

San Jose State University

Political Science Department, Fall 2018

Pols 15, Essentials of U.S. and California Government

Section 12, MW 1:30-2:45 p.m.

Contact Information

Instructor:	Larry Sokoloff
Office Location:	Dwight Bentel Hall Room 135. DBH is across from Clark Hall
Telephone:	(408) 924-3243 (I prefer email, and do not always check my voicemail) Cell: (650)520-8006
Email:	Larry.Sokoloff@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	I am on campus Monday through Thursday. Office hours are Tuesday from 12:45 to 1:15 p.m., and Wed. from 3:00 to 3:30 p.m. We can also meet by appointment.
Class Days/Time:	Mon.-Wed. 1:30 to 2:45 p.m.
Classroom:	CL 303
Grading:	Normal Grading Rules
GE:	Satisfies American institutions requirements in American and California government

Faculty Web Page

Course materials such as this syllabus, can be found on my canvas page. You are responsible for regularly checking with your Canvas email to learn any class updates. This syllabus will be found on Canvas by early September. Students are responsible for reading any Canvas notifications about updates to the class schedule or assignments.

Catalog Description

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), GE Area: D3, and American Institution requirement: US2 and US3.

Course Format

This class meets in person twice a week. You can learn more about class assignments by coming to class, checking your email, and via Canvas. If you miss a class, be in touch with another student to find out what you missed.

Course Description

Every American and resident of this country should understand how the government works, or doesn't work. The United States is a federal democratic republic, and California has extended democracy further through the referendum and initiative process. There are many layers of government, from the federal system to small local water districts. In this course we will discuss the organization of the United States government, the roles of different roles of government, and how we and others can impact that government. We will also discuss the constitutional basis of our government.

The issues of living in a diverse society are part of this class, and are discussed frequently. We learn from each other, and the expression of opposing viewpoints courteously can be expected all semester, especially as we discuss current controversial events.

Course Expectations

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hour over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week, or nine hours, with three of the hours used for lecture in a three-unit course) for instruction or preparation/studying of course-related activities. That is including, but not limited to small group consultations, meeting attendance, or other practical applications of student learning as described in the syllabus. More details about student workloads can be found in University Policy S12-3 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

The tentative course calendar is included at the end of this syllabus, including assignment due dates, dates of student presentations, and expected topics for each class. This is to show you the number and kind of activities that this course will include. Some of this may change during the semester, and except for situations like pop quizzes, students will be notified in advance of any changes.

Methods:

The class will be a combination of reading, writing, personal research, lecture and discussion. Students may be called up by name to address concepts from the readings. Students should read the materials when they are assigned, and be prepared to actively participate in discussion. Regular attendance is expected. Participation in class is 5% of your grade.

Learning Objectives

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 questions on the midterm and final exams, the questions on in-class quizzes, paper on city council visit.
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 questions on in-class quizzes.
3. GELO 3 (D3): Place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts. Assessed by paper on visit to art installation, assignments on state government.
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 policy paper assignment, case study memos, 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 library research assignment.
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 paper on state and national issues.

Required Texts/Readings

We The People, by Ginsberg, Lowi, Weire et al.
California Politics A Primer, by Renee Van Vechten

Engaged citizens and residents also need to stay on top of current events and trends. You should follow the news—in print, broadcast and online. This should involve reading a newspaper or website every day, such as the San Jose Mercury News, the Wall Street Journal or the New York Times. The WSJ has student rates. Being aware of the news will help you do well in this class and understand current politics. Don't be surprised if a pop quiz has a question on who's running for office, or who the governor is. These are things you will know from following the news.

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/>.

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.”
- “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.”

Always request permission from any guest speakers to record their remarks. You should also alert the professor if you are recording his class at the beginning of the semester so he doesn't mistake your recording device for a cellphone.

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. Don't use Wikipedia—it's unreliable, and not evidence of thorough research. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

I take plagiarism very seriously, and have flunked students for submitting plagiarized papers.

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 Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Room 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and 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 center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing

topics. To make an appointment or learn more, visit their website at <http://www.sjsu.edu.writingcenter>.

