

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.

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 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.

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

University's Credit Hour Requirement

The university policy reads as follows: "Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction/studying on course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus."

Midterm Exams

There will be two midterm exams. Each will consist of multiple-choice questions. Exam 1 will cover the material (assigned readings, lectures, class activities, discussions, and in-class videos) from weeks 1-5. Exam 2 will cover the material from weeks 6-11. Please bring T&E 200 scantron form and a pencil for each exam.

Final Exam

The final exam will NOT be cumulative and will cover course readings, lectures, and discussions since the second midterm. It will consist of multiple-choice questions. Please bring T&E 200 scantron form and a pencil. Students will not be allowed to take the final exam early.

Policy Paper

Each student will write a 1500-word policy paper (approximately 4-6 double spaced pages) on a current domestic or foreign policy issue of his/her choice. You will explain the issue and its relevance, analyze each major point of view involved in the issue, and evaluate possible actions that can be taken by the citizens and appropriate government entities in the future development of the issue. Additional details on topic selection, paper requirements, and sources that may be used will be made available to you. The paper is due on November 15, 2017. **HARD COPY ONLY!!**

Assignment weight and tentative dates (dates subject to change with fair notice):

Assignment	% of Course Grade	Date	GELOs Assessed
Midterm 1	25%	October 2	1-3
Midterm 2	25%	November 8	1-3
Policy Paper	25%	Due on November 15	3-6
Final Exam	25%	See schedule below	1-3

Final Examination Schedule

Section 1 (MW 7:30-8:45), Thursday, December 14, 7:15-9:30

Section 4 (MW 10:30-11:45), Friday, December 15, 9:45-12:00

Section 6 (MW 12:00-1:15), Tuesday, December 19, 9:45-12:00

Grading Policy

All assignments are graded based upon a percentage system, which can be converted to letter grades. For example, if an assignment is out of 100 points, 97-100 is an A+, 93-96.9 is an A, 90-92.9 is an A-, and so on. 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+ = 97-100%	B+ = 87-89.9%	C+ = 77-79.9%	D+ = 67-69.9%
A = 93-96.9%	B = 83-86.9%	C = 73-76.9%	D = 63-66.9%
A- = 90-92.9%	B- = 80-82.9%	C- = 70-72.9%	D- = 60-62.9%

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. 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. Final exam make-up for which proper documentation is provided 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 for medical reasons**. 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. Exceptions to this policy will only be made for medical reasons. Please bring proper documentation before class if you need an 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. Remember, a “good argument” does not mean a confrontation or a fight. Rather, a good argument consists of a political contention supported by well-researched evidence, leading to a well-developed conclusion. 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.

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.

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](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/) at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/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](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Last Day to Drop the Course: September 6

Last Day to Add the Course: September 13

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf), <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."

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."

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/>.

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) at 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf) at <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](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>

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/>).

Note: On the schedule of readings, Lowi refers to *American Government*, while C and G refers to *California Government*.

Pols/Hist 15B Fall 2017 Course Schedule Subject to change with fair notice		
Week/Date	Topic	Assignment
Week 1 Aug 23	Introduction, course overview	Read course syllabus
Week 2 Aug 28-30	The Citizen and the Government	Lowi, Chapter 1
Week 3 Sept 6	The Founding and the Constitution	Lowi, Chapter 2 and U.S. Constitution
Week 4 Sept 11-13	Federalism	Lowi, Ch. 3 and Federalist Papers 10 and 51
Week 5 Sept 18-20	Civil Liberties and Civil Rights	Lowi, Chapter 4
Week 6 Sept 25-27	Civil and Rights--continued	
Week 7 Oct 2-4	Midterm 1—October 2 Public Opinion and the Media	Bring T&E 200 scantron and bluebook Lowi, Chapter 9
Week 8 Oct 9-11	Political Parties and Elections	Lowi, Chapter 10 and 11
Week 9 Oct 16-18	Interest Groups	Lowi, Chapter 12
Week 10 Oct 23-25	The Legislative Branch	Lowi, Chapter 5
Week 11 Oct 30-Nov 1	The Executive Branch	Lowi, Chapter 6
Week 12 Nov 6-8	Executive Branch--continued Midterm 2—November 8	Bring T&E 200 scantron and bluebook
Week 13 Nov 13-15	Bureaucracy, Paper Due: Nov 15	Lowi, Chapter 7
Week 14 Nov 20-22	Federal Courts and Foreign Policy	Lowi, Chapter 8 and 14
Nov 23	Thanksgiving holiday, no class	No Reading
Week 15 Dec 4-6	California Government	C and G, entire book
Dec 11	Review	

Final Exam Schedule

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Section 6 (MW 12:00-1:15), Tuesday December 19, 9:45-12:00

If you have any questions or need help with class don't hesitate to talk to me. For quick inquiries it is best to email me at constantine.danopoulos@sjsu.edu. For any substantive issues it is best to stop by my office in Clark Hall 402E during my office hours. If you can't make it during my office hours, I will gladly work with you on finding alternative time to meet. I hope you enjoy the class!