

San José State University
Department of Political Science
POLS 160A, Classical Political Thought, Fall 2021

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Al Schendan

Office Location: Zoom <https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/81785604669>

Telephone: (510) 473-2591 (please email or come to office hours first)

Email: albert.schendan@sjsu.edu (preferred method of contact)

Office Hours: Tuesday 9-10:30 am (8/24-12/7, except 11/23)

Class Days/Time: 2:15-3:30 pm Mondays Zoom/
2:15-3:30 pm Wednesdays Clark 238

Classroom: Zoom <https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/86072358428>
password: politics
& Clark 238

3 units

Canvas learning management system

Course materials can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. You can learn how to access this site at this web address:

<http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/canvas/index.html>

Lectures on Zoom

Lectures for this class will be provided live on Zoom on Monday and live on campus in Clark 238 on Wednesday. Zoom can be accessed from the course Canvas page. During class, either on Zoom or in Clark 238 please be sure to arrive before class begins, stay for the entire period, and leave when dismissed. Be sure to have the current reading in front of you, your notebook, and be prepared to engage the material. During Zoom lectures students are expected to keep their cameras ON, to keep their microphones OFF except when asking questions, and to come in front of their computer as if they were coming to class on campus. This means dressing appropriately and devoting full attention to class. A computer is required to access Zoom and Canvas. If you need a computer or other equipment including a camera you may borrow the equipment from the SJSU Library :

<https://library.sjsu.edu/student-computing-services/student-computing-services> or email them at: library-SCS-group@sjsu.edu

Course Description

Catalog description: Critical examination of the foundations of Western political thought and the continuing influence of these foundations; sources chosen from among a variety of pre-Renaissance traditions and include writers such as Plato, Aristotle, Augustine and Aquinas.

Additional description: This course reawakens the great debates which shaped our political heritage. This course has two different but complimentary goals in terms of its "scope." First, it seeks to give students a taste of in-depth analysis of the most influential period in the history of political thought: Greece, and particularly Athens of the 5th and 4th centuries BCE. Second, this course is designed as a part of a three-semester sequence which surveys the growth of political thought in the West. This second purpose includes an introduction to other components of our political heritage. Some of the issues we will examine include: democracy, justice, freedom, nature, history and politics, race, class, gender, the founding of political science, war, ethics, religion and politics, justice, slavery, and law.

Political Theory description: Political theory, while taught within political science departments, shares many similarities with literature, history, philosophy, and the humanities. It cultivates a kind of thinking more than it disseminates a body of knowledge. Students learn to criticize ideas, analyze texts, create theories, and construct arguments, among other things. Memorization skills and objective knowledge play little role in it. For these reasons, the course is well suited for students who wish to cultivate their writing, their analytic skills, their ability to appreciate literature, as well as their understanding of ethical, social, and political problems.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)

- **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.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. CLO 1 Explain the development of several themes of Classical Political Thought over time. This is assessed in your essays.
2. CLO 2 Read, understand, summarize and critique several of the most significant texts in the development of Classical Political Thought. This is assessed primarily through the exams
3. CLO 3 Apply an understanding of the development of Classical Political Thought to contemporary political issues. This is assessed through your essays and the exams

Required Texts/Readings (PDFs provided)

1. Plato, The Trial and Death Socrates (Hackett).
2. Plato, The Republic (Hackett).
3. Aristophanes, Lysistrata and The Clouds
4. Aristotle, The Politics (Oxford).
5. Thucydides, Justice, Power, and Human Nature (Hackett).
6. Cicero, On Government (Penguin)

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 limited to internships, labs, and critical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

ESSAYS (30% of your final grade)

You are required to write two essays worth 30% of your grade. Essay prompts will be available in class. Your papers should be at least 1200 words and completely and accurately answer the requirements of the prompt. All essays must be submitted to Canvas in one of the following file formats: Microsoft Word (.doc/.docx), OpenOffice (.odt), WordPerfect (.wpd), or PostScript (.ps) . Papers in the following conditions could receive a zero: not submitted in a required format or a corrupted file (it can't be read and Turnitin.com can't assess plagiarism or high similarity ratings by Turnitin.com). I will do my best to grade your papers no later than two weeks after you have submitted them. Papers must be submitted with no cover sheet electronically to Canvas. In addition, I will not accept emailed or printed copies of your papers. If you are unsure how to submit papers to Canvas please see Professor Schendan before your paper is due. Please see the Grading Guide for an explanation of the grading criteria and requirements.

