

San José State University
Political Science/History 15B, Section 14
US History and American Government

Spring, 2017

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Mary Currin-Percival
Office Location:	Clark Hall 406L
Telephone:	(408) 924-5569
Email:	mary.currinpercival@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Wed 12:00pm-2:00pm and Th 1:30pm-2:30pm (and by appointment)
Class Days/Time:	Tu, Th 3:00pm-4:15pm
Classroom:	DMH 160
Course Website:	CANVAS course page accessible for registered students at http://sjsu.instructure.com

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, 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.

By enrolling in this course you consent to all course requirements listed in this syllabus, published on our Canvas site, and announced in class. You accept responsibility for accessing the Canvas course website to download any required handouts, assignments, or readings. You also accept responsibility for checking the course website regularly for any announcements. You also accept responsibility for receiving any messages sent via the MySJSU email system. Make sure that MySJSU has your current email address. Contact me by Thursday of week one if you cannot access the Canvas website, download and read .pdf files, link to other websites, or send or receive email.

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).

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.

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 multiple-choice questions on the midterm and final exams, the questions on the four quizzes, and the ideology quiz reflection paper.**
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 multiple-choice questions on the midterm and final exams and the four quizzes.**
3. **GELO 3 (D3):** Place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts. **Assessed by the 1000-word policy paper assignment.**
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. **Assessed by the 1000-word policy paper assignment, the debates, and the ideology quiz reflection paper.**
5. **GELO 5 (D3):** Evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues. **Assessed by the 1000-word policy paper assignment and the debates.**
6. **GELO 6 (D3)** Apply multidisciplinary material to a topic relevant to policy and social action at the local, national, and/or international levels. **Assessed by the 1000-word policy paper assignment and the debates.**

Required Texts/Readings

Samuel Kernell, Gary C. Jacobson, Thad Kousser, and Lynn Vavreck. *The Logic of American Politics*, 7th ed. (Sage CQ Press 2016)

Guide to California Government, 16th ed. League of Women Voters of California. (2015)

Both texts are required and available at the Spartan Bookstore.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Plagiarism Tutorial (10 points)

You must pass all of the modules of this tutorial with a score of at least 75%.

******IMPORTANT****** The plagiarism tutorial is a requirement for the policy paper. I will not accept your ideology quiz reflection paper until you provide evidence that you have completed the tutorial (at least 75% on all modules). You must email your plagiarism tutorial results to me at mary.currinpercival@sjsu.edu. Hard copies will not be accepted. The plagiarism tutorial is due by 5pm on Friday, February 10, 2017. Late tutorials will be accepted (with a late penalty: subtract 2 points per day beginning at 5:01pm on February 10, 2017).

Quizzes (40 points)

There will be four quizzes covering the lectures and assigned readings, given in class and announced in advance. Quizzes will be multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, and short-answer. Each quiz will be worth 10 points. These assignments are open-book and open-notes. Quiz dates are listed on the syllabus. **The quizzes will assess GELOs 1 and 2.**

Ideology Quiz Reflection Paper (50 points)

This is an exciting writing assignment that gives you the opportunity to think more about your own background and how your life events and environment have affected the way you view the political world. A detailed prompt will be available on Canvas at the end of week 2. The Ideology Quiz Reflection Paper is 2-3 pages and is due at 5pm on Thursday, February 23rd.

Late papers will be graded; however, these will be penalized 5 points for each day they are late. The late period begins at 5:01pm on Thursday, February 23rd. Late papers will NOT be accepted after the last day of class. Papers will only be accepted via Canvas. See the prompt for further information. **The ideology quiz reflection paper will assess GELOs 1 and 4.**

Midterm Exam (100 points)

The midterm exam is worth 100 points and will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions worth 2 points each. You may use one page (8 x 11 inches, double-sided) of hand-written notes during the exam. **The exam will assess GELOs 1 and 2.** Bring a T&E 200 scantron and #2 pencil.

The midterm exam is scheduled for the beginning of class on Tuesday, March 21, 2017.

