the lectures in anyway.

What is Expected?

1. NO LAPTOPS ALLOWED DURING THE HISTORY SEGMENT. You may take notes in pencil or pen. Exceptions must have Disability Resource Center documentation.
2. We expect students to come to class prepared. Readings are due the day assigned, so is any required homework.
3. Please come to class on time, class starts promptly at Noon, do not be late. Sit quietly, and refrain from eating, sleeping, talking, whispering, passing notes, surfing the web, doing email, or using your cell phone. YOU WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE DURING CLASS IF YOU DO NOT MEET THESE EXPECTATIONS.
4. Opinions and discussion should be present in a respectful manner. We can agree to disagree!

Attendance

Every lecture covers material that will appear on exams. If you miss class, you are still responsible for any lecture material that you missed. Make friends in class, so that you can borrow notes, if you are unexpectedly absent. It is every student's responsibility to maintain excellent class attendance and to keep up with each lecture.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the [current academic calendar](http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/) web page located at http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Assignments and Grading Policy

This is an integrated course composed of lectures, reading assignments, discussions, quizzes, and essay examinations. The structure of the course is primarily lecture, with the precise format dependent upon the day's topic. Student questions and impromptu discussion are always welcome, time permitting.

Assignments

There will be **NO** make ups for papers, midterms and final examinations unless the student provides a compelling reason with appropriate written substantiation, with the request given and agreed upon or denied **BEFORE** the examination. There will be **NO** make-up for quizzes unless the student is on official University business (e.g. athletic competition) and the instructors are officially informed by the University officials beforehand.

Political Science:

You will be required to take a midterm and a final examination. Both will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. Scantrons will be required for all exams (details provided by professors in class). In addition, you will be required to take 6 quizzes at 10 point each. Quizzes will consist of short answer questions and will be drawn from the assigned weekly reading (textbook reading) as well as the lecture material. Quizzes will be given on Wednesday. You will be allowed to drop the lowest of the six. Quizzes cannot be made-up.

Point percentages for POLITICAL SCIENCE assignments are as follows:

Midterm	100 points
Final	150 points
Quizzes	50 points
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Total points	300 points

History:

You are required to take a two-part midterm and a two-part final examination. Both will consist of half multiple choice on *CREATED EQUAL* (see weekly key terms) (need a scantron) and half short answer questions on *A DIFFERENT MIRROR* (based on weekly questions). The Final Exam will not be comprehensive; it will cover only material from the second half of the history portion of the semester. During each lecture, I will ask the class questions and review answers that will appear on the midterm and final, so lecture attendance and notetaking will help you.

1 st Part Midterm	75 pts essay questions
2 nd Part Midterm	75 pts multiple choice
1 st Part Final	75 pts essay questions

2nd Part Final

75 pts multiple choice

Course Total

300 pts

In the History Component of the course, extra credit will be available for 20 points. A separate sheet will be handed out for extra credit options and it will be available on the course website. Additional extra credit opportunities will occur throughout the History Component. Extra Credit will be graded. For each extra credit assignment you must: write 1 page summary of the event or activity you undertook and 1 page (using Chicago or Turbian style footnotes-see website attached sheet for style information) tying the activity or event to your course reading, films, AND lectures.

Students are not graded on a curve, but in absolute terms. Your final grade for the semester will be a combination of two separate grades (one for history and one for political science), each weighted at 50% of the total grade.

Example:	Political Science grade percentage:	75%
	History grade percentage:	<u>83%</u>
	Course grade percentage:	79%

To receive credit for the class you must pass (D or better), an average grade between the two components of History and Political Science. If you fail one semester (Hist 15A or Hist 15B) you do not fulfill the requirements for both semesters.

Letter grades will conform to the following ranges and expectations: “A” range: 90-100%; “B” range: 80-89%; “C” range: 70-79%; “D” range: 60-69%; F: 0-59%.

The following expectations guide your professors as they assign numerical and letter grades to your essays, quizzes and exams:

“A” range: Well organized; demonstrates thorough understanding of the material, and is written at a college level, free of grammatical and spelling errors. Addresses all the elements contained in the question/assignment.

“B” range: Well organized; demonstrates an understanding of the material, and is written at a college level, largely free of grammatical and spelling errors. Addresses at least 80% of the elements contained in the question/assignment.

“C” range: Shows problems with organization, and indicates incomplete understanding of the material. Writing is not at a college level and has several grammatical and spelling errors. Addresses at least 70% of the elements contained in the question/assignment.

“D” range: Disorganized, shows only marginal grasp of the material, and is replete with grammatical and/or spelling errors. Addresses at least 60% of the elements contained in the question/assignment.

“F” range: Lacks organization, shows no understanding of the material, and is

written at a high school or lower level, characterized by numerous grammatical and/or spelling errors. Addresses fewer than 60% of the elements contained in the question/assignment.

Your final grade will be determined according to the scale below:

97-100 = A+	93-96=A	90-92=A-
87-89=B+	83-86=B	80-82=B-
77-79=C+	73-76=C	70-72=C-
67-69=D+	63-66=D	59-62=D-
Below 59=F		

University Policies

Academic integrity

Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University's Academic Integrity Policy, requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty are required to report all infractions to the Office of Judicial Affairs. The policy on academic integrity can be found at the [University's Academic Integrity policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm), located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm>, which requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html) is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Disability Resource Center](http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/) (DRC) at <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/> to establish a record of their disability.

