

**HIST 15B & POLS 15B: Essentials of U.S. and CA Hist. and Gvt.**  
**San José State University, College of Social Sciences**  
**Fall 2016 – 3 units**  
Dr. Gaius Stern

**Class Time:** TT 10:30-11:45, 1:30 – 2:45 (Sections 11 and 12)  
**Telephone:** 408-924-5550 (Dept. phone)  
**Email:** [Gaius.stern@sjsu.edu](mailto:Gaius.stern@sjsu.edu) and [gaius@berkeley.edu](mailto:gaius@berkeley.edu)  
**Office Hours:** 12- 1:10 pm TT (by apt. after 2:45 also.)  
**Office Location:** Clark Hall 404K  
**Classroom:** ENG 403  
**GE/SJSU Studies Category:** US2, US3 & D3

**Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging**

Course materials such as syllabus, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU to learn of any updates.

**Course Description**

**From the SJSU Catalog:** Treatment of essentials of U.S. and California government. This class 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 (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 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.

This class will contain additional (tested) material about the upcoming presidential election – specifically “how does one win a presidential election?” Students should expect to be tested on that process *and how it evolved*. Thomas Jefferson could not be elected President today, because the press would focus on his sexual relations with his slaves instead of policies and leadership ability. This class is an introduction to political science (US gvt) with enough historical context for students to understand better our political process, rights, and true nature of government. We start with how the Ancient Greeks and Romans influenced the Founding Fathers in 1783 ff.

If you are interested in politics and elections, this class will excite you.

If you are not interested in politics and elections – you do not want to take this class.

**GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)**

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. **Assessed by testing and class discussion.**
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. **Assessed by testing and class discussion.**
3. **GELO 3 (D3):** Place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts.
4. **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.
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/or international levels. **All assessed by the 1200-word (5-7 pages) Term Paper.**

## Required Texts/Readings

### Textbooks

Kenneth Janda, Jeffrey M. Berry, Jerry Goldman, Deborah Schildkraut, *The Challenge of Democracy*, 2014, 12<sup>th</sup> (or a Newer) Edition. Wadsworth Cengage Learning, ISBN-13: 978-1-133-60233-0

The textbook is available for purchase at the Spartan Bookstore.

Other Readings and Activities will be accessible through Canvas.

To help you get the most out of the readings and lectures, here are two websites that may assist you.

[http://college.cengage.com/polisci/janda/chall\\_dem/10e/site\\_index.html](http://college.cengage.com/polisci/janda/chall_dem/10e/site_index.html)

<http://uspoltics.org/student/mcitemsstudent.html>

### Course Workload

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. Students are expected to spend at least two hours outside of class for every one hour of in-person class time. 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. Assignments include reading the textbook, reading assigned documents, accessing supplementary material through Canvas, taking exams, and writing papers. These assignments may require work beyond the minimum 6-hours of work outside the classroom. Careful time management will help you keep up with readings and assignments and enable you to succeed in all your classes. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>. For this course, you will be required to take four exams and write a 5-7 page paper ~1250-words.

### Course Requirements and Assignments:

I expect ONE midterm and ONE final exam and ONE term paper and additional points for numerous small activities (often writing assignments).

**EXAM #1** (100 points): Tests will consist of 10± Fill in the Blank questions, 10± How or Why questions, and a map of the US to identify 5 states. Students choose to answer as many as they can (one need not answer all to earn a 100%). It will cover the assigned chapters in the textbook, and the

Canvas readings and activities for Weeks 1-4. The test is out of 25 (or 33) and one's score will be multiplied by 4 (or 3) to reach 100. By answering extra questions a student could earn 120/100 points. The exam takes  $\leq 40$  minutes. **The midterm will assess GELOs 1-2.**

**FINAL EXAM #2** (200 points): Exam #3 will consist of under 50 questions emphasizing the material for Weeks 9-11, but is a cumulative exam. **It will assess GELOs 1-2.**

**POLICY PAPER** (100 points): You should choose one of five pre-assigned topics to research a 5½ to 7 page paper (1250 words or so). You will describe and critically evaluate the issue and describe why your own position on this issue is legal/legitimate and probably propose a sound policy change.

Students are expected to write in a professional, college manner. A paper full of grammar errors will fail and injure the class grade. Your first boss will fire you if you turn in a badly written report that *seems* to advise clients to sell not buy. Your HS should have taught proper writing skills and rules. If it did not, you should be angry at them.

The Paper is due after Thanksgiving break on TH 12-1-16. **It will assess GELOs 3-6.**

### Grading Policy

Your course grade will be determined by the points you earn on Exam #1, Exam #2, in class points, the Policy Paper, and the Canvas Activities.