Library Liaison

Paul Kauppila

Paul.kauppila@sjsu.edu(408)808-2042

You may want to check out the Library's political science guide. It includes links to helpful databases and resources.

Hang onto your work

Back up and save your work. Email yourself a copy of your paper, both as an attachment and within the text of an email. Then if your printer, computer or any other tech device crashes, you can go to a commercial copy center, such as Fedex/Kinko's, to print out your assignment. You can also print it out at the campus computer center.

Course Requirements and Assignments

I expect your writing to be high quality. We will rely on APA style for our papers. Errors will significantly reduce your grades. The best way to make sure your writing is high quality is to read it aloud before turning it in, or to have another person review it. I usually stop grading a paper and give it a lower grade after three or more errors.

All assignments must be typed and double-spaced. A double-spaced page has 23 to 24 lines on each page and no more than 1 1/4 inch margins on each side. Each page that doesn't comply will be marked down. Handwritten papers are not accepted unless it is an in-class assignment.

Assignments are due at the start of class, and will be marked down a grade if late that day. Please refer to the enclosed class schedule for all assignment due dates.

Missing Quizzes, Midterm and Final

I do not allow make-up of quizzes, which are given to ensure that you are ready for that day's class. There are no early exams, midterms or finals. Do not make travel plans that cause you to miss the midterm or final unless you are willing to get an F on either one. The only time I allow make-up finals or midterms is when you have a doctor's note for a dire illness, a death in your immediate family, or if you are a university athlete who is away for a sporting event.

There are in-class assignments given to be done in class that day. I do not allow make-ups for missing those assignments.

Classroom Protocol (Electronics) and Attendance

YOU MAY NOT USE YOUR CELL PHONE IN CLASS. If you need to have it on for family reasons, please turn it on to vibrate and leave it out of sight. If you must make an emergency text, feel free to step out of class. All other texting needs to take place before or after class. Laptops, tablets and other such technology is not allowed in class except on designated dates, such as when you are doing a presentation.

Please don't leave any trash behind when leaving class.

I usually have strict attendance policies. Based on how it goes in the first two weeks, I may emphasize them if there are problems. I request that students arrive in the first ten minutes of class. I often give quizzes at the start of class, so if you are late, you will miss it. You can be 15 minutes late to the midterm and final.

NOTE that University policy F69-24, "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."

Assignments are due at the start of class on the due date. LATE ASSIGNMENTS RECEIVE NO CREDIT. If you can't be here to turn something in, give it to a classmate. I have a mailbox in DBH 105 and in Clark Hall 471, where the Poli Sci office is located. If the assignment is in my mailbox before I go to class, it is turned in on time. If the assignment shows up during or after class time, it's considered late. You can always turn in assignments to my mailbox early.

Parking at SJSU is difficult, so give yourself plenty of time to park and to arrive on time. Driving safely should be your highest priority.

All writing assignments submitted for this class must be original work, written for you for this class (see Academic Dishonesty section in this syllabus). Double space all "hard copy" papers unless otherwise instructed. Use a normal serif font, such as 12-point Times New Roman. Anything you type that is hard to read will be graded down, so use common sense here—no red type, for example.

You are responsible for all material covered during class, whether you attend or not. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get notes and assignment info from a classmate. Specifics of assignments are discussed in class, not via email.

Check your email, and Canvas regularly. I sometimes change assignments by email or on Canvas.

If you are unable to attend class on a day when a hard-copy assignment is due, please submit it early or send it with a trusted classmate.

Please advise the instructor of any extenuating circumstances that will affect your class performance early in the semester. On my first day questionnaire, I give you a chance to

Grading Policy

There are 1,000 points in this class.

It breaks down as follows:

Short assignments, in class and out of class	100 points
Participation	50 points
City council assignment	200 points
Presentations	150 points
Court visit and paper	150 points
Visit to art installation, reflections paper	100 points
Midterm	200 points
Final	200 points

1000-850 points is an A or A-, 849-750 is a B+, B or B-, 749—630 is a C+, C or C-, 629-501 is a D+, D or D-, and 500 or below is an F. The plus and minus grades are reserved for the top 20 points and the bottom twenty points of the grade range. For example, a score of 755 would be a B-.

