

San José State University
Department of Political Science
Pols 170V-03: American Politics in a Global Perspective
Spring 2020

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Halil Yenigun
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Office Hours:	Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00-11:00 am; additional hours by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:00-4:15 pm
Classroom:	DMH (Dudley Moorhead Hall) 149A
Prerequisites:	WST; 100W recommended
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	AI (US2 & US3); V

Course Format

This course is designed primarily as a lecture type course that includes in-class discussions and viewing of visual materials. Moreover, we will use Canvas Learning Management System (<http://sjsu.instructure.com>) for additional readings, uploading assignments, and possibly for other functions that could enhance learning in this course. You should be able to have access to a computer or a smart phone capable of accessing this page at <https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1358922>. You will need to use your student ID information to log in to our course's Canvas page.

You are also responsible for regularly checking with the announcements on Canvas and messaging system through MySJSU on [Spartan App Portal http://one.sjsu.edu](http://one.sjsu.edu). Please set your notifications on Canvas accordingly as you may miss critical information conveyed through Canvas announcements.

Course Description (from the [university catalog](#))

A survey of U.S. and California political institutions and culture in comparison with political institutions and cultures outside the U.S. GE Area: V, as well as American Institutions Requirement: US2 and US3

Prerequisites: Completion of Core GE, satisfaction of writing skills test and upper division standing. Note: All SJSU Studies courses require completion of the WST and upper division standing.

Department of Political Science Learning Outcomes

The Political Science Department has the following objectives for its students:

- **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.

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

This class fulfills the American Institutions (US2 and US3) General Education requirements, along with the SJSU Studies V General Education Requirement. In order to achieve the objectives of these requirements, upon successful completion of this course,

LO 1: Students will be able to explain how political decisions are made, their consequences for individuals and society, and how individuals and groups may affect the decision-making process. As students analyze the meaning and content of the democratic process as it has evolved in the United States and California, at a minimum, they should be able to describe:

- a) the foundations of the political system, including the evolution of the philosophies of the U.S. and California constitutions, political culture, separation of powers, bureaucracy, federalism, and relations among various levels of government. Students should also analyze the evolving institutions of government, including a study of the powers of the President, Congress, and the Judiciary;
- b) the links between the people and government, including participation and voting, political parties, interest/lobbying groups, and public opinion and socialization. Students should also analyze the rights and obligations of citizens, the tension between various freedoms of expression, including issues related to censorship and freedom of speech, due process and the maintenance of order, the efforts to end racial, gender and other forms of discriminatory practices in both the public and private sectors of society; and
- c) the operations of California government, including the similarities and differences between the California and U.S. Constitutions, the relationship between state and local government in California, the basic issues of California politics, and a careful assessment of the impact of demographic changes on the history and politics of the state and the nation.

Online quizzes on the U.S. federal and California government, policy briefs and papers, as well as midterm and final exams are going to assess learning outcomes on these learning objectives.

LO2: Students should also be able to:

- a) identify the tools of political action and collective decision-making at the local, state, national, and global level; and
- b) articulate the values and assumptions that inform their civic engagement

Online quizzes on the U.S. federal and California government, policy briefs and papers, as well as midterm and final exams are going to assess learning outcomes on these learning objectives.

LO3: Students shall be able to compare systematically the ideas, values, images, cultural artifacts, economic structures, technological developments, or attitudes of people from more than one culture outside the U.S.

Online quizzes on the chapters from the American Anomaly book as well as selected articles on Japan, France, Germany, and other countries, policy briefs and papers, as well as midterm and final exams are going to assess learning outcomes on these learning objectives.

LO 4: Students shall be able to identify the historical context of ideas and cultural traditions outside the U.S. and how they have influenced American culture.

Online quizzes on the chapters from the American Anomaly book as well as selected articles on Japan, France, Germany, and other countries, policy briefs and papers, as well as midterm and final exams are going to assess learning outcomes on these learning objectives.

LO 5: Students shall be able to explain how a culture outside the U.S. has changed in response to internal and external pressures.

Online quizzes on the chapters from the American Anomaly book as well as selected articles on Japan, France, Germany, and other countries, policy briefs and papers, as well as midterm and final exams are going to assess learning outcomes on these learning objectives.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbooks

Each dimension of the course (U.S., California, and global) will be addressed primarily by one of the three textbooks listed below. You are expected to complete the readings before they are scheduled to be covered in lectures. You will be tested on your readings and class discussions after the class session through multiple choice quizzes.

You may purchase your own print or e-book (if available) copies at the campus bookstore, other bookstores or any online new or used book sellers.

- Katznelson, Ira, Mark Kesselman, and Alan Draper (2013) *The Politics of Power: A Critical Introduction to American Government*, W. W. Norton & Company: New York, 7th Edition, 403 pp., ISBN-13:9780393919448
- Smith, Raymond (2011) *The American Anomaly: U.S. Politics and Government in Comparative Perspective*, 2nd Edition, Routledge: New York, 2011, ISBN-13: 9780415879736.