EXAMS & ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS POSSIBLE	GELOs ASSESSED
EXAM #1	100 POINTS	GELOs 1-2
EXAM #2	200 POINTS	GELOs 1-2
PAPER	100 POINTS	GELOs 3-6
CANVAS ACTIVITIES & other	$\leq 100$ POINTS	GELOs 1-2
<b><math>\leq 500</math> TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE</b>		

At this moment we estimate that the class will have 500 points, but it is possible we will have as few as 450 or 460 (a number ending in 0 is easier for math).

Students often achieve a grade of A+ in Hist/Poli Sci 15B due to the format of the tests (answer all you know). My class of 34 in Spr. 2016 had 2 As and 9 A+ grades. We will apply the formula that 80-82.5 = B-; 82.5-87.9 = B; and 88.0 – 89.9 = B+, applied correspondingly to the grades for A and C and D. Thus, 399/500 = 79.8% which is the highest C+.

Attendance is an indirect but very strong contributor to your grade, because so much testing comes from the classroom. The [University policy F69-24](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf) 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.”

Last term a student determined that every class they missed or attended was  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a point on the midterm /25. Thus, missing four lectures costs 12 points on the exam. This course must be passed with a C- or better as a CSU graduation requirement.

### Classroom Protocol and Electronic Device Policy

Come to class on time and remain in your seat while class is in session. Refrain from talking, texting, computer games, or other disruptive activity. Do NOT interfere with other students' learning. If you have a question during class, raise your hand right away.

Turn off or mute ALL electronic devices such as phones and PUT THEM AWAY when you arrive. Do not use ANY electronic devices in class without written permission in advance. Do NOT send or receive messages in class. I reserve the right to borrow your phone and/or lower the grades of those texting during class. Do NOT leave the room during class to send or receive messages or phone calls. Remain in your seat while class is in session. You CAN take pictures of the board after class.

### **Recording of Lectures**

SJSU Academic Senate Policy S12-7: "...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. ..."

You may record my lectures for study use, but do NOT upload or post the lectures or any other course material (we must respect university policy fine print). *If you want to record classes, bring your device up front so your sound quality will be better.*

**Helicopter Parents:** It is illegal for an instructor to discuss a student's grade with meddlesome parents. I can say more about this in class if anyone has a meddlesome parent.

### **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/>

### **Dropping and Adding**

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html> and the Add/drop deadlines policies at [http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic\\_calendars/](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/). **Tues. 6 Sept.** is the last day to Drop a Class without a "W" grade. **Tues. 13 Sept.** is the last day to change grade options - CR/NC, Audit.

### **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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

**If you cheat, I am obliged to report you.** Every year I have one (usually plagiarism). I would appreciate not going through the pleas and tears, so please be true to yourselves and do your own work.

### **Changes to the Syllabus**

This happens every semester. I will give you fair notice in lecture. If you do not attend, you are still responsible. I also send change announcements through Canvas (<http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/canvas/>).

## Fine Print

### 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. [Presidential Directive 97-03](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) (AEC) at <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>.

### 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter) 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.

### SJSU Counseling Services

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> 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) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

### Library Liaison

Paul Kauppila is the Political Science library liaison. You may contact him for questions about Political Science research and library holdings. His email is [Paul.Kauppila@sjsu.edu](mailto:Paul.Kauppila@sjsu.edu) and his phone number is (408) 808-2042. You can also find a research guide for Political Science here: <http://libguides.sjsu.edu/politicalscience>

## **Remember: This following schedule is subject to change with fair notice that will be announced in class and/or via Canvas. HIST / POLS 15B Fall 2015 Course Schedule:**

Complete each reading assignment **before** coming to class.

Week	Date	Lecture Topics and Reading Assignments
0	8/25 R	<b>COURSE INTRODUCTION</b> Read: Course Syllabus Thesis Paragraph, professional writing exercise
1	8/30 T	<b>20 minutes on 2016; writing; The American Revolution</b> Read: Janda Ch. 1 & Ch. 2
1	9/1 R	<b>Greek and Roman political theory, The Revolution; 13 states or 1 nation?</b> Read: Ch. 3, Appendix A1: Declaration of Independence
2	9/6 T	<b>Making a new American Gvt, the 1780s</b>
2	9/8 R	<b>Writing THE CONSTITUTION Franklin, Jay, Madison, Hamilton, Sherman</b> Federalists and Anti-Federalists Watch <b>AN EMPIRE OF REASON</b> at home

