

San Jose State University

Political Science Department, Spring 2020 Pols 15, Section 7, Essentials of U.S. and California Government Friday 9:30-12:15

Contact Information

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| Instructor: | Larry Sokoloff |
| Office Location: | Dwight Bentel Hall Room 135. DBH is across from Clark Hall. My mailbox is in Clark Hall 471 |
| Telephone: | (408) 924-3243 (I prefer communication by email, and do not always check this voicemail.) |
| Email: | Larry.Sokoloff@sjsu.edu |
| Office Hours: | I am on campus Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Office hours are Tuesday 2:45 to 3:15 p.m., Thursday 2:45 to 3:45, and Friday 1 to 1:30 p.m. You can also meet by appointment. |
| Class Days/Time: | Friday: 9:30 to 12:15 p.m. |
| Classroom: | BBC 202 |
| Grading: | Normal Grading Rules |
| GE: | Satisfies American Institutions requirements in American and California government |
| Canvas: | https://sjsu.instructure.com/ |

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 or my TA to find out what you missed. My slides will not be posted.

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 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 city council or court 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

Textbook

California Politics: A Primer, by Renee Van Vechten

Online course materials, including readings and quizzes

Globalyceum American Government: A Digital Site

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. You will have 14 days, until Feb. 7, 2020, to pay

with a credit card or Paypal. If you must pay by check or money order, please contact 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.

Library Liaison

Paul Kauppila
(408)808-2042

Paul.kauppila@sjsu.edu

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.

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 not turned in during class time. 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.

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 Fedex, to print out your assignment. You can also print it out at the campus computer center.

Missing Quizzes or 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. Situations where I allow make-up finals include 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. Students should speak to

me about re-scheduling the final if they have more than three or more finals in one day.

There are in-class assignments given to be done in class that day. I do not allow make-ups for missing those assignments.

Final Exam

There will be a final exam. It will be held on Wed. May 13 at 7:15 a.m. I know! The final will be a multiple choice exam, and you will need to bring a Scantron. The comprehensive final exam is based on your lecture notes, and readings from Globalyceum and RVV, too. The final lasts until 9:30 a.m.

The classroom is too small to allow everyone to take it at the same time, so I expect last names A-L to take it in the first hour, and for last names M-Z to arrive to take it at 8:20. Students who need the full time to take the final will be given the time they need. This has always worked out well. See me if you have any concerns.

I will provide a study guide with key terms (a half sheet of paper) several weeks before the final. You can bring one 3x5 index card with notes to the final.

Determination of Grades

| | |
|---|----------------|
| 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 | 50-75 |
| Final Exam | <u>125-150</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-.

Details on Reading Quizzes and Constitution Quiz

Details on three papers in this class

The art installation paper is based on a field trip. On February 14, 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 February 28 at the start of class.

A City Council paper and Superior Court paper will also be based on field trips during March and April. 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, paper length, spelling, and whether they answer the specific questions and directions for each paper. We walk to each field trip, or you can meet us there.

Details on Citation Assignment and Participation Grades

There is a citation assignment, which involves doing research on a peer-reviewed journal article and incorporating it into a paper. It will be offered as additional work for the city council or court visit paper. More details will follow.

Participation is measured by in-class quizzes, and assignments. You'll want to attend class to get these points. It might be doing an assignment in class or writing about a speaker you've heard in class.

Extra credit

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.

Classroom Protocol

Electronics, Attendance, Assignments Due (Electronics) and Attendance

When we have guest speakers, and we will have them often, I expect all electronics to be turned off as a courtesy. If you need to take notes, please use a piece of paper.

If I feel that the use of laptops and tablets is interfering with the class, I may ask you to turn them off during the semester.

Cellphones are not allowed to be used in class except for class activities like quiz polls. If you need to have your phone nearby for family reasons, please turn it on vibrate and leave it out of sight. If you need to make an emergency text, please step outside.

