

San José State University
College of Social Sciences / Political Science Department
POLS 15, Essentials of U.S. & California Government,
Section 62, Fall, 2019

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Al Schendan
Office Location: Clark Hall 404 K
Telephone: (510) 382 - 9117 (Please call between 10 - 5, M - F)
Email: albert.schendan@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: M/W 2:50-3:50 pm
Class Days/Time: M/W 1:30-2:45 pm
Classroom: WSQ 207

GE/SJSU Studies Category: US2, US3 & D3

Course Format

This course will be taught using a traditional lecture based format with extensive use of the white board. However, students must have access to a computer to receive assignments and scores through Canvas. In addition, I may use Canvas to make announcements.

Course Description

University catalog <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/catalog/courses/POLS015.html>

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

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 their interactions, including cooperation and conflict, as these many and varied peoples have dealt with social, economic, and political issues.

SJSU graduation requirement of D- (if used to satisfy US2, US2, and D3)

Course and GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

Upon successful completion of this GE 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 in three exams and the Canvas activities.**
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 in three exams and the Canvas activities.**
3. **GELO 3 (D3):** Place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts. **Assessed by the 1200-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 1200-word policy paper assignment and multiple-choice questions in three exams.**
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 1200-word Policy Paper 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 the 1200-word policy paper assignment.**

Required Texts/Readings (older additions are ok)

Kenneth Janda, Jeffrey M. Berry, Jerry Goldman, Deborah Schildkraut, *The Challenge of Democracy*, 2014, 12th Edition. Wadsworth Cengage Learning, ISBN-13: 978-1-133-60233-0

Larry N. Gerston, Terry Christensen, *California Politics and Government: A Practical Approach*, 2016, 14th Edition. Wadsworth Cengage Learning, ISBN-13: 978-1305-95349-9

Study Websites:

<http://uspolitics.org/student/student.html>

http://college.cengage.com/polisci/janda/chall_dem/10e/student_home.html

http://www.cengage.com/cgi-wadsworth/course_products_wp.pl?fid=M20b&product_isbn_issn=9781133602330

Other Readings (found on the internet)

Metaphor, Morality, and Politics, Or,
Why Conservatives Have Left Liberals In the Dust

<http://www.wvcd.org/issues/Lakoff.html>

Library Liaison

Paul Kauppila is the Political Science library liaison. You may contact him for questions about Political Science research and library holdings. His email is Paul.Kauppila@sjsu.edu and his phone number is (408) 808-2042. You can also find a research guide for Political Science here: <http://libguides.sjsu.edu/politicalscience>

Writing Center

The San José State University Writing Center offers a variety of resources to help students become better writers, and all of their services are free for SJSU students. The writing center is located in the library on the second floor and appointments are available Monday-Thursday from 10 am to 3 pm.

Course Requirements and Assignments

University policy S16-9

(<http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/index.html#CreditHour>)

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 or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practice. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in this syllabus.

You may bring to all exams one 8.5 x 11 page of back-to-back handwritten notes.

EXAM #1 (100 points): Exam #1 will consist of fifty multiple-choice questions. It will cover the assigned chapters in the textbook and Canvas readings and activities for the material before the first exam. **It will assess GELOs 1-2.**

EXAM #2 (100 points): Exam #2 will consist of fifty multiple-choice questions. It will cover the assigned chapters in the textbook and Canvas readings and activities for the material after the first exam. **It will assess GELOs 1-2.**

EXAM #3 (200 points): Exam #3 will consist of 100 multiple-choice questions. Sixty to seventy-five questions will cover the assigned chapters in the textbook and Canvas readings and activities/videos for the material after the second exam. 25 to 40 questions will cover material prior to the second exam. **It will assess GELOs 1-2.**

POLICY PAPER (100 points): For this assignment, you should choose a policy issue that interests you. This can be a domestic policy issue, such as education, immigration, or health care, an international policy issue such as fighting terrorism, or a California state policy issue such as education funding. You will research this issue, describe and critically evaluate both the current policy and any proposed policy changes. Finally, you will describe your own position on this issue and at least one action you could take as a citizen in support of your policy preference. More details and the rubric for this assignment are available in Canvas. The final draft of your Policy Paper is due on the last day of instruction at 11:59 pm and must be submitted to Canvas. Your submission must be in one of the following file formats: Microsoft Word (.doc/.docx), OpenOffice (.odt), WordPerfect (.wpd), or PostScript (.ps) . Papers in the following conditions will receive a zero: not submitted in a required format or a corrupted file (it can't be read and Turnitin.com can't assess plagiarism), late (beyond a 15 minute grace period), incomplete papers, high similarity ratings by Turnitin.com (25 % or above), or emailed to me. For details on how your paper will be graded please see the rubric attached to your assignment in Canvas. **It will assess GELOs 3-6.**