I don't give out extra credit. The only exception will be if there is a speaker on or near campus that I would like you to hear. In that case, I may encourage participation by asking you to write a paper about your experience. It will be worth no more than 50 points.

Off-campus Field Trips

We will take three trips off campus during the semester: once to view an art installation, once to a city council meeting and once to court. Details will follow.

More on Midterm and Final

There will be a midterm and final exam. They will be explained as they get closer. Generally, I do short answer, multiple choice type exams. Sometimes I ask you to write a paragraph or two.

Poli Sci 1, Fall 2018, MW 1:30 to 2:45 p.m.

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice. I will announce changes in class and via email if needed. I may also give unannounced quizzes and assignments in class to ensure you're attending class.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
2	8/27, 8/29	<p>Introductions to each other and to class on 8/27.</p> <p>Intro to federal government and the Constitution.</p> <p>For 8/29, skim chapters 1 and 2. Focus on chapter 2's discussion on amending the constitution and the amendments that are part of it.</p>
3	9/3, 9/5	<p>No Class on 9/3. Happy Labor Day!</p> <p>For 9/5, read Chapter 3 on federalism.</p>
4	9/10, 9/12	<p>9/10 TBD</p> <p>For 9/12, read Chapters 4 and 5 in text on Civil Rights and Liberties.</p>
5	9/17, 9/19	<p>9/17 Class walks to Japanese Internment Camp memorial at 280 S. First Street. Come to class first for some review, and we'll walk over together. Paper due on 9/24 on this experience.</p> <p>9/19: Library presentation by our librarian, Paul K. Meet in King Library 213.</p>
6	9/24, 9/26	<p>9/24: Paper due from 9/19 class trip. Also, read Chapter 7 from California Politics book. Discussion of local government in class. Meet in groups for upcoming projects on federal government benefits. Presentations on October 10 and October 17.</p> <p>9/26: Chapters 5 and 6 on public opinion and the media.</p>
7	10/1, 10/3	<p>For 10/1: Continue discussing the First Amendment. Read Chapter 7</p> <p>10/3: Read Chapter 4 and 4 California Politics book on state legislature and executive branch.</p>
8	10/8, 10/10	<p>10/8: Read Chapter 8 in California Politics, the California budget process</p> <p>10/10: First five groups present on government benefits.</p>
9	10/15, 10/17	<p>10/15: Midterm</p> <p>10/17 Continuing presentations on government benefits.</p>
10	10/22, 10/24	<p>10/22: Read Chapters 7 and 8</p> <p>Plan on attending San Jose City Council meeting on a Tuesday, either at 130 p.m. or at night, if there is a meeting. Paper due Nov. 5. See professor for alternatives if you can't go on a Tuesday.</p> <p>10/24: Read Chapter 9 on the Congress.</p>
11	10/29, 10/31	<p>10/29: Focus on California elections this week. Group presentations</p>

		on issues and candidates. Read Chapter 3 in California Politics. 10/31: continue presentations on California elections.
12	11/5,7	11/5: Paper due on San Jose City Council meeting. Read Chapters 9 and 10 in California politics on California elections. 11/7: Discussion on outcome of state and Congressional elections.
13	11/12, 14	11/12: No class. Veteran's Day observed, SJSU closed. 11/14: Read Chapter 12 on courts, and chapter 6 in California politics. Discuss courts and legal system in class.
14	11/19, 21	11/19: Meet with professor at Santa Clara County Superior Court, 191 N. First Street, San Jose at 1:45 p.m. and watch the local courts in action. Assignment can done at another time by attending court. More details to follow. Court assignment due on 11/28. 11/21: No classes today due to Thanksgiving.
15	11/26, 28	11/26: Recalls in California. Read chapter 2 in California Politics. 11/28: Read Chapter 10 on the presidency. Court assignment due from Nov. 19
16 17	12/3,5 12/10	12/3: Read Chapter 11 on bureaucracy, and the administrative law. 12/10: Read Chapter 14, Foreign Policy. Review.
	Wed. Dec. 12, 12:15 to 2:30 p.m.	FINAL in our regular classroom.

Final is Wed. Dec. 12 at 12:15 p.m.