NOTEBOOK (20% of your final grade)

You must maintain a notebook for this course (please purchase a spiral bound college rule notebook you can use exclusively for this course). Your notebook should be a record of the lecture discussions of the readings and text analysis. I will expect to see a date for each day of class and notes for that day's lectures throughout your notebook. In addition, you should make note of page numbers from the text and understandings of the days quoted and discussed material. On average, you should have no less than two full pages of single-spaced handwritten notes for each class session. If you are absent from class, I expect you to get the notes from a fellow student. This assignment will be worth 20% of your grade. If you miss a day of class but you have notes for the day, I will not take off points for missed days. If you get notes from a fellow student be sure to transcribe their notes in your notebook. Most importantly, your notebook will be accessed for thoroughness and detail. Students who take almost verbatim notes of the class readings, lectures, and discussions will get the most points. You will submit scanned pages of your notebook on or shortly before our exam day. In addition to your notebook, you should also bring the text we are reading to class. I may upon occasion check that you have the current text with you and deduct 5 points (out of 100) from this assessment, if necessary, for each occurrence.

REFLECTIONS (15% of your final grade)

In addition to the essays, notebooks, and exams, you must submit two 500-word reflection essays using a brief prompt. This assignment will be worth 15% of your final grade.

These *papers* will require you to articulate the theorist's points accurately and provide some analysis as the points relate to you and your understanding of the material. Requirements and prompts are located in Canvas. Papers should be submitted with no cover sheet to Canvas and will be assessed by Turnitin for plagiarism.

EXAMINATIONS (35% of your final grade)

University policy S17-1 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S17-1.pdf>)

Faculty members are required to 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 addition to essays, notebook, and reflection assignments, you must also complete two exams that are worth a combined 35% of your grade. Exams will be conducted in class on a specified day unless the pandemic or other issue causes us to move totally online, then it will be submitted through Canvas. Exams are closed-note and closed-book. I will post or handout *10 quotes from your readings* and *one extensive question requiring an essay response* about one week before the exam.

On exam day, you will receive half the previous number of quotes and the extensive response question. I will provide your exam or you will submit a file to Canvas so no blue or green books will be required. Your exam grade will be based on your thorough, correct, and concise responses. No breaks will be allowed for any reason during in-class exams. If you miss the first exam, and have a valid documented excuse, I will allow you to make up the exam- please see me to schedule a make-up exam.

*** After completing the first reading I will give you a short practice exam that will be counted as extra points towards your first exam. It's important for you to attend this in-class session so we can discuss thoroughly the exam formats and requirements. In addition, you will be able to assess your own learning and understanding of the first reading.**

EXTRA CREDIT

I will provide an increase in your overall percentage to students who display exceptional attendance and participation. To receive this extra credit you must do all of the following:

1. Arrive to both Zoom and in-person classes shortly before the start of the meeting.
2. During Zoom sessions you should be visible with your camera on.
3. Ask questions and respond when called upon.
4. Take notes with today's current reading in front of you.

5. Sign the roll sheet during in-person sessions.
6. Stay for the entire period until you are dismissed.

I will take attendance every day we have class and make notes of exceptional student conduct noting the five qualities listed above. At the end of the term, students who display the above qualities, and who have attended all class sessions will receive an increase of 3% to their final average. Students who miss up to 3 class sessions will receive an increase of 1% added to their final average. This is not required of any student and is only a reward for incredible and courteous participation.

LATE POLICY & MISSED EXAMS

All assignments should be completed and submitted when they are due. However, I will accept late submissions of the reflection, essay, and notebook (assuming you missed the exam) assignments. If you submit a late reflection, essay, or notebook assignment Canvas will automatically deduct 1.5% each day your submission is late. For example, if you submit an assignment fourteen days after it was due it would receive a deduction of 21% after I assess your work. If you miss the first exam and have documentation you should see me to schedule a make-up exam. However, if you miss the final exam and have documentation a make-up exam is unlikely and you will probably receive an *Incomplete* for the course. The last day to submit work is 12/11/21.