Earbuds and earphones should be off your head during class time. If you need these devices for hearing assistance, let me know the first day.

Other Classroom Rules

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. Class also will meet after a break at approximately 11 a.m., so again try not to arrive too late after 11 a.m.

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.

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.

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.

Communicating with Professor

Due to the size of the class, please understand if I don't respond to your email immediately. You are also welcome to visit me in office hours.

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/.
- 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) 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 failed 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) at 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) (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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf) 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>.

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)

| Week: Date | Lecture Topic/ Readings | Assignments Due |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| 1: 1/24 | Introductions and Class Orientation Review: Syllabus GL: The US Constitution | Online Constitution Quiz: Thurs. Jan. 30, 11:55 PM |
| 2: 1/31 | The Constitution, Federalism, and the Foundations of Government GL: The Foundations of Government GL: Federalism GL: The Authority of the Constitution GL: The Separation of Powers | GL: Reading Quiz #1 Thurs, 2/6, 11:55 PM |
| 3: 2/7 | Civil Liberties and Civil Rights GL: Introduction to Federalism, Civil Liberties, and Civil Rights GL: Civil Liberties GL: Civil Rights | GL: Reading Quiz #2: Thurs. 2/13, 11:55 p.m. |
| 4: 2/14 | Field Trip and Discussion of Congress Field Trip: Art Installations in Downtown SJ (9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.) | Reading Quiz #3: Due Thurs. 2/20 @ 11:55 p.m. |
| 5: 2/21 | US Congress and California Executive Branch GL: Introduction to US Congress GL: Congress and Representation GL: Congress and the Legislative Process RVV: Chapter 4: The California Legislature (discussed during 2nd hour) Guest speaker at 10 a.m. | |
| 6: 2/28 | Discussion of California primary election on March 3 RVV: Chapter 5: California Executive Branch Guest Speaker from library 11 a.m. to 1130 a.m. | Art installation paper due at start of class |
| 7: 3/6 | California's Local Government RVV: Chapter 7: Other Governments | |

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| 8: 3/13 | The Judiciary: State and Federal Courts GL: Selecting Judges GL: The US Supreme Court and Its Decision-Making RVV: Chapter 9: California Courts Second hour: Guest speaker from San Jose City Council | Reading Quiz #4: Thurs, 3/12, 11:55 PM |
| 9: 3/20 | The Presidency; Presidents and Foreign Policy GL: The Challenges of the Trump Presidency Foreign policy movie in 2nd hour | Reading Quiz #5: Thurs, 3/19, 11:55 PM |
| 10: 3/27 | The Media's Role in Government GL: The Media Possible Guest Speaker SPRING BREAK IS FROM March 30- April 5. No class on Friday April 3. | Reading Quiz #6: Thurs, 3/26, 11:55 PM City Council Paper due at start of class |
| 11: 4/10 | California's Direct Democracy: Recall, initiative, and referendum (1st hour) RVV: Chapter 3: California's Direct Democracy Public Opinion, Lobbying and Interest Groups (2nd hour) GL: Understanding Public Opinion GL: Introduction: Social Movements, Interest Groups, and Political Parties GL: Groups and the Democratic Exercise of Power GL: Political Parties Second hour: Guest speaker from District Attorney's Office | Reading Quiz #7: Thurs, 4/9, 11:55 PM |
| 12: 4/17 | Earth Day discussion of relevant govt. agencies Possible guest speaker | |
| 13: 4/24 | Class Visit to the Superior Court from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Class begins again at 11:30 a.m. | |
| 14: 5/1 | Local Government/Courts GL: Political Socialization and Values | Reading Quiz #8: Thurs, 4/30, 11:55 PM |
| | | |
| 15: 5/8 | Review and preparation for final | Due at start of class: Superior Court papers (based on 4/24 field trip) |
| Final exam: 5/13 | Students whose last names begin with A-L arrive at 7:15 a.m Students whose last names begin with M-Z arrive at | |

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| | 8:20 a.m. | |
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