Final Exam (100 points)

The final exam is worth 100 points and will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions (worth 2 points each). You may use one page (8 x 11 inches, double-sided) of hand-written notes on the final exam. **The final exam will assess GELOs 1 and 2.** The final exam is scheduled for Thursday, May 18, 2:45pm-5:00pm.

Policy Paper (100 points)

You will be required to write a (1000 word) research paper addressing a domestic or foreign policy reform of your choice. You will research this issue, and describe and critically evaluate both the current policy and the policy change you propose. Finally, you will describe at least one action you could take as a citizen in support of this policy. I will provide a detailed prompt for the policy paper assignment on Canvas at the end of week 4. In your paper, you will be required to use 4-5 academic sources and use either APA or APSA formatting. I will post a link to citation guides from our library on Canvas.

The policy paper will assess GELOs 3-6. The paper is due at 5pm on Tuesday, May 2nd, 2017. Late papers will be graded; however, these will be penalized 5 points for each day they are late. The late period begins at 5:01pm on Tuesday, May 2nd. Late papers will NOT be accepted after the last day of class. Papers will only be accepted via Canvas. See the prompt for further information.

Debate (50 points)

You will participate in one of three in-class policy debates. These debates will focus on contemporary policy issues. You will be randomly assigned to one of the 7-8 member teams. Your debate grade is worth 50 points and will be based upon the following: your in-class individual debate performance (25 points), your group's debate performance (15 points), and your teammates' evaluation of your performance in the debate, including your contribution to the research and other team preparation for the debate (10 points). I will elaborate further upon this assignment at the end of week one. **The debate will assess GELOs 4, 5 and 6.**

Grading Policy

NOTE that [University policy F69-24](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf> states that "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."

Your grade will be calculated as follows. You may keep track of your grade in the class on the CANVAS course website.

	Points
Plagiarism Quiz	10
Quizzes (4 @ 10 points each)	40
Ideology Quiz Reflection Paper	50
Midterm Exam	100
Policy Paper	100
Final Exam	100
Debate	50
Total	450

Your final grade will be calculated by dividing your total points by 450. For example, consider the following: Total points = 418. $418/450 = .929\%$. Using the scale below, this individual would be assigned a A-.

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

100%-98 = A+	89%-87% = B+	79%-77% = C+	69%-67% = D+
97-93% = A	86%-83% = B	76%-73% = C	66%-63% = D
92%-90% = A-	82%-80% = B-	72%-70% = C-	62%-60% = D-
			59% or less = F

Make-up/Late Policy

There are no make-up exams or other assignments without appropriate documentation (serious medical illness or serious medical emergency, religious holiday, pre-approved university-sanctioned event or activity, military orders, family emergency) that you were unable to complete the assignment on time.

This also applies to in-class assignments. If you are seriously ill, you must notify me as soon as possible by email or on my office phone that you will be unable to complete an assignment on time. Except in cases of documented medical emergency, you **MUST** notify me before the scheduled assignment.

Out of fairness to your colleagues, work, missing an alarm, and generally not feeling well **will not be** accepted excuses for missing assignments. Be sure you schedule all of our assignments right away. If you have a vacation or similar event planned during one of these assignment days, take this course during another session.

Late papers will be graded; however, these will be penalized 5 points for each day they are late. The late period begins at 5:01pm on the due date. Late papers will NOT be accepted after the last day of class.

Classroom Policies and Protocol

Attendance and participation

It is expected that you will attend class regularly although attendance is not recorded (except during first three weeks of class). If you miss class, it is your responsibility to obtain class notes from a colleague in class. If you are late, please do not be disruptive. If you know that you need to leave early, let me know before class and sit near the door. Every student is expected to participate in class discussion regularly.

Cellphones, laptops, and other technology

YOU MAY NOT USE YOUR CELL PHONE IN CLASS. If you need to have it on for family reasons, please turn it on vibrate and leave it out of sight. If you must make an emergency text, feel free to step outside of class. All other texting needs to take place before or after class. Laptops, tablets, and other such technology are not allowed in class except on designated dates. Please see me if you have questions about this policy or questions regarding SJSU academic accommodations related to this policy.

