San José State University
Department of Political Science
POLS 160B, Modern Political Thought, Section 1
Spring 2016

Instructor: Al Schendan
Office Location: Clark Hall 404K
Telephone: (510) 382-9117, M-F 10-5pm
Email: albert.schendan@sjsu.edu (preferred method of contact)
Office Hours: M/W 3-4pm
Class Days/Time: M/W 12-1:15pm
Location: SH 311
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
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.

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 description

This course seeks to reawaken many of the important debates which have shaped our political heritage. The era beginning with Machiavelli and ending with the French Revolution left a deep and lasting impression on our perceptions of the political environment. This period is usually considered the key period in the development of Western political theory. In this course, we will examine war, conspiracy, empire, virtue, liberty, rights, contract theory, democracy, populism, realism, and revolution, among other big ideas.

Prerequisites

This course is not designed exclusively for political science students. Students from many other majors have proven that they can do as well in this course as Political Science majors. All students, however, need some background in the critical reading of original texts. Students should be aware that this is a reading (and writing) intensive course. Political Science 3 is the suggested prerequisite, but philosophy, literature, and history courses frequently can provide sufficient practice in reading original sources.
**Approach:**
Political theory, while taught within political science departments, shares many similarities with literature, history, philosophy, and the humanities. It cultivates a kind of thinking more than it disseminates a body of knowledge. Students learn to criticize ideas, analyze texts, create theories, and construct arguments, among other things. Memorization skills and objective knowledge play little role in it. For these reasons, the course is well suited for students who wish to cultivate their writing, their analytic skills, their ability to appreciate literature, as well as their understanding of ethical, social, and political problems.

*This course will require extensive reading, writing, and discussion—all designed to encourage you to think analytically, critically, and systematically about the ideas at hand. Many weeks, you will read fifty pages or more of moderately difficult material from primary sources and not from textbooks. Sometimes this material is written in a style that is antiquated and difficult to understand. The course will be conducted primarily through lecture using textual analysis and discussion. You will be rewarded for discussing this material in class. Assessment of your understanding of the material will require you to write several essays critiquing and analyzing these theories. The professor will offer substantial assistance to help students learn how to read this material and how to write about it.*

**Canvas**
Course materials including the syllabus and the grading matrix will be posted on the Canvas page accessible to registered students at: [http://sjsu.instructure.com](http://sjsu.instructure.com). In addition, you will use Canvas to turn in your two essays and receive feedback from me. However, quizzes, essay and exam prompts, and most grades will not be available on canvas.

**Accommodations**
If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need 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 register with AEC (formerly DRC) to establish a record of their disability.

**Required Texts**
Machiavelli, Discourses on Livy, Penguin
Locke, Second Treatise on Government, Hackett.
Mandeville, Fable of the Bees, Hackett.
Rousseau, Basic Political Writings, Hackett.
Paine, Rights of Man. Penguin
COURSE REQUIREMENTS
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.

ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING

Assignments

Essays
You are required to write two essays, each worth 20% of your grade. Essay prompts will be available in class. Your papers should be at least 1400 words and completely and accurately answer the requirements of the prompt. I will do my best to grade your papers no later than two weeks after you have submitted them. Late papers will not be accepted for any reason. Papers should be submitted with no cover sheet electronically to Canvas. Please see the Grading Matrix for an explanation of the grading criteria and requirements.

Quizzes
In addition, 10% of your grade will be based on your performance on 5 in-class pop quizzes, which will be administered from time to time. You will have at least 6 quiz opportunities to build up 5 quiz grades. I will count your 5 highest scores and each quiz will be graded out of 10 points. If additional quizzes are necessary they will still add up to 10% of your grade. No quiz make-ups will be allowed. All quizzes are open note/open book.

