

**San José State University**  
**Social Sciences/Political Science**  
**102, State Politics, 01, Fall, 2020**

**Course and Contact Information**

Instructor:	Fred Keeley
Office Location:	Via Zoom or Telephone
Telephone:	831 227 7906
Email:	FrederickKeeley2016@gmail.com
Office Hours:	By appointment 60-90 minutes prior to class
Class Days/Time:	Mondays 6:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.
Classroom:	On-Line via Zoom

**Course Format**

This state politics undergraduate course will use a lecture, reading, writing, and class participation format.

**Course Description**

This state politics course is intended to provide students with a general understanding of California state government and politics. Students will study the three branches of state government, their relationship to the federal and local governments, major state government processes (budget, law making, oversight), and the political environment in which that all takes place.

**Learning Outcomes**

- LO 1: Students will complete this course, having the ability to distinguish powers and responsibilities of the three branches of state government;
- LO 2: Students will complete this course, having a working understanding of the California budget process;
- LO 3: Students will complete this course, having a working understanding of the relationships between state government in California, and the federal government as well as local governments;
- LO 4: Students will complete this course, having an understanding of the two major political belief systems at work in state government.

## **Program Learning Outcomes**

### **Breadth**

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

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

## **Required Texts/Readings**

**Textbook:** California Politics and Government, A Practical Approach. Ninth Edition, Larry N. Gerston, Terry Christensen

### **Other Readings:**

Governor's 2020 State of the State Address

Governor's Proposed 2020-21 Fiscal Year Proposed Budget – Proposed in August 2020

Legislative Analyst Response and Crosscutting Issues Re: Proposed 2020-21 FY Budget

Department of Finance August Review of Governor's Caseload and Revenue Estimates

Individual Legislation in the 2019-20 Legislative Session

## **Course Requirements and Assignments**

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 three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Reading assignments will assist students in preparation for class lectures. Such assignments will be given in class one week prior to associated lectures.

Written assignments will be based on reading and lectures, and represent an opportunity for students to demonstrate their grasp and understanding of the subject matter.

A significant portion of a student's grade will be based on a several- week exercise called "simulation". Students will prepare a "role model" paper, conduct small group work, and participate fully in a simulated legislative hearing at the end of the instructional semester.

## **Final Examination or Evaluation**

SJSU policy requires that faculty members "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.” In this course, the final examination will be in memorandum format, based on a hypothetical state government situation to which the student will respond.

### Grading Information

Grading will be based on four elements:

1. Written Assignments. This component will be valued at 25% of grade, excluding mid-term and final examination.
2. Mid-Term Examination. This component will be valued at 25% of grade, and will be in memorandum format in response to a hypothetical situation presented in the context of state government.
3. Final Examination. This is valued at 25% of grade, and will be in memorandum format in response to a hypothetical state government challenge.
4. In-Class Participation. This is valued at 25% of grade, and is based on in-class participation by individual students.

### Grading (continued)

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>A plus</i>	<i>960 to 1000</i>	<i>96 to 100%</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>930 to 959</i>	<i>93 to 95%</i>
<i>A minus</i>	<i>900 to 929</i>	<i>90 to 92%</i>
<i>B plus</i>	<i>860 to 899</i>	<i>86 to 89 %</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>830 to 829</i>	<i>83 to 85%</i>
<i>B minus</i>	<i>800 to 829</i>	<i>80 to 82%</i>
<i>C plus</i>	<i>760 to 799</i>	<i>76 to 79%</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>730 to 759</i>	<i>73 to 75%</i>
<i>C minus</i>	<i>700 to 729</i>	<i>70 to 72%</i>
<i>D plus</i>	<i>660 to 699</i>	<i>66 to 69%</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>630 to 659</i>	<i>63 to 65%</i>
<i>D minus</i>	<i>600 to 629</i>	<i>60 to 62%</i>

### Classroom Protocol

It is expected that when students come to class they will give the material their undivided attention. Please ensure that communication devices are on vibrate, and quietly leave the learning space if you MUST take a call during class. Do not engage in any behavior that will detract from a positive learning environment for other students.

### University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), 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 Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>”



<b>Week (Optional)</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</b> <i>(If appropriate, add any extra column(s) to meet your needs.)</i>
Final Exam	TBA	The Final Examination will be in memorandum format, addressing a hypothetical situation facing California government.