

# San Jose State University

## Political Science Department, Fall 2019 Pols 15, Section 3, Essentials of U.S. and California Government Friday 12:30-3:15

### Contact Information

<b>Instructor:</b>	Larry Sokoloff
<b>Office Location:</b>	Dwight Bentel Hall Room 135. DBH is across from Clark Hall
<b>Telephone:</b>	(408) 924-3243 (I prefer communication by email, and do not always check this voicemail.)
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:Larry.Sokoloff@sjsu.edu">Larry.Sokoloff@sjsu.edu</a>
<b>Office Hours:</b>	I am on campus Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Office hours are Thursday 12:35-1:15 and Friday 3:30-4:00, also by appointment.
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Friday: 12:30 to 3:15 p.m.
<b>Classroom:</b>	WSQ 207
<b>Grading:</b>	Normal Grading Rules
<b>GE:</b>	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 also can be found on Canvas. 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 once 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, 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.

## **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 final exam and the 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 final exam.
3. GELO 3 (D3): Place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts. Assessed by paper on visit to art installation.
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 art installation paper and court 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 component of class papers.
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 art installation and city council meeting.

**Required Texts/Readings**

*Globalyceum American Government: A Digital Site*  
*California Politics: A Primer*, by Renee Van Vechten

**Information on accessing Globalyceum will be provided in class and on Canvas. You can place your order for Globalyceum American Government immediately on the website: [www.globalyceum.com](http://www.globalyceum.com). You will have 14 days, until September 6, 2019, to pay with a credit card or Paypal. If you must pay by check or money order, please contact [support@globalyceum.com](mailto:support@globalyceum.com). Contact this same support if you have any problems.**

**Recommended Reading:** 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 the governor is or asks

about a current political event. These are things you will know from following the news.

### **University Policies**

Per University Policy S16-9 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf> (Links to an external site.)), relevant information to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. is available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Informationweb page](#) (Links to an external site.) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/> (Links to an external site.)”

### **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 [Academic Calendars webpage](#) at [http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic\\_calendars/](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 [Advising Hub](#) at "<http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>"

### **Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material**

[University Policy S12-7](#) at <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](#) at

<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> requires you to be honest in all your academic coursework. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](#) 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 Americans with 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](#) 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](#) (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, 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  
(408)808-2042

[Paul.kauppila@sjsu.edu](mailto:Paul.kauppila@sjsu.edu)

This year he is scheduled to speak on October 4.

## **Hang Onto Your Work**

Backup 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 some of 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. Papers that are not turned in within a week of their due date will not be accepted.

## **Missing Quizzes 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 or finals. Do not make travel plans that cause you to miss the final unless you are willing to get an F. The only time I allow make-up finals 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 EXCEPT FOR CLASS ACTIVITIES LIKE QUIZ POLLS. . 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.

Please don't have any earbuds in your ears or wear headphones during class. If you need these devices for hearing assistance, you can let me know privately on the first day.

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

Based on how attendance goes in the first two weeks, I may emphasize the need to attend class if there are problems. I request that students arrive in the first ten minutes of class.

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. If you can't be here to turn something in, give it to a classmate. I have a mailbox 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.

Assignments are due at the start of class, and will be marked down a grade if later than a half hour after class begins. Please refer to the enclosed class schedule for all assignment due dates. Papers that are not turned in within a week of their due date will not be accepted for grading.

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. 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 do so.

### **Grading Details**

Reading Quizzes (8 @ 20-30 points each)	200
Constitution Quiz	20
Paper on Art Installation (500 words)	150

Paper on City Council visit (750 words)	225
Paper on Superior Court visit (500 words)	175
Citation assignment (50 words)	30
Participation for in-class work	50
Final Exam	<u>150</u>
Total	1000

A=1000-900

B=899-800

C=799-700

D=699-501

F=500 or below

Note: Plus or minus grades are reserved for the top 20 points and the bottom 20 points of the grade range. For example, a score of 815 points would be a B-.

I do not give extra credit points. The only exception would 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**

#### **Communicating with Professor**

Due to the size of the class, please understand if I don't respond to your email immediately. I expect to have a student assistant, and that will be another conduit for communication. You are also welcome to visit me in office hours. I don't answer texts about class assignments.

### **More on Final**

There will be a final exam. It will be multiple choice, and you will need to bring a Scantron. There is no midterm in this class.

### **Course Schedule**

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.

