San José State University  
Political Science Department  

Course and Contact Information

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Office Hours: M W 2-3:30 and by appointment  
Class Days/Time: M W 4:30-5:45  
Classroom: DMH 161  
GE/SJSU Studies Category: US2, US3 & D3

Canvas Web Page

Note: This class is primarily lecture and in-class discussion, but also uses a Canvas page as an archive for handouts given in class, and for submitting assignments for Turnitin verification. You are expected to be able to access this page on your own to access the archive and to upload assignments.

Course Description

From the SJSU Catalog: Treatment of essentials of U.S. and California government. Satisfies the American Institutions requirements in U.S. Constitution (US2) and California Government (US3), and the Core GE requirement in Social Sciences (D3).

From the SJSU GE Guidelines (S14-5): In this course you will be exposed to alternative interpretations of the historical events and political processes that have shaped the social, economic and political system in which you live. This course will provide a multicultural framework, including both conflict and consensus principles, of the choices and options available to individuals and groups in their social, economic and political relations. The focus of the course is the growth of a multicultural society and the interactions, including cooperation and conflict, as these many and varied peoples have dealt with social, economic and political issues.

Political Science Learning Outcomes

The Political Science Department has the following objectives for its students:

1) **Breadth**: Students should possess a broad knowledge of the theory and methods of the various branches of the discipline.
2) **Application**: Students should be able to apply a variety of techniques to identify, understand, and
analyze domestic and international political issues and organizations.

3) **Disciplinary methods:** Students 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.

4) **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.

5) **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.

**GE Learning Outcomes**

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

1. **GELO 1 (US2):** Explain how political decisions are made, their consequences for individuals and society, and how individuals and groups may affect the decision-making process. Analyze the meaning and content of the democratic process as it has evolved in the United States and California, and describe the foundations of the political system and the evolving institutions of government, the links between the people and government, and the operations of California government.

2. **GELO 2 (US3):** Identify the tools of political action and collective decision making at the local, state, national and global level, and articulate the values and assumptions that inform their civic engagement.

3. **GELO 3 (D3):** Place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts.

4. **GELO 4 (D3):** Identify the dynamics of ethnic, cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts.

5. **GELO 5 (D3):** Evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues.

6. **GELO 6 (D3):** Apply multidisciplinary material to a topic relevant to policy and social action at the local, national and international levels.

The US2 and US3 requirements will be fulfilled primarily through the three exams and a final exam; the D3 requirements will be fulfilled primarily through the policy paper for the course.

**Required Texts/Readings**

**Textbook**

There are two required texts for this course: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir and Tolbert’s *We The People*, 10th edition (W. W. Norton, 2015; ISBN: 9780393906226) and Gerston and Christensen’s *California Politics and Government*, 12th edition (Cengage, 2014; ISBN: 9781133587651). Both these books are available at Spartan Bookstore for purchase, and are in multiple formats. You should purchase or rent these as soon as possible to begin the reading. See the Schedule for specific sections and when you should have them completed.

**Other Readings**

Any other readings will be available either on the Canvas webpage for the class, or via links in the syllabus; please see the Schedule for these and when you should have them completed. Unless indicated, these are also required.
Course Requirements and Assignments

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. More details about student workload can be found in University Policy S12-3 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf.

Students will be evaluated in the following ways for this course:

Participation: 20 points
Exams 1-3 (60 points x 3) 180
Policy Paper
  Outline 20
  Final Paper 80
Final Exam 100
400 points total

Participation: Students will be participating in discussions during class time, as well as using lecture time to ask questions to clarify the material. With that in mind, students are expected to have the readings for specific sections completed before the scheduled lecture time (see Schedule) to enhance their learning experience. Attendance may be taken in class to verify who was there on a specific date, but by itself, attendance will not be used to calculate this portion of your grade.

University policy F69-24 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf states, “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading.”

Exams: Exams will be given in class (see Schedule) at the end of particular sections of the course (Institutions, Behavior, and Civil Liberties and Rights/California Politics). All exams will be multiple-choice and use a Scantron 882-E form with 30 questions each worth two points for a total of 60. A list of terms and concepts will go out one week before the exam to help you prepare. Please note that all tests in this class will be closed-book and closed-note; no aids may be used on tests. If you cannot take the test on a scheduled day due to an emergency that is verifiable in writing (doctor’s note, tow truck receipt, etc.), you have one week to make up the test. After that point, you will receive a zero for this part of your grade. Please get in touch with the instructor ASAP if you have an emergency to schedule a makeup. Makeups are scheduled at the instructor’s discretion.

