

**San José State University
Department of Political Science
POLIS 3, Intro to Political Theory, Section 3
Fall 2017**

Instructor: Al Schendan
Office Location: Clark Hall 404K
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Email: albert.schendan@sjsu.edu (preferred method of contact)
Office Hours: M/W 2:50-3:50 pm
Class Days/Time: M/W 12-1:15 pm
Classroom: CL303

Course Format

This is a traditional lecture based course that requires you to submit some work through the use of a computer. Your take-home essays will require you to submit them through SJSU's Canvas system.

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

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.

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

Many of the political ideas, which we take for granted were once new and controversial. This course seeks to reawaken many important debates that shaped our political heritage. By reading, discussing, and criticizing the substance of historical political ideas, we gain the perspective necessary to perceive our own hidden assumptions, and perhaps to reform or change them.

This course will focus on four broad categories of political thought, each of which pursues different ends and utilizes different styles. The course will first look at the relationship between individual citizens and the societies in which they live. Is there a fundamental conflict between being a good person and being a good citizen? Next, the course will examine political ideals. What political arrangements would do the best job of fulfilling human potentials? Third, the course will examine theories of political power. How should we deal with the darker side of politics--the violence and coercion that lies behind the state? Finally, the course will conclude with politics and equality. How have reformers sought to justify greater equality in the human condition, especially for groups that have historically been deprived of equal social and political status?

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.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

CLO1. Examine the interaction of analytical and creative processes in the production and perception of such works, and the significance of the historical and cultural contexts in which the works are created and interpreted. Assessed by two 1200-word essays and two exams.

CLO2. Recognize how significant works illuminate enduring human concerns and respond to such works by writing both research-based critical analyses and personal responses. Assessed by two 1200-word essays, two exams, and five quizzes.

CLO3. Write clearly and effectively. Writing shall be assessed for correctness, clarity, and conciseness. Assessed by two 1200-word essays.

CANVAS

Course materials including the syllabus will be posted on the Canvas page accessible to registered students at:

<http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You will also submit your essays to Canvas and receive feedback from me. Other grades, such as exams and quiz scores, will be returned in class and/or posted on Canvas.

ACCOMODATIONS

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

1. Plato, *The Trial and Death of Socrates*, (Hackett.)
2. More, *Utopia*, (Penguin.)
3. Machiavelli, *The Prince*, (Hackett-Wooton Translation)
4. Rousseau, *Basic Political Writings*, 2nd Edition, (Hackett.)
5. Mill, *On Liberty and The Subjection of Women*, (Penguin)
6. Course reader, selected readings.

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, worth 45% of your grade. Essay prompts will be available in class. Your papers should be at least 1200 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. Papers must be submitted with no cover sheet electronically to Canvas. **I will not accept late, emailed, or printed copies of your papers.** If you don't know how to submit papers to Canvas please

see Professor Schendan before your paper is due. Please see the Grading Guide 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.

EXAMINATIONS

In addition, you must also complete two exams that are worth a combined 45% of your grade. Upon finishing the second unit and on the final day of class, I will hand out *quotes from previous readings* and *one question from our current reading* that requires an extensive response. Your first exam will include six quotes and your final will include ten quotes. On exam day, you will receive half the previous number of quotes and the extensive response question. Your final exam will also include an additional question that requires you to showcase your knowledge of a theorist. You will be required to bring a large blue or green book to both exams. Your exam grade will be based on your thorough, correct, and concise responses. No breaks will be allowed for any reason during the exams. If you miss the first exam, and have a valid documented excuse, I will allow you to make up the exam on Wednesday, December 12th at 10am in Clark 404K. There are no make-up opportunities for the final.

GRADING POLICY

Your grade will be calculated as follows.

	Percentage of total
Quizzes (5 @ 10 points each)	10%
Essay I	20%
Exam I- Units I and II	20%
Essay III	25%
Exam II-Comprehensive Final	25%
Total	100%

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

A = 93-100%	B = 83-87%	C = 73-77%	D = 63-67%
A- = 90-92%	B- = 80-82%	C- = 70-72%	D- = 60-62%
B+ = 88-89%	C+ = 78-79%	D+ = 68-69%	F = 59% or less

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND STUDENT CONDUCT

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 course work. 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/SO4-12.pdf>. The website for the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development is: 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 FO6-I requires approval of instructors.

