Pols 15b-4. Essentials of US and California Government

Robert Ovetz, Ph.D.
San Jose State University
Class number: 27800
Spring Semester 2016
Meeting Time: Tues and Thurs, 9-10:15 am: Dudley Moorhead Hall 234
Office Hours: Tues and Thurs, 10:30-11:30, Clark Hall 406J
Phone: 415 602 1585 (please use only in case of emergency)
Email: robert.ovetz@sjsu.edu

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: Social Issues (D3).

From the SJSU GE Guidelines

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 perspectives, 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 Program Learning Outcomes (PSPLO)

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

PSPLO 1 Breadth: Students should possess a broad knowledge of the theory and methods of the various branches of the discipline.

PSPLO 2 Application: Students should be able to apply a variety of techniques to identify, understand, and analyze domestic and international political issues and organizations.

PSPLO 3 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.

PSPLO 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.

PSPLO 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.
General Education Learning Outcomes (GELO)

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

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.

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.

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

GELO 4 (D3): 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.

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

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

Important Dates
TBD—library orientation in class—bring a computer!
Feb 16—Local Problem Paper Worksheet Part 1 due
March 1—Midterm 1
March 8—3 citations due
March 22—Draft thesis due
March 28-April 1—Spring break
April 5—Midterm 2
April 12—Local Problem Paper Worksheet Part 2 due
April 26—Outline due
May 12—Last day of class and final exam (not the scheduled slot Wed, May 18, 7:15-09:30 am)

Grading
Grading will be based on a combination of preparation for class including doing the readings before they are scheduled to be discussed, participation in the discussions, mid-term and final essay exams, and the short papers. The grade for participation includes participation in class.

Grading Scale

A+ 96-100
A  93-95
A- 90-92
B+  86-89
B   83-85
B-  80-82
C+  76-79
C   70-75
D   60-69
F   0-59

Assignment          Percentage
Discussion question report          15
Discussion question presentation    10
Research paper worksheets          25
Research paper                   25
Exams                           25

Total                      100

How to Calculate Your Grades
After the midterm I will provide you with your grade for the course at that point in time. To calculate your grade at any point after that add up all of your grades for each category above, divide by the number of assignments, multiply by the percentage (eg, 15% is .15), and then add each category together. That will be your grade at that point in time. If you have any questions about your grade after you have done this calculation feel free to contact me. I may not have my grade sheet with me on campus so please contact me in advance. If you need a grade sheet signed please calculate your grade before bringing me the form to sign.

Student Evaluation/Grading Policies
  o No withdrawals (W) will be granted except for verifiable medical reasons.
  o Students will receive their grades at mid-term when the graded mid-term exam is returned.
  o 10 percent will be deducted for each week that an assignment is turned in late. A period of 7 days or less is consider 1 week.
  o If you miss more than 2 classes more than 2 times during the semester your final grade will be reduced by 1/2 a full letter grade on your final grade for each additional absence. Excused absences according to campus policy are not counted.
  o If you are late more than 2 times during the semester your final grade will be reduced by 1/2 a full letter grade on your final grade for each additional late arrival.
  o Students must take all 3 exams. The lowest of the 3 scores will be dropped. There are no make up exams. If you miss an exam you will receive a 0 your exam grade will be calculated based on 3 scores. If you have an excused absence according to campus policy please provide written documentation.

Participation Policy
Attendance is not required but you are strongly encouraged to attend every class and to be on time and stay the entire class. You do not need my permission to be absent from class, arrive late or leave early. However, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed from your classmates either in class or by posting an email to the class list serve before you return to class.
You **need to be in class to participate** in the small group and class discussions, make contributions, and ask questions. You are expected to come to class prepared by having **completed all the readings and article or chapter worksheet prior to class**. If you have any questions about the readings it is preferable to ask them in class or during office hours. One of the best ways to participate in class—and learn—is to ask questions, and participate in the group and class discussions. Feel free to also use the class discussion list to ask questions.

I reserve the right to withdraw any student who **is more than 10 minutes late 3 or more times** or **misses 2 or more classes** without an acceptable excuse according to college policy.

During the course I will be requesting certain students to come meet with me during office hours. If you do not meet with me within two weeks of my request I will **deduct 10 points** from your participation grade.

If you disrupt class by allowing your cell phone to ring, send text messages and carry on conversations with classmates **you will be requested to stop**. If you are warned a second time you will automatically have **10 points deducted** from your final participation points and may be asked to leave the class and report to the appropriate campus authority to discuss your disruptive behavior.

