

San José State University
Political Science Department
POLS/HIST15B, Essentials of U.S. & CA Government, Section 3
Fall 2016

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Melinda Jackson
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Office Hours:	Mon/Wed 10:00am-12:00pm Fridays 1:30-3:00pm, and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Fridays 9:30am-12:15pm
Classroom:	HGH116
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	US2, US3, D3

Course Format:

In addition to in-person lecture, this course utilizes two online platforms, Globalyceum American Government (<https://www.globalyceum.com/>) and Canvas (<http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/canvas/>). Globalyceum will be used to access course readings, complete quizzes and in-class activities, and submit assignments. Canvas will be used for announcements, and course schedule updates.

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: Social Issues (D3).

General Education Learning Outcomes (GELOs)

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.

Students' achievement of these learning outcomes will be assessed as follows.

GE Student Learning Outcome	Assessment
GELO1	Paper 1, Quizzes, Exercises
GELO2	Papers 2-4, Quizzes, Exercises
GELO3	Quizzes, Exercises
GELO4	Papers 2-3, Final Exam
GELO5	Papers 3-4, Final Exam
GELO6	Exercises, Final Exam
GE writing requirement (1500 words)	Papers 2-4

Required Texts

Two textbooks are required for this course:

Globalyceum American Government (online platform subscription, see instructions below)

Larry N. Gerston & Terry Christensen, California Politics and Government: A Practical Approach, 13th Edition, Cengage, ISBN-13: 9781285874524, OR 12th Edition, Cengage ISBN-13: 9781133587651

This text (13th Edition) is available for purchase in the Spartan Bookstore. Both editions are available from online vendors.

The first text for this course is **Globalyceum American Government**. Go to: <https://www.globalyceum.com/>, register, and subscribe for this course with the following Unique Section Number **HL9BTKJM**. (This number is case sensitive.) Please make sure to use only this code, as using any other access code will not give you access to correct readings and assignments. The cost of this subscription is \$39.99. You can also purchase an optional print copy of the essays, or text chapters, for \$30.00 on the site. Your purchase options are Paypal, debit/credit, or check/money order.

Please make sure to verify your browser and update it if necessary on the Sign In page. Globalyceum recommends Chrome, Firefox, and Safari browsers. If you have any technical problems during the term, please contact: <mailto:support@globalyceum.com>. You can CC me on the email, but your first contact should be with Globalyceum. This video, Getting Started on Globalyceum, will explain how to pay for Globalyceum and features of the Student Portal: <https://glpro.s3.amazonaws.com/ah/00/stdt/g/00g01.mp4>.

Other technology requirements / equipment / material

Wireless laptop/tablet/smart phone is required in class: You will be required to have a wireless-network ready laptop computer, tablet, or smart phone to participate in online class activities. If you don't own a laptop or tablet, you can rent one at no cost from Student Computing Services (<https://library.sjsu.edu/scs>). Your laptop/tablet/phone must remain closed/stowed until I inform you that it is needed for a particular activity.

You will also need access to the internet outside classroom to complete readings from Globalyceum American Government, complete online homework assignments, upload assignments, and access syllabus, announcements, and course updates on Canvas. Computer access is available in the campus library and in Clark Hall 102.

If you have any technical problems with Globalyceum American Government, please contact: <mailto:support@globalyceum.com>. You can CC me on the email, but your first contact should be with Globalyceum.

This video, Getting Started on Globalyceum, will explain how to pay for Globalyceum and features of the Student Portal: <https://glpro.s3.amazonaws.com/ah/00/stdt/g/00g01.mp4>.

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. His name and contact info is:

Paul Kauppila
University Librarian (Political Science Liaison)
(408) 808-2042
Paul.Kauppila@sjsu.edu

The Political Science subject guide is also a useful resource for finding library sources relevant to this class:
<http://libguides.sjsu.edu/politicalscience>

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 45 hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. Because this is a three-unit course, you can expect to spend a **minimum of 6 hours per week** completing class-related assignments in addition to the in-person class meetings. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Quizzes: You will complete weekly quizzes online through the Globalyceum course platform. These quizzes will consist of multiple choice questions related to the readings for that week. For the California Politics topics (Weeks 15-16), you will complete in-class quizzes. There will be a total of 12 quizzes throughout the semester, worth 10 points each. Your lowest two quiz scores will be dropped, for a total of 100 points from quizzes (27% of overall grade).