COLLABORATION

Students may collaborate in their studies and are encouraged to do so. However, no collaboration should take place during in-class exams or quizzes. In their studies, collaboration students should not go so far that they memorized answers "cloned" from a single model. A good way to study together without exceeding the boundaries of appropriate collaboration is to discuss possible answers orally but not sharing written sample answers.

COURTESY

Proper classroom etiquette includes arriving on time and staying for the full lecture, refraining from distracting other students during the lecture, listening attentively until the professor dismisses the class, and treating the opinions of other students with respect. The professor reserves the right to deduct from the overall grade for particularly egregious examples of poor classroom etiquette, and to reward students for outstanding displays of collegiality.

ATTENDANCE

Regular, on-time attendance is especially important for these reasons:

- Lectures help explain the original-source readings we do. Most students report that they have a difficult time understanding the readings without the help of the lectures.
- Lectures often cover materials completely independent and/or supplementary to the texts.
- Lectures provide an opportunity for questions, participation, and getting motivated to do the rest of the work.
- Often, important announcements are made at the beginning of class - sometimes clarifying or changing assignments.
- In-class quizzes will be administered from time to time and can only be completed when you attend class.
- If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get notes on what you missed. If an assignment or the syllabus was changed during your absence, you are responsible for finding this out.
- If attendance in the class becomes a serious problem, Prof. Schendan reserves the right to change course requirements and institute more or less in-class evaluations or increase the quiz percentage of your grade.

INCOMPLETES, ACADEMIC RENEWAL, COURSE DROPS, "U's," AND "F's"

Sometimes students 'get in over their heads' and need alternatives to finishing the course. I will be happy to issue an incomplete if :

- - A student has made arrangements for making up the course by coming to me and filling out the department incomplete form prior to the time of the final exam,
 - the student has completed two-thirds of the assignments, and
 - the student offers a good reason. However, be aware that you will have just one year to make up the assignments or the incomplete automatically turns into an "F". University rules specifically prohibit professors from giving incompletes to students who need to attend a significant portion of the course to be able to finish it.
- An alternative for students who do not qualify for the incomplete (for example, if you have done less than two-thirds of the assignments or you need to attend a lot of lectures) is to retake the course under academic renewal. You are limited to a certain number of courses over your college career, but this can be an excellent option in certain situations.
- I will cooperate with any student wishing to drop the course for any reason. However, the University has adopted strict rules against dropping a course after the first few weeks unless you have very compelling evidence (death certificate, etc.) I disagree with the policy but cannot change it.
- I am required to issue "WU"s (Withdrawal Unauthorized) to students who do not drop the course but stop coming to class or do not complete assignments after the drop period. I give "WU"s to those students who "disappear" after doing no graded assignments, and "F"s to those students who "disappear" after doing at least one graded assignment. But both graded are equally bad, so avoid them both!
- Check the Catalog for the latest academic rules that might affect you.

DISABILITIES

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need special arrangements, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible. SJSU requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with AEC to establish a record of their disability.

CLASSROOM POLICIES AND PROTOCOL

Late papers or assignments will not be accepted for any reason (see Grading Guide).

The first exam may be made up if students have a valid excuse. The make-up day is 12-12-17 at 10 am in my office, 404K. Medical and family emergencies must be documented. **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 INSTRUCTOR PERMISSION IN ADVANCE.**

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 SI2-7, <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/SI2-7.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.”

University Policies Per University Policy SI6-9, 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>

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.kaupila@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 audiotape 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/>

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>.

CALENDAR (This is a tentative schedule, reading assignments will be announced in class.)

Monday		Wednesday	
		8/23	Introduction
8/28	Unit I - Plato	8/30	Plato
9/4	No Class-Labor Day!	9/6	Mill
9/11	Mill	9/13	Mill
9/18	Mill	9/20	Mill
9/25	Reading Week or MLK	9/27	Pericles-Unit II Political Ideals
10/2	More	10/4	More
10/9	More	10/11	More – Exam Prompt
10/16	More or Exam Preparation Day!	10/18	Exam I
10/23	Madison-Unit III Political Power	10/25	Madison
10/30	Madison	11/1	Madison
11/6	Reading Week or Machiavelli	11/8	Machiavelli
11/13	Rousseau- Unit IV Equality	11/15	Rousseau
11/20	Rousseau	11/22	No Class – Thanksgiving Break
11/27	Rousseau	11/29	Rousseau
12/4	Rousseau	12/6	Marx
12/11	Marx		

Exam II - Final: 12-19-17
9:45-12 pm