3	9/13 T	<b>THE CONSTITUTION with Prof. Schendan Dr. Stern away at MN conference</b> Read: Ch. 3 <b>Watch</b> video: <i>A More Perfect Union</i> <a href="http://video.pbs.org/video/2365006249/">http://video.pbs.org/video/2365006249/</a>
3	9/15 R	<b>FEDERALISM with Prof. Schendan</b> Read: Ch. 4 <b>Dr. Stern away at MN conference</b> <b>Turn in 1-2 page assignment on Federalism from <i>A More Perfect Union</i></b>
4	9/20 T	<b>Adams, Jefferson, Hamilton, Burr, and some also-rans, Election of 1800</b> Read: Ch. 5
4	9/22 R	<b>Election of 1800; Jefferson as President; the Electoral College,</b> Read: Ch. 7, 9
5	9/27 T	<b>The War of 1812, The Era of Good Feeling, Election of 1824; Jacksonian Democracy</b> <b>The First Party Systems (Federalists vs. Dem-Rep; Whigs vs. Dems), Maintaining</b> <b>the free-state/slave state balance</b>
5	9/29 R	<b>The First Party Systems, the free-state/slave state balance</b> Primaries and Caucuses ; a <b>short study of 2016</b>
6	10/4 T	<b>Manifest Destiny: the Louisiana Purchase to 1898, Jefferson's Dilemma vs.</b> <b>McKinley's conscience ; Bernie Sanders' campaign</b>
6	10/6 R	<b>CAMPAIGNS, ELECTIONS &amp; VOTING BEHAVIOR</b> <i>History Canvas Activity: Negative Campaigns (Mudslinging is Nothing New)</i>
7	10/11 T	<b>The ELECTORAL COLLEGE and its unforeseen problems (1876, 1960, 1968,</b> <b>and more) Read: Ch. 7 &amp; 9</b>
7	10/13 R	<b>Likely date of the MIDTERM (35 minutes - grade after) ; Elections of 1888 &amp; 2000</b> Read: Ch. 8
8	10/18 T	<b>Getting Elected to CONGRESS (+ Senate caucuses, elections, appointments)</b> Read: Ch. 10
8	10/20 R	<b>THE PRESIDENT</b> Read: Ch. 12 <i>Canvas activity: Which party do you fit? (May be cut)</i>
9	10/25 T	<b>Passing bills through Congress with Prof. Schendan</b> Read: Ch. 11 <b>Dr. Stern at Emory CAMWS Conference</b>
9	10/27 R	<b>Special Interest Groups &amp; Political Parties / the Party Systems</b> <b>PRESIDENTIAL COMPROMISE Dr. Stern at Emory CAMWS Conference</b> <i>Video: What was Required to get the Affordable Care Act through Congress</i> <a href="http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/obamasdeal/view/">http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/obamasdeal/view/</a>
10	11/1 T	Extra Make-up day in case we are running LATE
10	11/3 R	The 2016 Election: How did we get here?

		<b>PREDICTIONS</b>
11	11/8 T	<b>THE COURTS</b> Read: Ch. 14
11	11/10 R	<b>Important Supreme Court Cases: <i>Slavery and Civil Rights and the Courts</i></b> <i>Video: A look at Obama's first term</i> <a href="http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/inside-obamas-presidency/">http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/inside-obamas-presidency/</a>
12	11/15 T	<b>Free Speech from John Peter Senger to the KKK and UC Davis protestors</b> Especially in 1798, Thoreau, during WW I, and Vietnam
12	11/17 R	<b>Free speech in non-verbal forms &amp; Gay Marriage <u>or</u> Protesting the Vietnam War (Schendan covering while Gaius in Switzerland)</b>
	11/22 T	<b>Thanksgiving week – probably no class since people go away</b> Read: Ch. 18 & 19
	11/24	<b>Thanksgiving holiday</b>
13	11/29 T	How the Great Depression changed America: the fortunes of the Democratic and Republican Parties - 1850-2016 ** it would make sense if we move this topic earlier
13	12/1 R	<b><u>The US as a Democracy, Oligarchy, or plutocracy?</u></b> Term Paper is due at 4:00 pm
14	12/6 T	<b>CALIFORNIA POLITICS</b> in the next 3 years: Gavin Newsome and Kamela Harris
14	12/8 R	<b>LAST DAY of class</b>

For the Section 11 (10:30 class) the final exam will be **Thurs Dec 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 – 12:15**

For the Section 12 (1:30 class) the final exam will be **Fri Dec 16 at 12:15-2pm**