Recording of Lectures

NO AUDIO OR VIDEO RECORDING OF LECTURES OR OTHER CLASS ACTIVITIES ALLOWED WITHOUT INSTRUCTOR PERMISSION IN ADVANCE. It is common courtesy to obtain permission from people before you record them; therefore, out of respect to your colleagues and to me, do not record this class without my explicit permission.

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/>

Political Science 15B Schedule, Section 14, Spring 2017

Schedule subject to change with fair notice via announcement in class or on Canvas course website.

Week	Days, Dates	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
0	Thursday, Jan 26	Introduction to course READ course syllabus Assignment: online plagiarism tutorial and quiz at: http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/tutorial/plagiarism/index.htm Plagiarism quiz results are due by email no later than 5pm Friday, February 10th. Late quizzes will be penalized 2 points per day beginning at 5:01pm, February 10th.

1	Tuesday, Jan 31 Thursday, Feb 2	Ideology, Politics, and Political Socialization The Declaration of Independence The Articles of Confederation READ Kernell et al. chapter 2, pps. 38-53 & Appendix 2
2	Tuesday, Feb 7 Thursday, Feb 9	The Constitution READ Kernell et al. Appendix 4 & 5 Kernell et al. chapter 2
3	Tuesday, Feb 14 Thursday, Feb 16	Federalism READ Kernell et al. chapter 3 Assignment: Quiz #1 at the beginning of class on Tuesday, February 14th. Debate teams meet on Thursday in class
4	Tuesday, Feb 21 Thursday, Feb 23	U.S. Congress READ Kernell et al. chapter 6 Assignment: Ideology Quiz Reflection Paper due by 5pm on Thursday, February 23rd (Canvas submission only) Debate teams meet on Thursday in class
5	Tuesday, Feb 28 Thursday, Mar 2	U.S. Presidency READ Kernell et al. chapter 7 Assignment: Quiz #2 today at the beginning of class on Thursday, March 2nd.
6	Tuesday, Mar 7 Thursday, Mar 9	The Bureaucracy READ Kernell et al. chapter 8 Debate teams meet on Thursday in class
7	Tuesday, Mar 14 Thursday, Mar 16	The Federal Judiciary READ Kernell et al. chapters 9

8	Tuesday, Mar 21 Thursday, Mar 23	Assignment: Midterm Exam at the beginning of class on Tuesday, March 21 st Bring a T&E 200 scantron and a #2 pencil. Thursday-meet with me about your paper topic
9	Tuesday, Mar 28 Thursday, Mar 30	Spring Break--No class scheduled
10	Tuesday, Apr 4 Thursday, Apr 6	Civil Rights READ Kernell et al. chapter 4
11	Tuesday, Apr 11 Thursday, Apr 13	Civil Liberties READ Kernell et al. chapter 5 Assignment: Quiz #3 at the beginning of class on Thursday, April 13th
12	Tuesday, Apr 18 Thursday, Apr 20	California Institutions READ Guide to California Government, chapters 4-6 Assignment: Quiz #4 at the beginning of class on Thursday, April 20th Debate teams meet in class on Thursday
13	Tuesday, Apr 25 Thursday, Apr 27	Interest Groups and Political Parties Film: Frontline: <i>Gunned Down</i> READ Kernell, et al. chapters 13 & 12
14	Tuesday, May 2 Thursday, May 4	Public Opinion and the News Media READ Kernell, et al. chapters 10 & 14 Assignment: Debates Thursday, May 4th Assignment: Policy Paper is due (Canvas submission only) no later than 5pm on Tuesday, May 2nd.

15	Tuesday, May 9 Thursday, May 11	Voting, Campaigns, and Elections READ Kernell et al. chapter 11 Assignment: Debates Tuesday, May 9th
16	Tuesday, May 16	Voting, Campaigns, and Elections Voting and Elections in California READ Kernell et al. chapter 11 Guide to California Government, chapters 1-3
Final Exam	Thursday, May 18 th 2:45-5:00pm	Meet in our regular classroom Bring a T&E 200 scantron and a #2 pencil.