Exams
In addition to your two essays and the quizzes, you must also complete two exams that are worth a combined 50% of your grade. Near completion of our fourth reading, and on the final day of class, I will hand out an exam prompt. For your exams, you will receive quotes from the readings, and one extensive response question. On exam day, you will receive half the previous number of quotes and the extensive response question. Your final exam is comprehensive and will also include additional questions; these topics will be included on your exam prompt. Your grade will be based on your thorough, correct, and concise responses. Please take them seriously—they can be challenging and require effort and precision. No breaks will be allowed for any reason during exams. If you miss the first exam, and have a valid documented excuse, I will allow you to make up the exam (please see me during office hours to schedule a make-up exam). There are no make-up opportunities for the final. All exams are closed note and closed book.
Grading Policy

Your grade will be calculated as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of total</th>
<th>Quizzes</th>
<th>Essay I</th>
<th>Exam I</th>
<th>Essay II</th>
<th>Exam II-Comprehensive Final</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>30%</td>
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| Total | 100% |

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>93-100%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88-89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78-79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-77%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>68-69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-67%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59% or less</td>
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Academic Integrity

Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San José State University, and the University’s Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic coursework. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development.

The policy on academic integrity can be found at: [http://www2.sjsu.edu/senate/S04-12.pdf](http://www2.sjsu.edu/senate/S04-12.pdf). The website for the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development is: [http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html](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 in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

Classroom Policies and Protocol

I will not accept late assignments. In addition, LATE ARRIVALS, EARLY DEPARTURES AND DISRUPTIONS OF CLASS IN ANY FORM ARE UNACCEPTABLE. CELL PHONES, COMPUTERS, AND OTHER ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE TURNED OFF AT ALL TIMES IN THE CLASSROOM. NO AUDIO OR VIDEO RECORDING OF LECTURES OR OTHER CLASS ACTIVITIES ALLOWED WITHOUT PRIOR PROFESSOR PERMISSION.
University Policies

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 section at http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html. 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.

• “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.”

• Please contact Prof. Schendan in person to request permission in advance to make audio or video recordings in this class. In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.

• “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.”

Other Useful Information

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. He is also very friendly and happy to meet with students, so don’t be afraid to take advantage of his expertise!

His name and contact info is: Paul Kaupila
Librarian (Political Science Liaison)
(408) 808-2042
Paul.Kauppila@sjsu.edu
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 audiocassette players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Peer Connections

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. 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.
ACCESS: Academic Counseling Center for Excellence in the Social Sciences
All College of Social Sciences students and interested students are invited to stop by the ACCESS Center for general education advising, help with changing majors, academic policy related questions, meeting with peer advisors, and/or attending various regularly scheduled presentations and workshops. Looking for academic advice or maybe just some tips about how to navigate your way around SJSU? Check out the ACCESS Student Success Center! It's also a great place to study.

Location: Clark Hall Room 240
Website: [http://www.sjsu.edu/socialsciences/ACCESS/](http://www.sjsu.edu/socialsciences/ACCESS/)

SJSU Counseling Services
The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit [Counseling Services website](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling).
### Calendar

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<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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<tr>
<td>2/1 Introduction</td>
<td>2/3 Machiavelli</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/8 Machiavelli</td>
<td>2/10 Machiavelli</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/15 Hobbes</td>
<td>2/17 Hobbes</td>
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<td>2/22 Hobbes</td>
<td>2/24 Hobbes</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/29 Locke</td>
<td>3/2 Locke</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/7 Locke</td>
<td>3/9 Mandeville</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/14 Mandeville</td>
<td>3/16 Mandeville - Exam Prompt</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/21 Mandeville</td>
<td>3/23 Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/28 Spring Break- No Class</td>
<td>3/30 Spring Break- No Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/4 Rousseau</td>
<td>4/6 Rousseau</td>
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<td>4/11 Rousseau</td>
<td>4/13 Rousseau</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/18 Paine</td>
<td>4/20 Paine</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/2 Reading Week</td>
<td>5/4 Reading Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/9 Wollstonecraft</td>
<td>5/11 Wollstonecraft - Exam Prompt</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/16 Wollstonecraft</td>
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Exam II - Final: Thursday May 19th, 9:45-12 noon