**Classroom Policy**

- **Please turn off and put away all electronic devices** (cell phones, laptops, audio recorders, headphones, etc). I will give only one warning and then I will **ask you to leave the class**. If you need to use your phone please leave the classroom and make your call in the hallway away from the door to the classroom. **After one warning** if you continue using your devices you will be asked to report to the appropriate campus authority and you will **lose 10 points**.
- **Please keep your bag and purse on the floor not on your desk or lap**.
- **Laptops are only allowed in class for note taking**. You must sit in the front two rows. Any use of your laptop for any other purpose than note taking will result in the discontinuation of its use and a **deduction of 10 participation points**.
- **No electronic recordings or photographs** of any kind of the class are allowed except as an accommodation with campus documentation.
- The posting of any electronic recordings, tapings or any other type of documentation of any aspect of this course on the internet is not allowed.
- **Please show respect for your classmates and instructor by refraining from interrupting someone who is speaking, engaging in side conversations in class and making disrespectful comments. You will receive only one warning**.
- **Please allow your classmates time to speak**.
- **Any act of plagiarism will result in an automatic “F” for the assignment**.
- Please refrain from engaging in side conversations. If you have a question ask me in class or your neighbor before and after class.
- **Please raise your hand if you wish to speak**.
- **Please do not interrupt your classmates**.
- Please speak respectfully about one another. It’s ok to criticize ideas but not people.
- Any student who has special needs that may affect his or her performance in this class is asked to identify his or her needs to Dr. Ovetz in private by the end of the first day of class and provide written proof as soon as possible. Any resulting class performance problems that may arise for those who do not identify their needs will not receive any special grading considerations.
- **Please recycle your containers and paper rather than throwing them in the trash**.
Required Readings
Required course readings can be found in the following assigned books and readings that will be handed out as needed one week before they are discussed. You are expected to complete the readings before they are scheduled to be discussed. Completing the readings before class will ensure that you are prepared for short essays that must be written in class. If you miss class you are responsible for getting a copy of any readings handed out from a classmate.

Readings
The following book is required reading. You may purchase your own copy or use one of the multiple copies of the Katznelson book on reserve in the library.


The chapters from the Field, Parenti, and Patterson books are available on the class iLearn webpage.

You are expected to read the news at least 1-2 times per week as we will be discussing current news events.

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.”

No recording or photographs are permitted in the course except as an accommodation with the required university documentation.
“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](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/](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/).

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.

**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](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](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) to establish a record of their disability.

**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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf).

**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 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 at http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling

Course Outline

Introduction. Democracy
Weeks 1-2
Read in book:
Katznelson, ch. 1. Democracy’s Challenge; and ch. 2 Capitalism and Democracy

Read on-line:
Field, ch. 1. California Politics in Perspective; and 2. The Californians

Topic 1. The Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution
Weeks 3-4
Read on-line:
Patterson, ch. 2. Constitutional Democracy
Field, ch. 3. California’s Historical Development; and 4. Freedom and Equality
Parenti, ch. 2. A Constitution for the Few
Constitution and the amendments: http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution.html

*Print out and bring a copy of the entire Declaration of Independence and Constitution with you to class.

Topic 2. Federalism
Weeks 5-6
Read in book:
Katznelson, ch. 3. The History of American Political Economy
Patterson, ch. 3. Federalism

Read on-line:
Watch on-line:

**Midterm 1—Tues, March 1**

**Topic 3. Article I: Congress**
**Weeks 6-7**
Read in book:
*Katznelson*, ch. 7. Congress; ch. 9. Economic Policy; and ch. 10. Social Policy

Read on-line:
*Field*, ch. 8. The California Legislature; 13. City Governments

Watch on-line:

**Topic 4. Article II: The Executive Branch and the President**
**Weeks 8-9**
Read in book:
*Katznelson*, ch. 6. The Presidency; and ch. 11. Foreign Policy

Read on-line:
*Field*, ch. 9. California’s Plural Executive

**Midterm 2—Tues, April 5**

**Topic 5. Article III: The Judiciary**
**Weeks 10-11**
Read in book:
*Katznelson*, ch. 8. The Courts

Read on-line:
*Field*, ch. 11. California Courts and Judges
*Brennan*, Judicial Interpretation

**Topic 6. Corporations and Money in Politics**
**Weeks 12-14**
Read in book:
*Katznelson*, ch. 4. Political Parties and Elections; and ch. 5. Interest Groups and Social Movements

Read on-line:
*Field*, ch. 5. Media Influences and Interest Groups

Watch on-line:
Exams
There will be two mid-terms and a final exam. The exams are multiple choice. You must bring your own 882e scantron sheet, eraser and pencil. The questions will address concepts, terminology, and important events in political history covered in class and the readings. In order to prepare for the exams I strongly encourage you to form study groups, visit me during office hours, and use campus tutoring resources. There are no make up exams except for documented excused absences. No early or late exams will be given.