Policy Paper: Students must decide on a specific domestic policy question that involves American government, research it and take a position that answers the question, using the research to back his/her argument, in a paper that approximates 1500 words (5-6 pages, double-spaced in 12 point font with 1” margins and page numbers, not including bibliography). This assignment will be due on April 6th, both as a hard copy and uploaded to Canvas, and is worth 80 points of your course grade. Please see the appended handout for more information on this assignment. In order to ensure students are making progress on this, each student must prepare an outline with a topic question and a preliminary set of points for their argument to be turned in on March 9th; this will be returned to you with comments to help you in writing your paper. The outline will be worth up to 20 points.

Final Exam: The final exam for this class is May 19th, 2016 at 2:45 p.m. Please note this time and be prepared to take this exam as scheduled, using a Scantron 882-E form and answering 50 multiple-choice questions. This
exam will be comprehensive for the class, and may include questions from previous tests; you should use your previous exams to help you study for this last exam. Also, the local politics material that is not included in Exams 1-3 will be covered on this test. As with the other exams, this test is closed-book and closed-note. If you miss the exam because of a verifiable emergency, you must contact the instructor immediately to schedule a makeup, which will be on the established makeup day (May 25th). Please note: There will be no exams given in advance for any reason. Make your travel plans accordingly.

**Grading Policy**

All grades for this class will be based on a point system. If you divide the number of points you receive by the points per assignment, you can generate a percentage to determine your letter grade: 97-100% is an A+, 93-96% is an A, 90-92% is an A-, 87-89% is a B+, 83-86% is a B, 80-82% is a B-, etc. Keep track of your points over the course of the semester as noted above, and you should have an idea how you stand in the class.

All grades are final for this course.

This course must be passed with a C or better grade as a CSU graduation requirement.

All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades.” See University Policy F13-1 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf for more details.

**Classroom Protocol**

This class will be fast-paced and encompass a fair amount of material to fulfill its requirements. You are expected to have the readings assigned for a section done before class meets and be ready to talk about them with the instructor and your fellow students. Please see the Schedule for when readings are assigned and whether they are in the textbook, on the Canvas page under “Files,” or are available via a link on the Web.

Laptops may be used during class for the purpose of taking notes, but students are expected to stop typing and participate in discussions when they occur. Cell phones and pagers should be turned off for the duration of class. If a cell phone rings during class, the instructor reserves the right to answer it; if you are texting, the instructor reserves the right to ask you to leave the classroom.

Recordings of lectures for personal use outside of class is permitted, provided the instructor is consulted and approves such recording. Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material. If you feel you may need to do this, please contact Dr. Pinnell and clear this with her at the start of the course.

Finally, while the instructor may be using Powerpoint slides during lecture, students should be aware that these will not be posted on Canvas at any time, nor given to students outside of lecture. The only exception will be a review of material in office hours, which may involve going over the slides. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to either get the notes from a colleague, or see the instructor in office hours to review what you missed.
University Policies

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student
As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU’s policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. To learn important campus information, view University Policy S90–5 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf and SJSU current semester’s Policies and Procedures, at http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as the next step.

Dropping and Adding
Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The Late Drop 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 at http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material
University Policy S12-7, http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf, requires students to obtain instructor’s permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

- “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor’s permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”
- “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

Academic integrity
Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf 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 is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/.

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 at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities
requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) at http://www.sjsu.edu/aec to establish a record of their disability.

Given the need for the AEC to make reasonable accommodations for students campus-wide, students should get any forms or signatures required for accommodations completed well before the due date for exams, particularly for the final, and to the AEC for processing.

Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays
San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See University Policy S14-7 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf.

Student Technology Resources
Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center at http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/ located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Peer Connections
Peer Connections’ free tutoring and mentoring is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to inspire them to become independent learners. Peer Connections tutors are trained to provide content-based tutoring in many lower division courses (some upper division) as well as writing and study skills assistance. Small group and individual tutoring are available. Peer Connections mentors are trained to provide support and resources in navigating the college experience. This support includes assistance in learning strategies and techniques on how to be a successful student. Peer Connections has a learning commons, desktop computers, and success workshops on a wide variety of topics. For more information on services, hours, locations, or a list of current workshops, please visit Peer Connections website at http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu for more information.