History/Political Science 15A (Section 8), Fall 2011 Course Schedule

This class is reading intensive: All readings should be completed at the time of class

Table 1 Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Thurs 8/25/2011	<u>Course Introduction</u> <u>Political Science</u> <u>Readings:</u> No readings
	8/30 & 9/1	<u>Political Science</u> Tues: Comparative Perspectives on Politics, no reading assignment Thurs: Comparative Perspectives, cont. Quiz #1
3	9/6 & 9/8	<u>Political Science</u> Tues: American Political Culture, read Ginsberg, Ch. 1 LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES Thurs: Culture-continued, Quiz #2
4	9/13 & 9/15	<u>Political Science</u> Tues: The Constitution, read Ginsberg, Ch. 2 LAST DAY TO ADD CLASSES Thurs: Constitution-continued, Quiz #3
5	9/20 & 9/22	<u>Political Science</u> Tues: Federalism, read Ginsberg, Ch. 3 Quiz #4 Thurs: Midterm
6	9/27 & 9/29	<u>Political Science</u> Tues: Civil Liberties, read Ginsberg, Ch. 4 Thurs: Civil Liberties-continued, Quiz #5
7	10/4 & 10/6	<u>Political Science</u> Tues: Civil Rights, read Ginsberg, Ch. 5 Thurs: Civil Rights-continued, Quiz #6
8	10/11 10/13	<u>Political Science</u> Tues: Final Exam HISTORY SECTION BEGINS <u>History</u> "First Encounters" <u>Readings:</u> <i>Created Equal</i> Chap. 1 "First Founders"
9	10/18 & 10/20	<u>History</u> "Colonization" <u>Readings:</u> <i>Created Equal</i> Chap. 2 "European Footholds in North America, 1600-1660," Chap. 3 "Controlling the Edges of the Continent," <i>A Different Mirror</i> Chap. 2 "The Tempest in the Wilderness"
10	10/25 & 10/27	<u>History</u> "From Empire to The Foundation of Slavery" <u>Readings:</u> <i>Created Equal</i> Chap. 4 "African Enslavement: The Terrible

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		Transformation”; Chap. 5 “The American Babel, 1713-1763”; <i>A Different Mirror</i> Chap. 3 “The Hidden Origins of Slavery”
11	11/1 & 11/3	<u>History</u> “Independence and the Early Nation” <u>Readings:</u> Chap. 6 “The Limits of Imperial Control, 1763-1775” Chap. 7 “Revolutionaries at War, 1775-1783,” Chap. 8 “New Beginnings: The 1780s” <u>ALL CLASS THURS: 1st Part Midterm (Short Answer Questions on <i>A Different Mirror</i>, Ch. 1-3)</u>
12	11/8 & 11/10	<u>All CLASS TUES: 2nd part of Midterm (multiple choice) BRING SCANTRON FORMS No #882-E. Midterm covers <i>Created Equal</i> Chaps. 1-8.</u> Thurs: <u>History:</u> “The Rise of the Common Man” <u>Readings:</u> <i>Created Equal</i> Chap. 9 “Revolutionary Legacies, 1789-1803,” Chap. 11 “Expanding Westward: Society and Politics in the ‘Age of the Common Man,” <i>A Different Mirror</i> Chap. 4 “Toward Stony Mountains”
13	11/15 & 11/17	<u>History</u> “Southern Slavery” <u>Readings:</u> <i>Created Equal</i> Chap. 10 “Defending and Expanding the New Nation, 1803-1818,” <i>A Different Mirror</i> Chap.5 “No More Peck O’ Corn”
14	11/22 & 11/24 Thanksgivi ng	<u>History</u> “The Westward Movement” <u>Readings:</u> <i>Created Equal</i> Chap. 12 “People in Motion,” <i>A Different Mirror</i> Chap. 7 “Foreigners in Their Native Land” NO CLASS THURSDAY: THANKSGIVING
15	11/29 & 12/1	<u>History</u> “Industrialization, Immigration and A Divided Nation” <u>Readings</u> <i>Created Equal</i> Chap. 13 “The Crisis Over Slavery, 1848-1860,” <i>A Different Mirror</i> 6 “Fleeing “The Tyrants Hell””
16	12/6 & 12/8	<u>History:</u> “Civil War” <u>Readings:</u> <i>Created Equal</i> Chap. 14 “‘To Fight to Gain a County’: The Civil War,” <u>THURS: 1ST PART FINAL EXAM (ESSAY QUESTIONS ON A</u>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		<p><i>Different Mirror, Chap. 4-7)</i> Thurs: All extra credit due through turnitin.com by 11 pm this day. Class Name: Hist 15a Sect 8 Class ID: 4186704 Class Password: hist15asect8</p>
Final Exam	12/15	<p>2nd Part of Final Exam (multiple choice, covers <i>Created Equal</i> Chap. 9-14. DMH 150 Thursday December 15th 9:45 am-Noon Bring Scantron No #882-E</p>