

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY
Pols3 (99) – Fall 2020
San José State University

INSTRUCTOR : Professor Lawrence Quill

LECTURE TIMES: ONLINE

LECTURE LOCATION : ONLINE

COURSE WEBSITE: CANVAS

OFFICE HOURS: T/TR 12:00PM-2:00PM VIA ZOOM AND BY APPOINTMENT .

OFFICE LOCATION : CLARK HALL 455

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will focus on four broad categories of political thought. We begin with the relationship between individual citizens and the societies in which they live. *Is there a fundamental conflict between being a good person and being a good citizen?* Then we will examine political power. *How should we deal with the darker side of politics – the violence and coercion that lies behind the state?* Then we will turn to the subject of justice and equality. *Would we really want societies that were perfectly equal?* Finally, we will consider revolution and change in political life. *How have reformers sought to justify greater equality in the human condition, especially for groups that have been deprived of equal social and political power?*

COURSE FORMAT

This is an Online course. Students will need access to a computer or similar device to view lectures, conduct scholarly research, read assigned material, review worksheets, answer quizzes, midterms, and finals, and submit writing assignments. Office hours will also be held online each week via the Zoom app.

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](http://sjsu.instructure.com) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>.

You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU on [Spartan App Portal](http://one.sjsu.edu) <http://one.sjsu.edu> to learn of any updates.

For help with using Canvas see [Canvas Student Resources page](http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching_tools/canvas/student_resources) (http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching_tools/canvas/student_resources)

PREREQUISITES

Students should be aware that this is a reading and writing intensive course. All students need some background in the critical reading of original texts. Political Science 3 offers an opportunity to develop the skills required in reading original sources. It is the suggested prerequisite for other theory courses offered in the department.

REQUIRED TEXTS – AVAILABLE ONLINE

Plato, The Trial and Death of Socrates/The Last Days of Socrates

Machiavelli, The Prince

Etienne de la Boétie, Discourse on Voluntary Servitude

More, Utopia

Rousseau, Basic Political Writings

Marx, The Communist Manifesto

Mill, On Liberty

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course is a required “core” course for Political Science majors. For minors, this course may be counted towards the 6 units of lower division courses required for the minor, Majors may count this course both for their major and for the GE Core. For General Education, this course satisfies the C2 “Letters” requirement of the GE core. This course is designed both for political science students and those from other majors.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Essay (30%)

Midterm (15%) Final (15%)

Quizzes (40%)

University Policy S16 -9, Course Syllabi (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16 -9.pdf>) requires the following language to be included in the syllabus:

“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.”

Grading Scale

A plus 96 to 100
A 93 to 95
A minus 90 to 92
B plus 86 to 89
B 83 to 85
B minus 80 to 82
C plus 76 to 79
C 73 to 75
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

This course must be passed with a C - or better as a CSU graduation requirement.

Late work will be assigned a numerical score of 0.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES (CLO s)

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

CLO1: PRESENT IN WRITING THEORETICALLY /HISTORICALLY INFORMED OPINIONS CONCERNING THE APPLICABILITY OF DIFFERENT THEORETICAL SYSTEMS TO SELECTED PUBLIC POLICY AREAS

CLO2: PRESENT IN WRITING SOME ACCOUNT OF THE WAY POLITICAL SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES EMPLOY THE APPLICATION OF COMPETING THEORETICAL APPROACHES IN MATTERS OF PUBLIC POLICY AND NATIONAL /INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

CLO3: RECOGNIZE SOME WIDELY EMPLOYED THEORETICAL PRINCIPLES WITHIN THE POLITICAL HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES AND BEYOND , ACROSS THE POLITICAL CULTURE MORE BROADLY , UNDERSTANDING THEIR LOGIC AND THEIR SCOPE OF APPLICATION

CLO	ASSIGNMENT	%	DUE DATE
CLO 1,2,3	ESSAY	30	SEE CANVAS
CLO 3	MIDTERM	15	SEE CANVAS
CLO3	FINAL EXAM	15	SEE CANVAS
CLO 3	QUIZZES	40	SEE CANVAS

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

PER [UNIVERSITY POLICY S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) ([HTTP://WWW .SJSU.EDU/SENATE/DOCS/S16-9.PDF](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf)), RELEVANT UNIVERSITY POLICY CONCERNING ALL COURSES , SUCH AS STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES , ACADEMIC INTEGRITY , ACCOMMODATIONS , DROPPING AND ADDING , CONSENT FOR RECORDING OF CLASS , ETC. AND AVAILABLE STUDENT SERVICES (E.G. LEARNING ASSISTANCE , COUNSELING , AND OTHER RESOURCES) ARE LISTED ON [SYLLABUS INFORMATION WEB PAGE](#) ([HTTP://WWW .SJSU.EDU/GUP/SYLLABUSINFO](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo)), WHICH IS HOSTED BY THE OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION .

MAKE SURE TO VISIT THIS PAGE TO REVIEW AND BE AWARE OF THESE UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES .

CALENDAR - SEE CANVAS

Course Requirements

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of four -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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) 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 nine 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.

For this class, students will complete two in -class examinations, and two full -length research essays, which require detailed review of the primary source material and the application of at least two outside scholarly sources relevant to the research topic.

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 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.

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.

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.

For assistance, please visit the SJSU Writing Center staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists. Writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. It is

your responsibility to arrange a time to meet with the instructors. Consult with your professor in advance to determine whether you need assistance with your writing.

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 or lectures, ask me. I am here to help.