SJSU Writing Center
The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the Writing Center website at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader to scan this code.)
Disclaimer

All information in this syllabus, including due dates for evaluation instruments such as exams or papers may be subject to change with fair notice by the instructor, the Department of Political Science or San Jose State University.
# Pols 15B-5 /Spring 2016, Course Schedule

## Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
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| 1-2  | 2/1-2/8 | Section I: Institutions  
Introduction, the Constitution and Federalism  
*We The People*, Chs. 2-3 (entire) |
| 2    | 2/8-2/10 | The Legislative Branch  
*We The People*, Ch. 12 (entire) |
| 3    | 2/15-2/17 | The Judicial Branch  
*We The People*, Ch. 15 (entire) |
| 4-5  | 2/22-3/2 | The Executive Branch, Economic Policy  
*We The People*, Chs. 13-14 (entire), 16 (pp. 651-669), 17 (pp. 687-698) |
| 6    | 3/7 | Exam 1 (Institutions) – In Class |
| 6    | 3/9 | Policy Outline Due in Class (Hard Copy Only) |
| 6-7  | 3/9-3/16 | Section II: Political Behavior  
Public Opinion, Participation and Elections  
*We The People*, Chs. 1 (pp. 5-9, 24-31), 6 (entire), 8 (entire), 10 (pp. 384-398, 415-427) |
| 8    | 3/21-3/23 | Political Parties and Interest Groups  
*We The People*, Chs. 9 (entire), 11 (entire) |
|      | 3/28-4/1 | Spring Break – NO CLASS |
| 9    | 4/4-4/6 | Campaigns and Media  
*We The People*, Ch. 10 (pp. 398-411), 7 (entire) |
| 9    | 4/6 | Paper Due (hard copy and upload to Turnitin) |
| 10   | 4/11 | Exam 2 (Behavior) – In Class |
| 10-11| 4/13-4/20 | Section III: Civil Liberties and Rights, California Politics  
Civil Liberties and Rights  
*We The People*, Chs. 4-5 (entire) |
*California Politics and Government*, Chs. 5-7 (entire) |
| 13   | 5/2-5/4 | California Politics II: Budget Politics and Elections  
*California Politics and Government*, Chs. 8, 2-3 (entire) |
| 14   | 5/9 | Exam 3 (Civil Liberties and Rights, California Politics) – In Class |
| 14-15| 5/11-5/16 | Local Politics, Final Review  
*California Politics and Government*, Ch. 9 (entire) |
|      | 5/19 | Final Exam  
2:45 p.m. |
Policy Paper

To fulfill the D3 requirement for this course, students are required to complete a paper of approximately 1500 words, which is 5-6 pages double-spaced, in 12 point font and with 1" margins and page numbering. The paper will focus on a policy question that deals with American domestic politics. The policy question for this paper is open to the student, but must be one that is researchable, meaning that sources are easily available in written or electronic media, as the student will need these to inform their writing. This paper will be worth 80 points, with 20 additional points for an outline of your paper before the final draft is due (see below).

The starting point for this paper should be the policy question, which could be along the following lines:

Should the U.S. create a new policy for immigration in the U.S.?
Is the current policy on reducing carbon emissions sufficient to alleviate U.S. contributions to global emissions?
Does the Affordable Care Act provide sufficient access to health care for Americans?

The policy question can have international implications as well (the carbon one certainly does), but the primary focus of the paper should be U.S. domestic policy and how it is created and implemented, not U.S. relations with other countries. Given the limits of the paper, students should also be careful to not come up with a question that is too broad to research and write about properly, given the requirements outlined below.

You are going to answer this topic question with a paper that answers the question with an overall thesis and the following three points:

1) What is the current status of this policy issue? You will need to provide some background on this issue, in terms of who has been involved in creating and implementing policy solutions on this question and the solutions currently in place.
2) You will need to give your assessment of the policy issue in terms of its importance, the solutions in place, and give your informed opinion as to whether these solutions work, or if there need to be any changes.
3) You will need to briefly consider any challenges to your position in 2); if there are counter-arguments to the importance of the issue, the solutions and/or your assessment of the solutions, you need to summarize these and answer them as best you can.

Because of the size and importance of this assignment, you will be tackling it in stages.

Outline (20 points, graded separately from the paper; should be submitted as a hard copy only on March 9th)

In order to help you formulate your topics and arguments for this paper before you write, you must complete a 1-2 page outline that presents your topic question, thesis and body of points a month before the paper is due. For the full 20 points, you must include the following in your outline:

The topic question, in a one-sentence statement like the ones above;
The basic thesis or answer to your question;
Preliminary answers to points 1-3 of the paper, as noted above.

Given that you will still have another month to complete the paper, your instructor is fully aware that your information for the thesis and points 1-3 could change in that time, as you gather more information. But your policy question cannot change – once you submit your outline, that is the question you will write your paper on, and your topic will be recorded as such during the grading process.

Sources will not be required at the time of the outline, but students should not put off starting to look for these before March 9th, as you will need to start thinking about the topic when you draft this first assignment.

Outlines will be returned to students within a week of submission with comments and a grade up to 20 points; deductions may be made for lack of fulfilling the requirements of question, thesis and preliminary answers to points.
Paper Content Requirements (60 points of the final paper grade)

After completing the outline, you will use the next few weeks to research your paper and create stronger answers to its various parts. You will then write the final draft of your paper. Please try to confine your coverage of parts 1-3 to no more than two pages per section to allow yourself sufficient space to cover the other portions.