CANVAS ACTIVITIES AND VIDEOS (80 points): There are several assignments that will be posted on canvas or watched during the class period that require handwritten responses. Each Canvas activity will include the assignment and requirements for submission. All activities, except the Policy Paper or possible extra-credit assignments, should be completed and turned in on the day of the corresponding exam and not to Canvas. Be sure to staple multiple pages together and include your full legal name in the upper right corner. It will assess GELOs 1-2

Final Examination or Evaluation

University policy S17-1 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S17-1.pdf>)

Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment.

Exam #3 is the final exam and will consist of 100 multiple-choice questions. Sixty to seventy-five questions will cover the assigned chapters in the textbook and the Canvas readings and activities/videos for the material covered after the second exam. Twenty to forty questions will be culled from material covered before exam two for a total of 100 questions. Please bring **two** 882 Scantrons to the final exam. You may bring a one page back-to-back handwritten sheet to the final exam.

Grading Information

The grade you receive in this course will be determined by the points you earn for Exams #1, #2, and #3, as well as the Policy Paper, and the Canvas Activities. In addition, all exams include extra credit questions and other opportunities might be provided and announced in class or via Canvas. **Exam dates are subject to change and will be confirmed in class.** Different activities must be submitted on specific days-please see the course schedule and/or Canvas for due dates.

EXAMS & ASSIGNMENTS GELOs ASSESSED	POINTS POSSIBLE	WEIGHT
EXAM #1 GELOs 1-2	3/4/2019 100 POINTS	17.24 %
EXAM #2 GELOs 1-2	4/15/2019 100 POINTS	17.24%
EXAM #3 GELOs 1-2	5/16/2019 200 POINTS	34.48%
POLICY PAPER GELOs 3-6	5/13/2019 100 POINTS	17.24%
CANVAS ACTIVITIES & VIDEOS GELOs 1-2	80 POINTS	13.79%
<i>580 TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE</i>		

A plus= 97 to 100 %
A= 93 to 96 %

A minus=	90 to 92 %
B plus=	87 to 89 %
B=	83 to 86 %
B minus=	80 to 82 %
C plus=	77 to 79 %
C=	73 to 76 %
C minus=	70 to 72 %
D plus=	67 to 69 %
D=	63 to 66 %
D minus=	60 to 62 %
F=	0 to 59 %

NOTE that University policy F15-12 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf> states that “Students are expected to attend all meetings for the courses in which they are enrolled as they are responsible for material discussed therein, and active participation is frequently essential to ensure maximum benefit to all class members. In some cases, attendance is fundamental to course objectives; for example, students may be required to interact with others in the class. Attendance is the responsibility of the student.”

Missed Exams and Missed Work

If you miss an exam and have a valid documented excuse, I will allow you to make up the exam on December 10th at 9 am in Clark 404K. However, if you wish to take a make-up exam before December 10th, please see me so we can coordinate. Your Canvas activities must be turned in at that time and will not be counted late. If you take an exam and do not submit your assignment, extra-credit, or other work and miss the submission time and/or date for any submitted work, I reserve the right to not accept your work or deduct half the possible available points for the assignment.

Extra Credit

All exams include at least 2 extra credit questions. In addition, I may announce other opportunities in class and/or via Canvas. Should there be additional assignments for extra points they will be due at the final exam and should not be submitted to Canvas or be typed.

Classroom Protocol

This course requires you to attend regularly and participate actively through discussions and questions. You should arrive on time and remain seated at your desk for the full length of the period. In addition, cell phones and computers should be turned off and stored in your bag. Please see me if you have any questions regarding expectations or acceptable devices in the classroom.

Consent for recording of class and public sharing of instructor material

University Policy S12-7, <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.”
- 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 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/>” Be sure to review these policies and resources. Additional policies may be found here: http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/policies/pol_chron/

Disability Access

Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor. The Accessible Education Center (AEC) is available to facilitate the reasonable accommodations process. The AEC is located at One Washington Square in ADM 110 and can be reached by telephone (voice/408-924-6000, or by email at: aec-info@sjsu.edu or aec-exams@sjsu.edu .