GL=Globalyceum (Digital Site)

RVV=Renee Van Vechten (California Reader)

<b>Week: Date</b>	<b>Lecture Topic/ Readings</b>	<b>Assignments Due</b>
1: 8/23	<b>Introductions and Class Orientation</b> Review: Syllabus GL: The US Constitution	Online Constitution Quiz: Wed, 8/28, 11:55 PM

2: 8/30	<b>The Constitution, Federalism, and the Foundations of Government</b> GL: The Foundations of Government GL: Federalism GL: The Authority of the Constitution GL: The Separation of Powers	GL: Reading Quiz #1 Thurs, 8/29, 11:55 PM
3: 9/6	<b>Civil Liberties and Civil Rights</b> GL: Introduction to Federalism, Civil Liberties, and Civil Rights GL: Civil Liberties GL: Civil Rights	GL: Reading Quiz #2: Thurs, 9/5, 11:55 PM
4: 9/13	<b>Field Trip and California Legislature</b> Field Trip: Art Installations in Downtown SJ (1st hour) RVV: Chapter 4: The California Legislature (discussed during 2nd hour)	
5: 9/20	<b>US Congress and California Executive Branch</b> GL: Introduction to US Congress GL: Congress and Representation GL: Congress and the Legislative Process RVV: Chapter 5: California Executive Branch Guest Speaker (2nd hour)	Reading Quiz #3: Thurs, 9/26, 11:55 PM (Note quiz not due until next week)  Due at start of class: Art installation paper (based on 9/13 field trip)
6: 9/27	<b>Individual Field Trips to a City Council Meeting (No Class)</b>	
7: 10/4	<b>California's Local Government</b> Guest Speaker: Paul Kauppila from King Library on APA and Research (1st hour) RVV: Chapter 7: Other Governments (discussed during 2nd hour)	
8: 10/11	<b>The Judiciary: State and Federal Courts</b> GL: Selecting Judges GL: The US Supreme Court and Its Decision-Making RVV: Chapter 9: California Courts	Reading Quiz #4: Thurs, 10/10, 11:55 PM
9: 10/18	<b>The Presidency; Presidents and Foreign Policy</b> GL: The Challenges of the Trump Presidency Foreign policy movie in 2nd hour	Reading Quiz #5: Thurs, 10/17, 11:55 PM
10: 10/25	<b>The Media's Role in Government</b> GL: The Media Guest Speaker: City Council member (2nd hour)	Reading Quiz #6: Thurs, 10/24, 11:55 PM
11: 11/1	<b>California's Direct Democracy: Recall, initiative, and</b>	Due at start of class::

	<b>referendum (1st hour)</b> RVV: Chapter 3 : California's Direct Democracy <b>Public Opinion, Lobbying and Interest Groups (2nd hour)</b> GL: Understanding Public Opinion GL: Introduction: Social Movements, Interest Groups, and Political Parties GL: Groups and the Democratic Exercise of Power GL: Political Parties	City Council paper  Reading Quiz #7: Thurs, 11/7, 11:55 PM (Note: This quiz is not due until the next week)
12: 11/8	<b>Recap of Recent US Elections; Elections, Voting, Campaigning; Hot Button Issues in California</b>	
13: 11/15	<b>Class Visit to the Superior Court (followed by class discussion in 2nd hour)</b>	
14: 11/22	<b>Local Government/Courts</b> GL: Political Socialization and Values Guest speaker	Reading Quiz #8: Thurs, 11/21, 11:55 PM
15: 11/29	<b>Thanksgiving Break (No Class)</b>	No assignments due
16: 12/6	<b>Review and preparation for final</b>	Due at start of class: Superior Court papers (based on 11/15 field trip)
Final: 12/11	<b>Students whose names begin with A-L: 12:15-1:15</b> <b>Students whose names begin with M-Z: 1:25-2:25</b> <b>More details to follow.</b>	

#### Reading Quizzes and Constitution Quiz

These quizzes are on the Globalyceum site. Taking these quizzes is a very simple process of accessing the quiz on Globalyceum and completing it by the assigned day, usually Thursday at 11:55 PM. Consult the Testing Instructions on Globalyceum under **Students: Start Here!** if you have any confusion.

#### Writing Assignments

An Art Installation is based on a field. On September 13, the class will go to the Japanese Internment Memorial in downtown San Jose at 280 S. First Street. I will give you some background as to the events of Japanese internment and the reason for the memorial. You will then submit a hardcopy of your paper on September 20 at the start of class.

A City Council paper and Superior Court paper will also be based on field trips. Specific instructions for writing these papers will be provided in class. The more specific instructions for written papers will be on Canvas. The papers will be graded on grammar, spelling, and whether they answer the specific questions and directions for each paper.

### Final Exam

The comprehensive final exam is based on your lecture notes, and readings from RVV, too. It is multiple choice test and it is worth 150 points. I will provide a study guide for the final exam several weeks before finals. You must attend the final exam personally at the appointed time.

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