Research Paper
You must write a 4-6 page research paper (approximately 1500 words not including citations) during the course. In preparation to write the paper you will also be required to write a draft thesis, outline, and list of citations. The paper assignment, thesis worksheet, and writing guides will be available on the class CANVAS page.

The paper must have an introductory paragraph, clear thesis statement, and either footnotes (use auto insert function) or in text citations and a bibliography. Please do not write in outline. Any single academic citation style is acceptable. Your paper should:
- Address the topic in the assignment sheet on the class webpage
- Be turned in on paper on the due date
- Be written in a formal research paper style
- Be written with an introductory paragraph with a clear thesis and preview
- Be stapled
- Not include a cover sheet
- Be typed in no smaller than 11 pt font, and use 1.5 or 2 line spacing with at least .8 margins all around
- Use either in text citations with a bibliography or footnotes without a bibliography
- Include your name, the course and assignment information, a title, and page numbers

I strongly encourage you to use the campus writing center at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/
The SJSU library also has a central page for resources on writing research papers and citing sources: http://libguides.sjsu.edu/writeandcite and http://library.sjsu.edu/tutorials/alphabetical-list-tutorials

About Sources and References
Sources used for your paper could include books, newspapers, magazines, films, interviews, podcasts, encyclopedias, TV or radio broadcasts, government and think tank reports, journal articles, and news webpages. Do not cite wikis, personal web pages, commercial non-news sources, and blogs. The textbooks may be cited in your paper but do not count towards your required number of citations. Do not use Wikipedia as a source. Please use the free library databases that you will learn about in our visit to the library. Any one of the primary styles for citing works used is acceptable.

For help writing your citations go to SJSU library webpage and databases for political science, http://libguides.sjsu.edu/az.php?s=47559
The staff librarian for political science also has additional resources on his webpage: [http://libguides.sjsu.edu/politicalscience](http://libguides.sjsu.edu/politicalscience)

**About References**

Use either in text citations and a list of references or footnotes.

If a list of references is used at the end of the paper be sure to provide clear indications as to where each reference appears in the body of the text by including an in text citation: (last name, year).

If footnotes are used use the “insert footnote” function in your word processing program. Please **do not** insert them manually. Be sure to provide the complete reference the first time each reference appears in the footnotes. If you use a bibliography put your full citations in alphabetical order—**do not** number your sources.

Use APA or MLA citation style only.

**Grammar and Proofreading**

You will be graded for grammar, punctuation and style to the extent that it reduces your ability to express your research and analysis clearly. While grammar, punctuation and style are not the most significant part of the grade you will receive, it does affect your ability to communicate your ideas and analysis clearly and effectively. If you have any issues concerning your language skills you wish to discuss with me please visit me during office hours.

I strongly encourage you to use the Lib Guide cited above and the short guides to writing research papers at [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/sitemap/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/sitemap/)
Student Pledge

*Please read, print your name on the blank line, sign and date it at the bottom, and turn in the following pledge sheet by the end of the 3rd week of class.

I, _________________________________, have read this entire syllabus outside of class, understand what is expected of me this semester in this class, and will abide by the classroom policies. If I have any questions about what is contained in this syllabus I promise that I will first refer to this syllabus to find the answer, and if I am unable to find it, will either ask a question at the beginning of class, post my questions to the class discussion list, or visit Dr. Ovetz during office hours to discuss it.

_____________________________  _______________________________
Signature                    Date
Individual Time Management Plan

Name:

Please fill in, discuss with your group partners, and turn in. Continue on the back if necessary.

What are your education, degree(s), and career goals?

When did you last meet with a counselor?

How many semesters of college, units, and degrees have you completed?

How many units do you have this semester?

Why are you in this class?

What are your interests in politics (if any)?

How do you read books for comprehension?

What is your study strategy?

What are your strongest study skills?

What study skills do you need to improve?

What else about yourself would you like to tell me about? It will remain confidential.

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What other responsibilities & activities besides studying do you have? Include paid work, family, fun, classes, volunteering, and of course studying. Briefly outline each day of your week. Don’t leave any spaces blank.