Student disclosures of sexual violence

San Jose State University requires all incoming students to complete **Sexual Assault Prevention for Undergraduates** or **Sexual Assault Prevention for Graduate Students**,

mandatory online sexual assault prevention trainings. Title IX requires higher education institutions to take necessary precautions to prevent sexual assault on their campuses, and to respond promptly and effectively when an assault is reported. To fully comply with Title IX, the CSU Chancellor's Office issued [Executive Order 1095](#) which mandates educational training programs to help prevent sexual violence. For more information and resources, go to: <http://notalone.sjsu.edu>

For more information go to: <http://www.sjsu.edu/wellness/onlinetraining/>

**POLS 15, Essentials of U.S. and California Government,
Section 62, Fall 2019, Course Schedule**
Complete each reading assignment before coming to class.

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice that will be announced in class and/or via Canvas.

Week	Date	Lecture Topics and Reading Assignments
1	8/21	COURSE INTRODUCTION POLITICS & POWER Read: Course Syllabus
2	8/26	ORIGINS OF GOVERNMENT AND DEMOCRACY Read: Ch. 1 & Ch. 2
2	8/28	FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT Read: Ch. 3 Read: Appendix A1: Declaration of Independence
3	9/2	No Class – Labor Day! Read: Ch. 3
3	9/4	FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT Read: Ch. 3
4	9/9	THE CONSTITUTION Read: Ch. 3 <i>Canvas Activity:</i> Constitution Outline
4	9/11	THE CONSTITUTION Federalist vs. Antifederalists Read: Ch. 3 <i>Canvas Activity video:</i> An Empire of Reason https://vimeo.com/231093077

5	9/16	THE CONSTITUTION GROWTH AND CHANGE Read: Ch. 3
5	9/18	GROWTH AND CHANGE Read: Ch. 3 & 4 CA- Ch 1
6	9/23	FEDERALISM Read: Ch 4 CA- Ch. 9, 10
6	9/25	<u>EXAM # 1</u> Covers all readings, lectures, and videos from the first day through the Federalism lecture. Please be sure to bring the following: an 882 Scantron, your handwritten back-to-back exam help sheet, and your stapled handwritten Canvas activities.
7	9/30	METAPHOR, MORALITY, AND POLITICS Conservatives – Strict Fathers Read: http://www.wgcd.org/issues/Lakoff.html
7	10/2	METAPHOR, MORALITY, AND POLITICS Read: http://www.wgcd.org/issues/Lakoff.html
8	10/7	METAPHOR, MORALITY, AND POLITICS Liberals – Nurturant Parents Read: http://www.wgcd.org/issues/Lakoff.html
8	10/9	INTEREST GROUPS Read: Ch. 10 CA – Ch.4
9	10/14	INTEREST GROUPS Read: Ch. 10
9	10/16	POLITICAL PARTIES Read: Ch. 8
10	10/21	POLITICAL PARTIES & DIRECT DEMOCRACY Read: Ch. 8 Read: CA- Ch. 2
10	10/23	THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE Read: Ch. 9 <i>Canvas Activity:</i> http://www.people-press.org/quiz/political-typology/

11	10/28	THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE Read: Ch. 9
11	10/30	THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE Read: Ch. 9 CA – Ch. 8
12	11/4	EXAM # 2 Covers all readings, lectures, and videos from Ideology through Electoral College. Be sure to bring an 882 Scantron, your one page of back-to-back handwritten notes, and your Canvas Activity.
12	11/6	THE LEGISLATURE Read: Ch. 11
13	11/11	THE LEGISLATURE Read: Ch. 11 & CA- Ch. 5
13	11/13	THE LEGISLATURE Read: Ch. 11 CA- Ch. 8
14	11/18	THE EXECUTIVE Read: Ch. 12 <i>Canvas Activity Video : Obama's Deal</i> http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/obamasdeal/ <i>Canvas Activity Video: A look at Obama's first term</i> http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/inside-obamas-presidency/
14	11/20	THE EXECUTIVE Read: CA – Ch. 7
15	11/25	THE COURTS Read: Ch. 14 CA – Ch. 6
15	11/27	No Class - Thanksgiving Break
16	12/2	CIVIL LIBERTIES Read: Ch. 15
16	12/4	CIVIL LIBERTIES & CIVIL RIGHTS Read: Ch. 15 & 16

17	12/9	<p>CIVIL RIGHTS Read: Ch. 16</p> <p>Final Policy Paper is due 12/9/19 at 11:59 pm</p>
	12/13	<p>Final Exam 12:15-2:30 pm in WSQ 207 . Exam #3 - the Final exam, will consist of 100 multiple-choice questions. Sixty to seventy-five questions will cover the assigned chapters in the textbook and the Canvas readings and activities/videos for the material after the second exam. Twenty to forty questions will cover material prior to the second exam. Please be sure to arrive on time and bring the following: <u>two</u> 882 Scantrons , your handwritten back-to-back exam help sheet, and your stapled handwritten Canvas activities.</p>