

WRITING IN THE MAJOR
Pols 100w – Spring 2019
San José State University



Where have you seen this before?

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Lawrence Quill

LECTURE TIMES: 10:30AM - 11:45AM

LECTURE LOCATION: DMH 160

COURSE WEBSITE: CANVAS

OFFICE HOURS: TR 7:00AM-7:30AM, 12:00PM TO 12:30PM (ZOOM), 12:30PM-1:30PM
AND BY APPOINTMENT.

OFFICE LOCATION: CLARK HALL 455

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a workshop designed for political science majors. Quizzes are designed to enhance students understanding of grammar and punctuation. Short writing assignments are designed to foster critical thinking, reading, and writing skills. A research paper on a topic of the student's choosing will form the main focus of the course. A minimum of 8000 written words is required for the completion of the course.

This course must be passed with a C or better as an SJSU graduation requirement.

PREREQUISITES

Students should be aware that this is a reading and writing intensive course.

Useful Resources

<http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/onlineresources/>

<http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/handouts/index.html>

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they 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 Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the Writing Center website: www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter.

For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook."



STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course is a required "core" course for Political Science majors. It fulfills the Written Communication II (Z) General Education Requirement. Success in this course is dependent upon active engagement with the reading, research, and writing process. By the end of the course, students should feel comfortable writing short and long pieces, be comfortable revising and editing their own work and that of others, and be comfortable presenting their ideas to an audience.

Grading Scale

A PLUS	97 to 100
A	93 to 96
A MINUS	90 to 93
B PLUS	86 to 89
B	83 to 85
B MINUS	80 to 82
C PLUS	77 to 79
C	73 to 76
C MINUS	70 to 72
D PLUS	66 to 69
D	63 to 65
D MINUS	60 to 62
NP or F	59 or less

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES (CLOs)

BY THE END OF THE COURSE STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO:

CLO 1: PRODUCE DISCIPLINE-SPECIFIC WRITTEN WORK THAT DEMONSTRATES UPPER-DIVISION PROFICIENCY IN LANGUAGE USE, GRAMMAR, AND CLARITY OF EXPRESSION.

CLO2: EXPLAIN, ANALYZE, DEVELOP AND CRITICIZE IDEAS EFFECTIVELY, INCLUDING IDEAS ENCOUNTERED IN MULTIPLE READINGS AND EXPRESSED IN DIFFERENT FORMS OF DISCOURSE.

CLO3: ORGANIZE AND DEVELOP ESSAYS AND DOCUMENTS FOR BOTH PROFESSIONAL AND GENERAL AUDIENCES.

CLO4: ORGANIZE AND DEVELOP ESSAYS AND DOCUMENTS ACCORDING TO APPROPRIATE EDITORIAL AND CITATION STANDARDS.

CLO5: LOCATE, ORGANIZE, AND SYNTHESISE INFORMATION EFFECTIVELY TO ACCOMPLISH A SPECIFIC PURPOSE, AND TO COMMUNICATE THAT PURPOSE IN WRITING.

CLO	ASSIGNMENT	%	DUE DATE
CLO 1	GRAMMAR QUIZZES 1,2,3,4,5	15	CHECK CANVAS
CLO 1,2,3,4, 5	SHORT WRITTEN RESPONSES 1,2,3	30	CHECK CANVAS
CLO 1,2,3,4 5	POSITION PAPER	50	CHECK CANVAS
CLO 2,3,4,5	POWER POINT PRESENTATION	5	CHECK CANVAS

ASSIGNMENTS

Grammar Quizzes (15%) You are required to take 5 grammar quizzes over the course of the semester. These will be posted on the Canvas system.

Short Written Responses (30%) Students will learn how to develop an analysis, outline, draft, reverse outline, redraft, edit, revise, and submit for each short response.

Position Paper

The Position Paper is composed of four sections: the cover page, a proposed research topic, a literature review based on this topic, and a bibliography.

The Topic outlines in detail the student's interest in the subject and its significance for the study of politics. This is the "So what?" part of the proposal. (500 words)

The Annotated Bibliography situates the Topic in relation to the research topic. Relevant materials from scholarly sources are required. This is the, “I know what I am talking about” part of the proposal. (1000 words)

The bibliography is an accurate catalog of the materials to be used in the research paper. It is normally between 2-4 pages in length. This is the, “See, I know how to use MLA or APA” part of the proposal.

The materials from the research proposals will eventually be incorporated into the introduction to the research paper. This means that once you’ve perfected the proposal on the proposal, you’ve already written a good portion of the research paper and you’ve made an excellent plan for what you have left to do.

Position Paper

The research paper is 3000 words in length not including the cover page, notes, and bibliography.

Students will submit multiple drafts for feedback over the course of the semester. The final version will be graded on the strength of the analysis, the elegance of the writing, the conventions of grammar and punctuation, and adherence to a citation style.

Power Point Presentation

At the very end of the course students will be required to present a summary of their research paper in PowerPoint or Keynote format to the class. Students will be limited to 5 slides, excluding a title slide, and a notes/bibliography slide. Each presentation will be limited to 4 minutes in duration, with one minute for Q & A (time permitting).

CALENDAR

Please see the Canvas Website for complete information concerning due dates for all the Quizzes, Short Responses, and Position Paper deadlines.

Course Requirements

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. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>."

Because this is a 3-unit course, students can expect to spend a minimum of 9 hours per week preparing for and attending classes and completing course assignments. Careful time management will be required to keep up with readings and assignments in an intensive course such as this one.

Political Science Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the Political Science major program, students should be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes.

PSPLO1: Breadth

Students should possess a broad knowledge of the theory and methods of the various branches of the discipline.

PSPLO2: Application

Students should be able to apply a variety of techniques to identify, understand, and analyze domestic and international political issues and organizations.

PSPLO2: Application and Disciplinary Methods

Students should be able to formulate research questions, engage in systematic literature searches using primary and secondary sources, evaluate research studies, and critically analyze and interpret influential political texts. Students should be able to apply these techniques to identify, understand, and analyze domestic and international political issues and organizations.

PSPLO3: 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.

PSPLO4: 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

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](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>"

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT

Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San José State University, and the University's Academic Integrity Policy 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 policy on academic integrity can be found with the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development at http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct

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 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 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with DRC to establish a record of their disability.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR: STUDENT RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

See <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/s90-5.htm> about Academic Senate Policy S90-5

PLAGIARISM

See http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct (Office of Student Conduct & Ethical Dev)

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.

Arguably the best way to improve your own writing is to read quality material on a regular basis. To that end, students are encouraged to read articles from scholarly sources but also newspapers such as The Wall Street Journal, The Financial Times, The New York Times, and The Economist. These publications also contain articles of direct relevance to their political science classes.

QUESTIONS?

Finally, if you get stuck, feel overwhelmed, or just want to clarify something from the reading, ask me. I am here to help.