DETERMINATION OF GRADES

Your grade will be calculated as follows.

| | Percentage of total |
|-------------|---------------------|
| Notebook | 20% |
| Essays | 30% |
| Exams | 35% |
| Reflections | 15% |
| | |
| | |
| Total | 100% |
| | |
| | |

Final letter grades for the course will be assigned based on the following scale:

A plus = 97 to 100%

A = 94 to 96 %

A minus = 90 to 93 %

B plus = 87 to 89 %

B = 84 to 86 %

B minus = 80 to 83 %

C plus = 77 to 79 %

C = 74 to 76 %
C minus = 70 to 73 %
D plus = 66 to 69 %
D = 64 to 66 %
D minus = 60 to 63 %
F = 59 % or less

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND STUDENT CONDUCT

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 at: <http://www2.sjsu.edu/senate/S04-12.pdf>. The website for the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development is: http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html

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. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

COLLABORATION

Students may collaborate in their studies and are encouraged to do so. However, no collaboration should take place during in-class exams or possible quizzes. In their studies, collaboration students should not go so far that they memorized answers "cloned" from a single model. A good way to study together without exceeding the boundaries of appropriate collaboration is to discuss possible answers orally but not sharing written sample answers.

COURTESY

Proper classroom etiquette includes arriving on time and staying for the full lecture, refraining from distracting other students during the lecture, listening attentively until the professor dismisses the class, and treating the opinions of other students with respect. The professor reserves the right to reward students for exceptional displays of collegiality, attendance, and participation (see extra-credit section).

ATTENDANCE (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf>)

Regular, on-time attendance is especially important for these reasons:

- Lectures help explain the original-source readings we do. Most students report that they have a difficult time understanding the readings without the help of the lectures.
- Lectures often cover materials completely independent and/or supplementary to the texts.
- Lectures provide an opportunity for questions, participation, and getting motivated to do the rest of the work.

- Often, important announcements are made at the beginning of class - sometimes clarifying or changing assignments, readings, or due dates.
- The notebook assignments are worth a total of 20% of your grade and you can't do well taking lecture notes if you're not in class.
- If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get notes on what you missed. If an assignment or the syllabus was changed during your absence, you are responsible for finding this out.
- If attendance in the class becomes a serious problem, Prof. Schendan reserves the right to change course requirements and institute more or less in-class evaluations or increase the quiz percentage of your grade.

INCOMPLETES, ACADEMIC RENEWAL, COURSE DROPS, "U's," AND "F's"

Sometimes students 'get in over their heads' and need alternatives to finishing the course. I will be happy to issue an incomplete if:

- - a student has made arrangements for making up the course by coming to me and filling out the department incomplete form prior to the time of the final exam,
 - the student has completed two-thirds of the assignments, and
 - the student offers a good reason. However, be aware that you will have just one year to make up the assignments or the incomplete automatically turns into an "F".

University rules specifically prohibit professors from giving incompletes to students who need to attend a significant portion of the course to be able to finish it.
- An alternative for students who do not qualify for the incomplete (for example, if you have done less than two-thirds of the assignments or you need to attend a lot of lectures) is to retake the course under academic renewal. You are limited to a certain number of courses over your college career, but this can be an excellent option in certain situations.
- I will cooperate with any student wishing to drop the course for any reason. However, the University has adopted strict rules against dropping a course after the first few weeks unless you have very compelling evidence (death certificate, etc.) I disagree with the policy but cannot change it.
- I am required to issue "WU"s (Withdrawal Unauthorized) to students who do not drop the course but stop coming to class or do not complete assignments after the drop period. I give "WU"s to those students who "disappear" after doing no graded assignments, and "F"s to those students who "disappear" after doing at least one graded assignment. But both graded are equally bad, so avoid them both!
- Check the Catalog for the latest academic rules that might affect you.

CLASSROOM POLICIES AND PROTOCOL

LATE ARRIVALS, EARLY DEPARTURES AND DISRUPTIONS OF CLASS IN ANY FORM ARE UNACCEPTABLE. NO AUDIO OR VIDEO RECORDING OF LECTURES OR OTHER CLASS ACTIVITIES ALLOWED WITHOUT INSTRUCTOR PERMISSION IN ADVANCE. You should arrive shortly before the

designated time either on Zoom or in our classroom, bring the current reading through your computer or in print format and your notebook. Be prepared to engage the material in a discussion of the material. If you wish to ask a question, be sure to raise your hand.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

1. 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/> Be sure to review these policies and resources. In addition, other policies may be found here: http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/policies/pol_chron/

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 on the 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 the Advising Hub at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

CONSENT FOR RECORDING OF CLASS AND PUBLIC SHARING OF INSTRUCTOR MATERIAL

University Policy S12-7, <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."
- Please contact Prof. Schendan in person to request permission *in advance* to make audio or video recordings in this class. In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- "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."

OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

SJSU PEER CONNECTIONS

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit Peer Connections website at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.

SJSU WRITING CENTER

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 at <http://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.