Content will be worth 60 points of the paper, and your grade will depend on how well you cover the three areas outlined above: use of evidence to support your points; the overall argument of the paper in terms of having a clear thesis, how the body follows the thesis and your conclusion.

There should be a minimum of four sources of information for this assignment, used within the paper and cited in the text and in the reference section at the end. Sources for this assignment can be a combination of written and electronic ones, but please note that on the electronic side, acceptable sources include on-line magazine, journal or news articles or opinion but not blog entries; on-line encyclopedias such as Wikipedia, which can be altered by anyone, are not considered ideal sources and should not be used as a major source for a paper. The ability to critically think about what information to use and the source could be a factor in how the paper is scored. A lack of the requisite four sources could result in a deduction of up to eight points from your paper grade.

Writing Requirements (20 points of the final paper grade)

To fulfill the writing requirements of this course, students are expected to perform written work and be evaluated on their ability to write. This means that part of your essay grade will depend upon grammar and citations as well as content. Essays that show a minimum of grammatical errors and good use of citations when class materials are used will receive twenty points. Common writing errors that could receive deductions include:

- Verb tense and agreement;
- Word choice;
- Run-on or fragment sentences;
- Run-on paragraphs (multiple topics in a paragraph).

Direct quotes as well as paraphrased information must be cited in your work. Quotes that are more than two sentences should be indented as a block, single-spaced and cited. Citations must also be given for any ideas or information that are not your own. If there are no citations in your essay for language or ideas not your own, you will receive deductions for this part of your grade, up to ten points for lack of citations plus possible deductions to the content portion of your paper for uncited facts or ideas. Serious instances of lack of attributions will be treated as plagiarism, requiring additional penalties ranging from half-credit for the entire paper to a lower grade for the course, plus possible report to the Office of Student Conduct. You are expected to know the rules of proper citation and to exercise them in this class. If you are confused over whether to cite or not, the safest course is to do so.

If you are concerned about when and where to cite, I suggest either seeing me in office hours or taking the Plagiarism tutorial available through the King Library site (http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/tutorial/plagiarism/index.htm).

One last point on citations: a common error students make is to fill an essay with quoted information. This is a problem for two reasons. First, it shows that a student is good at locating information, but that she may not understand it. Second, a good writer should be able to rephrase or paraphrase information and present it in an essay. Unless the exact language of a quote is important, you should not just quote passages to replace your own writing.

Submitting the Paper

As noted in the syllabus, the paper is due April 6th.

In order to make sure all students complete their work under equal and fair conditions and to facilitate turnaround on grading, the following policy applies to submitting the policy paper for this course:
1) Students must submit their work by the day designated in the syllabus, barring an emergency that is verifiable in writing. Other situations where a student may not be able to turn in an assignment on time require contacting the instructor before or on the date of submission to get an extension. Extensions will be granted at the instructor's discretion.

2) All papers must be submitted as hard copies on the day they are due to qualify for full credit. No assignments may be submitted via e-mail for any reason. Late hard copies of papers will lose the equivalent of one letter grade per day late (if 80 points, then 8 points a day), barring an excused emergency or an extension granted by the instructor.

3) The essays must also be uploaded to the Canvas page by 11:59 p.m. on the due date, in order to check source use. Click on “Assignments,” and you will find the links to upload the paper. If the paper is not uploaded on-time, it will not be graded until it is.

4) If a student must turn in a hard copy late due to an emergency, the student should submit the work with written verification of the emergency with the hard copy, to restore any lost grade points as well as have the work graded.

5) Unless an extension is granted by the instructor, a paper that is more than seven days late from the due date will not be accepted for grading. Please note that this also applies to uploads, even if the hard copy is submitted.

6) Barring adjustments to grade points on late work because of an emergency, all grades on the paper are final.

Students at the college level are expected to submit written work that fits the grammatical, stylistic and citation expectations for college-level work in English. All written assignments in this course are therefore graded in two ways: both in terms of content (information in terms of logic, quality of evidence, etc.) and in terms of writing. If you are at all uncomfortable with writing at the college level, you need to take steps to rectify this. The instructor is willing to preview rough drafts of work in office hours before assignments are due to provide feedback.

Per the Policy on Academic Integrity, students should be aware that written work for this course is expected to be original in content; students may not re-submit work done for other courses as assignments in this one. While students may assist each other in terms of research and locating sources, each student is expected to submit an original paper; collaboration on writing or joint papers is not permitted.

Uploads are for source check purposes only. Please be aware that .docx files are troublesome to Canvas and may not be accepted and/or analyzed properly. It is on the student to double-check Canvas and verify that Turnitin has accepted the upload and analyzed the paper. Students are strongly urged to get e-mail confirmation of the upload and the time accepted.