You do not have to purchase this book as it is accessible online through library collections:
Smith, Raymond A. *The American Anomaly: U.S. Politics and Government in Comparative Perspective*.
2nd ed. New York: Routledge, 2010. Web.
[https://sjsu-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/1cue0e3/01CAL\\$ALMA71456245970002901](https://sjsu-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/1cue0e3/01CAL$ALMA71456245970002901)

- League of Women Voters of California (2015) *Guide to California Government*, 16th edition, League of Women Voters of California Education Fund: Sacramento, CA, 2015, ISBN: 9780963246523.

Other Readings

As needed to discuss and elaborate certain current policies and political debates, the readings from the required textbooks will be complemented by some journal, newspaper, magazine, web portal articles and commentaries. Citation information on some of the additional readings is posted below on the Course Schedule page while others will be posted far ahead of the scheduled class date during the semester. These additional readings will be posted on Canvas.

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 other course related activities. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus. More information on student workload can be found at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9A.pdf>.

As this course fulfills multiple GE requirements, you will have written approximately 4500 words in both out-of-class assignments and in-class-exams. Apart from policy briefs and policy papers, there will be essay questions in your midterm and final exams. Your writing in this course will be assessed in terms of both form and content. You will be given detailed guidelines about standards and expectations on writing assignments for this course on a separate writing guidelines paper.

Post-class Quizzes on Canvas (3 points each, 24 points total): For selected class sessions, you will be given 12 online multiple choice quizzes on Canvas. Your grade will be based on the highest-scored 8 quizzes of out of 12 available throughout the semester. Quiz questions will be on the readings of that particular class **as well as the class discussions**.

Mid-term Exam (16 points): You will have a midterm exam on **March 24, 2020, Tuesday** during the regular class hour. It will be a combination of multiple choice, true and false, fill in the blanks and essay questions. Possible essay question choices will be provided in advance but the test is closed-book with no cheat sheets. You should bring both a Scantron 882-E form and a large greenbook to the test.

3 Policy Briefs or 1 Policy Paper (36 points total): The writing requirement of this class will be heavily based on this component of course assignments. After covering enough ground on U.S. and California institutions and policy-making processes in comparison with other governments in the world, you will choose to write either three 1200-1300 word policy briefs or one 3600-4000 word policy paper. These policy pieces could be addressed to local, state, or federal level of the U.S. government. Alternatively, they could be written to be submitted to an inter-governmental organization (IGO) or national/transnational non-governmental organization (NGO). For each of the policy briefs or for your policy paper, you will pick a policy area on local, state, federal,

or international level, e.g., immigration, healthcare, education, foreign policy, or environment, in order to outline and **propose** a certain policy. More information on this assignment will be provided both in class and through the paper guidelines sheet.

You will submit your policy briefs or papers both online and as hard copies. Email submissions are not accepted.

You will upload your assignments to the Canvas page under “Assignments.” Otherwise your paper assignment will not be considered as completed. Uploads will be due by 11:55 p.m. on the due date.

Final Examination (24 points)

You will have a final exam per university policy S17-1 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S17-1.pdf>)

The final exam is scheduled by the university on **Thursday, May 14, 2020, from 2:45 to 5:00 pm**. It will be a combination of essay and other forms of questions and there will be a study guide to help you prepare. The final exam is also closed-book and closed-note.

Students who may require accommodations for makeup exams must contact the [Accessible Education Center](#) in advance to make appropriate arrangements. Make-ups are given only for emergencies and will be held after the scheduled exam time. For more information on the university’s final examination policy and the circumstances in which you may request the rescheduling of the final exam, please visit <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-20736.20749.html>.

Grading Information

Grading Information for upper division GE courses (R, S, V)

Passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST) or ENGL/LLD 100A with a C or better (C- not accepted), and completion of Core General Education are prerequisite to all SJSU Studies courses. Completion of, or co-registration in, 100W is strongly recommended. A minimum aggregate GPA of 2.0 in GE Areas R, S, & V shall be required of all students.” See [University Policy S14-5](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-5.pdf>.

Determination of Grades

This course will evaluate your performance based on the following criteria:

- Pre-class online quizzes: 3 points or 3% each; 24 points or 24% total
 - In-class midterm exam: 16 points or 16%
 - 3 policy briefs (12 points or 12% each, 36 points or 36% total) or 1 policy paper: 36 points or 36%
 - In-class final exam: 24 points or 24%
- Total: 100 points or 100% of the final score

Grading Scale will be as follows:

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>A plus</i>	<i>98 to 100%</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>93 to 97%</i>
<i>A minus</i>	<i>90 to 92%</i>
<i>B plus</i>	<i>86 to 89 %</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>83 to 85%</i>
<i>B minus</i>	<i>80 to 82%</i>
<i>C plus</i>	<i>76 to 79%</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>73 to 75%</i>
<i>C minus</i>	<i>70 to 72%</i>
<i>D plus</i>	<i>66 to 69%</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>63 to 65%</i>
<i>D minus</i>	<i>60 to 62%</i>

Extra Credits

You will have extra credit options during the semester for participation in certain activities, attending certain lectures I will announce in class, or completing an online activity, provided that you will write a response paper in each case. Per Academic Senate policy (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S09-7.pdf>), any extra credit opportunities must be extended to all students in the class. In other words, you may not request individual extra assignments for additional credit.