ACCESS: Academic Counseling Center for Excellence in the Social Sciences

All College of Social Sciences students and interested students are invited to stop by the ACCESS Center for general education advising, help with changing majors, academic policy related questions, meeting with peer advisors, and/or attending various regularly scheduled presentations and workshops. Looking for academic advice or maybe just some tips about how to navigate your way around SJSU? Check out the ACCESS Student Success Center! It's also a great place to study.

Location: Clark Hall Room 240

Website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/socialsciences/ACCESS/>

SJSU COUNSELING SERVICES

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit Counseling Services website at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

DISABILITY ACCESS

Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor. The Accessible Education Center (AEC) is available to facilitate the reasonable accommodations process. The AEC is located at One Washington Square in ADM 110 and can be reached by telephone (voice/408-924-6000, or by email at: aec-info@sjsu.edu or aec-exams@sjsu.edu .

STUDENT DISCLOSURES OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

San Jose State University requires all incoming students to complete **Sexual Assault Prevention for Undergraduates** or **Sexual Assault Prevention for Graduate Students**, mandatory online sexual assault prevention trainings. Title IX requires higher education institutions to take necessary precautions to prevent sexual assault on their campuses, and to respond promptly and effectively when an assault is reported. To fully comply with Title IX, the CSU Chancellor's Office issued [Executive Order 1095](#) which mandates educational training programs to help prevent sexual violence. For more information and resources, go to: <http://notalone.sjsu.edu>

For more information go to: <http://www.sjsu.edu/wellness/onlinetraining/>

POLS 160A/ Introduction to Political Thought, Fall 2021, Course Schedule
Complete each reading assignment before coming to class.

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice that will be announced in class and/or via Canvas.

| Week | Date | Lecture Topics and Reading Assignments |
|------|------|---|
| 1 | 8/19 | COURSE INTRODUCTION Please read course Syllabus |
| 2 | 8/23 | Introduction to the course and ancient Greece |
| 2 | 8/25 | History, culture, and politics of ancient Greece |
| 3 | 8/30 | Aristotle, <i>Politics</i> – Books I - III |
| 3 | 9/1 | Aristotle, <i>Politics</i> – Books I - III |

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|----|-----------|--|
| 4 | 9/6 | Labor Day – No class |
| 4 | 9/8 | Aristotle, <i>Politics IV - VIII</i> Reflection prompt posted on Canvas |
| 5 | 9/13 | Aristotle, <i>Politics IV- VIII</i> |
| 5 | 9/15 | Thucydides, <i>On Justice, Power, and Human Nature I – III</i> Brief practice Exam |
| 6 | 9/20 | Thucydides- I-III |
| 6 | 9/22 | Thucydides IV – VIII |
| 7 | 9/27 | Thucydides- V – VIII |
| 7 | 9/29 | Plato, <i>Apology</i> Essay prompt posted on Canvas |
| 8 | 10/4 | Plato, <i>Apology</i> |
| 8 | 10/6 | Plato, <i>Apology</i> |
| 9 | 10/1 1 | Plato, <i>Crito</i> |
| 9 | 10/1 3 | Plato, <i>Crito</i> Receive exam prompt in class |
| 10 | 10/ 18 | Plato, Finish <i>Crito</i> |
| 10 | 10/ 20 | In-class Examination and Notebook due on Canvas |
| 11 | 10/ 25 | Aristophanes, <i>The Clouds</i> |
| 11 | 10/ 27 | Aristophanes, <i>Lysistrata</i> Reflection prompt posted on Canvas |
| 12 | 11/1 | Plato, <i>Republic I-IV</i> |
| 12 | 11/3 | Plato, <i>Republic I-IV</i> |
| 13 | 11/8 | Plato, <i>Republic V-IX</i> |
| 13 | 11/1 0 | Plato, <i>Republic V-IX</i> Essay prompt posted on Canvas |

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| 14 | 11/1 5 | Roman History and Politics Cicero, On Government, chapters 1 & 7 |
| 14 | 11/1 7 | Cicero, On Government , chapters 1 & 7 |
| 15 | 11/2 2 | Cicero, On Government, chapters 4 & 5 |
| 15 | 11/2 4 | No Class – Thanksgiving Break |
| 16 | 11/2 9 | Cicero, On Government, chapters 4 & 5 |
| 16 | 12/1 | Finish Cicero and discuss theorists Exam prompt posted on Canvas |
| 17 | 12/6 12/9 | Final discussion of the course material Thursday - 12/9 In-class Final Examination 12:15-3:30 pm in Clark 238 Notebook due on Canvas |