Papers: There will be four short papers in this class. Details for each assignment are given in the Globalyceum course platform, and in CANVAS.

Paper 1: Handwritten outline of U.S. Constitution
Paper 2: Ideology Reflection (500 words)
Paper 3: Party Platforms Comparison (500 words)
Paper 4: Post-Election Analysis (500 words)

Due in class Friday, Sept. 2
Due online @ CANVAS, Sept. 23
Due online @ CANVAS, Oct. 7
Due online @ CANVAS, Nov. 18

Class Participation: Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned readings and ready to discuss them, as well as take part in any class activities. In this course, your participation grade will be based on the following 3 criteria: 1) frequency and quality of your contributions to class discussions, 2) participation in and completion of class activities, and 3) disruptive behavior such as using cell phones or arriving to class late. Students may be called by name to address concepts from the readings. Please note that disruptive behavior such as arriving to class late or leaving early, using cell phones, talking to your classmates, and similar, counts as negative contribution to class discussion and will adversely affect your participation grade.

Final Exam: University Policy S06-4 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S06-4.pdf>) states that “There shall be an appropriate final examination or evaluation at the scheduled time in every course, unless specifically exempted by the college dean who has curricular responsibility for the course.” The final exam in this course will be cumulative and will cover course readings, lectures, activities, and discussions for the entire term. It will consist of short answer and essay questions. Please bring a pen and a photo ID to the final exam period. Students will not be allowed to take the final exam early.

Extra Credit: There will be several extra credit opportunities offered throughout the semester. Details will be given in class and via Canvas.

Assignment	Points	% of Course Grade
Online and In-class Quizzes (12 @ 10 points, lowest two dropped)	100	27%
Papers (4 @ 25 points)	100	27%
In-class/online Exercises (10 @ 10 points)	100	27%
Participation	25	7%
Final Exam	50	13%
Total	375	101%

Grading Policy

All assignments are graded based upon a percentage system, which can be converted to letter grades as described below. All assignments and exams total 100% of the course grade. The same letter grade distribution applies to the final course grade as it does for each assignment.

A = 92-100%	A- = 90-91%	B+ = 88-89%	B = 82-87%
B- = 80-81%	C+ = 78-79%	C = 72-77%	C- = 70-71%
D+ = 68-69%	D = 62-67%	D- = 60-61%	F = 59% or less

Late Work

Late assignments and exam make-ups will be allowed **only in cases of medical or family emergency** for which proper documentation is provided. If you miss an exam, you must contact me immediately to schedule a make-up. **Missed participation and in-class activities cannot be made up under any circumstances.** Late papers will be penalized 10% for each 24-hour period for the first 5 days. After 5 days, the paper will receive 0. Final exam will be held on the day scheduled by the University and make-up will be held on the final make-up day, as determined by the University. Final exam **will not be given early** under any circumstances, so plan accordingly.

Use of Electronic Devices

Please turn off cell phones before entering the classroom. **Absolutely no use of computers, phones, or any other electronic devices during class except when instructed by instructor.** While technology can be very useful in our daily lives it can also cause unnecessary distraction during class both to those using it and to those around them. Thus, bring a pen and a notebook for taking notes. While you are required to bring a laptop/tablet/smart phone for quizzes and in-class activities, **your device must remain closed/stowed until I inform you that it is needed for a particular activity.** Exceptions to this policy will only be made for medical reasons. Please bring proper documentation before class if you need approval to use electronic devices.

Classroom Courtesy

The purpose of discussion in this course is to provide a forum in which students can safely and supportively ask questions, present and debate their ideas, receive and interpret new information and perspectives, and develop and clarify their thinking. While you will likely be passionate about some issues discussed in class, it is essential to be **respectful** to others and their opinions. Offensive remarks or attacks of personal nature will not be tolerated! Please **come to class on time and stay for the entire period.** Late arrivals and/or early departures are disruptive and as such **will affect your participation grade.**

Attendance

Attendance, in and of itself, will not be graded. However, regular attendance is crucial to your success in this course. Lectures will address some themes presented in the course readings, **as well as additional information** that you will not find in the readings but **which you will be expected to know** for exams. Additionally, although attendance is not graded, participation makes a significant portion of your grade. If you are not present, you cannot participate.

Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

Recording in this class is allowed **only with my written permission**, and is granted only on a class by class basis if the student justifies the need to record the lectures. Students must obtain a written permission of any guest speaker and every class member in order to record presentations or class discussions. "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."

Political Science Departmental Writing Policy

Students of political science should develop the ability to write in clear, grammatical English. Spelling and grammar count! Students must take care that appropriate citations are used. Direct quotations must be so indicated with quotation marks and a specific reference to the page in the source from which it was taken. Failure to cite your sources constitutes academic misconduct which carries with it serious sanctions. A tutorial on citations is available at the library website at http://www.sjlibrary.org/services/literacy/info_comp/citing.htm. For assistance with writing, please see me or visit the Writing Center located in Clark Hall 126 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>).

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

The Fine Print

Information in this syllabus can be changed with fair notice. Any changes will be announced in class and/or via announcements through Canvas (<http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/canvas/>). **It is your responsibility to sign into Canvas regularly and check for any important announcements and updates.**

POLS/HIST15B / Essentials of U.S. & CA Government Fall 2016 Course Schedule

NOTE: This schedule is subject to change with fair notice via Canvas and MySJSU messaging.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/26	Course Introduction, Global Lyceum Introduction In-class exercise: How Does Your Government Affect You?
2	9/2	Unit 1: Foundations of American Government Read Essay: all sections In class video: Empire of Reason Paper 1 due in class (handwritten U.S. Constitution outline) Quiz 1 due online @ GL
3	9/9	Unit 2: Federalism, Civil Liberties & Civil Rights Read Essay: Intro & Section 1 Quiz 2 due online @ GL In class exercise: Voter ID Laws
4	9/16	Unit 2: Civil Liberties & Civil Rights continued Read Essay: Sections 2-3 Quiz 3 due online @ GL In class video: True Colors
5	9/23	Unit 3: Political Culture & Elections Read Essay: all sections Quiz 4 due online @ GL Paper 2 due online @ CANVAS In-class exercise: Voter Participation
6	9/30	Unit 4: Social Movements, Interest Groups & Political Parties Read Essay: all sections Quiz 5 due online @ GL In-class activity: Interest Groups
7	10/7	Unit 4: Social Movements, Interest Groups & Political Parties continued View Audio Lecture: Can Interest Groups Represent the Disadvantaged? Quiz 6 due online @ GL Paper 3 due online @ CANVAS
8	10/14	Unit 5: The U.S. Congress Read Essay: all sections Quiz 7 due online @ GL In-class exercise: Gender Gap in Voting

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
9	10/21	Unit 6: The U.S. President Read Essay: all sections View audio lecture: The Presidency and War Quiz 8 due online @ GL In-class exercise: Presidents' Use of Media
10	10/28	Unit 7: The U.S. Supreme Court and Judiciary Read Essay: all sections View audio lecture: The U.S. Supreme Court and Its Decision-making Process Quiz 9 due online @ GL In-class exercise: Original and Evolving Meaning in the U.S. Constitution
11	11/4	Unit 8: Domestic and Foreign Policy Read Essay: all sections Quiz 10 due online @ GL View audio lecture: Understanding Public Opinion In-class pre-election exercise
12	11/11	NO CLASS – VETERANS DAY (Note: although we do not meet for class this week, you are still responsible for the following material and assignment, due on Mon. 11/14) Unit 8: Domestic and Foreign policy continued View audio lecture: Public Policy and the Health Care Debate Income Inequality online exercise due @ GL
13	11/18	Post-Election Analysis and in-class discussion Paper 4: Election Analysis Paper due online @ CANVAS Unit 8: Domestic and Foreign policy continued View audio lecture: American Foreign Policy and the Impact of 9/11
14	11/25	NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY (No assignments this week!)
15	12/2	CA Politics: Read Gerston & Christensen Chapters 1-6 Quiz 11 in-class
16	12/9	CA Politics: Read Gerston & Christensen Chapter 7-10 Quiz 12 in-class In-class state budget exercise
Final Exam	MONDAY 12/19	HGH116, 8:00-9:30am – In-class exam