Late Paper Policy

You will be graded down by one letter grade (e.g. from A minus to B plus) for each day your policy brief or paper is overdue. Extensions will be provided only if you contact me latest by 24 hours before the submission deadline with a specific new deadline.

Classroom Protocol

I will ask you to keep your cell phones and pagers silent or off for the entire duration of class. No texting is permitted or tolerated during class for any reason.

Laptops for the sole purpose of taking notes can only be used on the front row.

Recordings of lectures are not permitted, except those provided in accordance with accommodation policies.

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

Pols 170V-03: American Politics in a Global Perspective

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Assignments, Deadlines	Readings: Katznelson	Readings: Smith	Readings: LWVC
1	01/23 R	Course Introduction			
2	01/28 T 01/30 R	Democracy and Constitution	Ch 1	Ch 1-2	Ch 12
3	02/04 T	Separation of Powers and Federalism		Ch 3-4	
3	02/06 R	The Executive Branch	Ch 6	Ch 5	Ch 5
4	02/11 T	The Legislative Branch	Ch 7	Ch 6	Ch 4
4	02/13 R	The Judicial Branch	Ch 8	Ch 7	
5	02/18 T	The Judicial Branch (Cont'd)			Ch 6
5	02/20 R	Political Participation I: Parties and Elections	Ch 4		
6	02/25 T	Political Participation I: Parties and Elections (cont'd)		Ch 9-10-11	
6	02/27 R	Political Participation I: Parties and Elections (cont'd)			Ch 1-2-3
7	03/03 T	Political Participation II: Interest Groups and Social Movements (cont'd)	Ch 5	Ch 8	
7	03/05 R	Political Economy	Ch 2		
8	03/10 T	Political Economy (cont'd)	Ch 3		
8	03/12 R	Economic Policy	Ch 9		
9	03/17 T	Economic Policy (cont'd)			Ch 10
9	03/19 R	Midterm Review			
10	03/24 T	Midterm			
10	03/26 R	Civil Liberties, Civil Rights, Economic Rights	Ch 10	Ch 12	
	03/30-04/03	SPRING BREAK			
11	04/07 T	Civil Liberties, Civil Rights, Economic Rights O'Connor, Brendon. 2004. "Liberalism and Welfare: The Ideological and Political Roots of the American Welfare System," in <i>A Political History of the American Welfare System: When Ideas Have Consequences</i> . NY: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc, 27-48. (Additional reading on Healthcare policy TBA)			

Week	Date	Topics, Assignments, Deadlines	Readings: Katznelson	Readings: Smith	Readings: LWVC
11	04/09 R	Citizenship and Immigration Pierce, Sarah. 2019. "Immigration-Related Policy Changes in the First Two Years of the Trump Administration." <i>Migration Policy Institute (MPI)</i> . May. www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/ImmigrationChangesTrumpAdministration-FinalWEB.pdf			
12	04/14 T	Citizenship and Immigration (cont'd) Weil, Patrick. 2017. "Denaturalization and Denationalization in Comparison (France, the United Kingdom, United States)." <i>Philosophy and Social Criticism</i> 43, No. 4-5: 417-429. (Additional reading TBA) First Policy Briefs Due			
12	04/16 R	Educational Policies (additional reading may be added)			Ch 11
13	04/21 T 04/23 R	Environmental Policies Popovich Nadja, Livia Albeck-Ripka and Kendra Pierre-Louis "85 Environmental Rules Being Rolled Back Under Trump" <i>The New York Times</i> , September 12, 2019. https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/climate/trump-environment-rollbacks.html Hejny, Jessica. "The Trump Administration and environmental policy: Reagan redux?" <i>Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences</i> 8, no. 2 (2018): 197-211. https://doi.org/10.1007/s13412-018-0470-0 (1 additional reading may be added) Second Policy Briefs Due on 04/23			
14	04/28 T	Foreign Policy	Ch 11	Ch 13	
14	04/30 R	Foreign Policy Abrams, E., 2017. "Trump the traditionalist: a surprisingly standard foreign policy." <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 96 No. 4:10-16. Ikenberry, G.J. 2018. 'The end of liberal international order?' <i>International Affairs</i> 94, No. 1:7-23.			
15	05/05 T	Conclusion Policy Papers and 3rd Policy Briefs Due	Ch 12	Conclusion	
15	05/07 R	Final Review			
Final Exam	05/14 R	Thursday, May 14, 2020, from 2:45 to 5:00 pm			