

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

SPRING 2021 (Online & Synchronous)

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Halil Yenigun, Ph.D. (he/his/ you can call me Hal)

Email: halil.yenigun@sjsu.edu

Zoom Office Hours (OH): Thursdays 3 :00-4:00 pm; additional hours by appointment

OH Personal Zoom Meeting ID: 507-083-7903 **Join URL:** <https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/5070837903>
Password: lovepols

Synchronous Class Days/Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:30 a.m.- 11:45 a.m.
Zoom Meeting ID: 889 3708 6429
Join URL:
<https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/88937086429?pwd=UIV5YmprWnBXS1RBNitGL2hRM3EyUT09> Password: lovepols

Canvas Course Link: <https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1419899>

Prerequisites: WST; 100W recommended

GE/SJSU Studies Category: AI (US2 & US3); V

Course Format

Technology Intensive, Hybrid, and Online Course

This course will be conducted as a fully online class with regular synchronous meetings to cover the course materials. Although this is a direct outcome of the crisis days and shelter-in-place we are going through, it is not simply going to be moving the in-class activities to remote format as much as the current technology allows. Instead, it is designed to be an online course in its own right with unique characteristics and extra opportunities online learning technologies can contribute to our learning experience.

We will essentially rely on two online platforms for this course: **i) Zoom ii) Canvas.**

Although some online courses have no synchronous online sessions and they are based on only the instructor's video recordings and other online videos, I believe we can develop a more meaningful interaction through synchronous sessions where I can clarify any points right on point and you can participate in the discussions with your classmates. Thus we will hold 2 online sessions per week, at the original time slots that were assigned to this course. We will hold a total of 29 zoom meetings in this manner.

You should be able to have access to a computer or a smart phone capable of accessing our course page on Canvas. You will need to use your student ID information to log in to our course. For help with using Canvas, see Canvas Student Resources page (http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/canvas/student_resources).

For collaborative work on Canvas, you will need to access SJSU provided Google Drive. For this purpose, you will need to use your sjsu.edu email address instead of your personal account in order to protect the privacy of the shared material. You also need to use your SJSU Zoom account to login to the Zoom session.

If there are any circumstances that pose a serious impediment for your equal access to this course, please feel free to reach out to me and we will discuss about accommodation options.

If you have not already done so, please set your notifications on Canvas and Canvas mobile app to receive all the updates on time, 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.

This course may be named a super-course that meets all three of the US2, US3, and V requirements. Accordingly, it covers not only the typical American Government course material widely found on most campuses in the U.S., but it brings a comparative dimension by studying U.S. institutions and culture in comparison with those of other countries and their political systems (Hence the V). Finally, we look at our very own California institutions in this course. That is why we have three textbooks, where each one focuses on one of these three levels.

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, 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, 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, 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, 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, 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 copies at the campus bookstore, directly from the publisher, or any other in person or online vendors. You can order the textbooks online through the campus bookstore by entering the course information on this page:

<https://sjsu.bncollege.com/shop/sjsu/page/find-textbooks>

- Lowi, Theodore J. and Benjamin Ginsberg, Kenneth A. Shepsle, Stephen Ansolabehere. (2018) *American Government: A Brief Introduction*, 15th edition, New York: W.W. Norton, ISBN: 0393674932, 9780393674934. Available for purchase from the publisher here for \$40: <https://wnorton.com/books/9780393674934>
- Smith, Raymond (2011) *The American Anomaly: U.S. Politics and Government in Comparative Perspective*, Smith, Raymond A. The American Anomaly: U.S. Politics and Government in Comparative Perspective. 3rd ed. New York: Routledge. ISBN: 9780203067482

E-book freely available in our library holdings at: (Library access credentials required)

<https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/9780203067482>

or <https://www-taylorfrancis-com.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/books/9780203067482>.

Another alternative is: <https://sjsu->

[primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/1cue0e3/01CAL5_ALMA71427557190002901](https://sjsu-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/1cue0e3/01CAL5_ALMA71427557190002901)

- 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 and Audio-visual material:

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 pieces, short and longer videos or podcasts. 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 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 the form of assignments. Apart from a policy brief assignment and documentary reviews, 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 separate writing guidelines sheets.

End-of-Module Quizzes on Canvas (2 points each, 20 points total): In most modules, after completing the module you will be given online quizzes from the assigned readings (not lecture notes). These will be in multiple choice and true-false format. Your total quiz grade will be based on the highest-scored **10** quizzes.

Meet your Peers Assignment, Syllabus Quiz, and Discussion Participation on Canvas (a total of 13). Your participation in **Canvas Discussions is not only encouraged but also graded.** You need to participate in these online discussions for at least 5 of the discussion topics.

Midterm Exam (18 points): You will have a midterm exam on **April 6-7**, after we complete the 7th Module. The midterm will be available for 48 hours that week. It will be a combination of multiple choice, true and false, fill in the blank and essay questions. Possible essay question choices will be provided in advance.

1 Policy Brief (25 points total): After covering enough ground on U.S. and California institutions and policy-making processes in comparison with other governments in the world, you will write a 2000 word policy brief. This policy piece will be addressed to local, state, or federal level of the U.S. government. Alternatively, it could be written to be submitted to an inter-governmental organization (IGO) or national/transnational non-governmental organization (NGO). For the policy brief 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 through the paper guidelines sheet.

You will upload your brief to the dedicated assignment page for Policy Brief on our Canvas page under "Assignments." **Uploads will be due by 11:59 p.m. on the very last day of the semester, Monday, May 17, 2021.**

Documentary Review for Selected Policy Documentaries: Your writing requirement will also be met by writing 2 or 3 documentary reviews, with a total of 1500 words. The titles will be given by the instructor. For the guidelines on writing a reflection or reaction paper, see the Files section of Canvas. They will be graded as Incomplete/Complete.

Online Final Examination (24 points) (scheduled for Wednesday, May 19, 9:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)

You will have a final exam per university policy S17-1 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S17-1.pdf>) It will be a combination of essay and other forms of questions and there will be a study guide to help you prepare.

The designated time frame above is provided by the university. I will post the final exam online around that time and you will have the chance to take the exam within 2 days/48 hours from that time onward and once you start taking it you will have 2 hours to finish the exam.

Students who may require accommodations for makeup exams must contact the [Accessible Education Center](#) in advance to make appropriate arrangements. 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 (Due to a combination of factors in my grading system that cannot be coded into Canvas's grading algorithm, please calculate your grade manually and do not rely on its calculation.)

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

- **Quizzes:** 2 points or 2% each; 20 points or 20% total
- **Canvas Discussion Participation:** 10 points or 10% total.
- **Meet your Peers and Syllabus Quiz:** 3 points or 3% total.
- **Midterm exam:** 18 points or 18%
- Policy brief 25 points or 25%.
- 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>99 to 100%</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>93 to 98%</i>

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</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 from extra credit documentary reviews or designated Zoom event participations accompanied by event reports. You can receive up to 4 extra credit points throughout the semester. 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.

Zoom and Online Discussion Protocol

Apart from the netiquette shared in the Orientation module, each one of you is expected to be attending these sessions with your camera on. If, for any reason, you cannot make it to the meetings on time or you cannot turn your camera on, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss your situation. If you cannot keep it on, please email me to explain the circumstances that do not allow it and to ask for accommodation, unless it is private information that you cannot share. As your professors, we all understand personal circumstances you might be facing and we try our best to accommodate you. However, all blank screens for 75 minutes are not exactly how your professors can do their best to teach a class and it definitely impedes the interactive quality of the course. Recordings of lectures will be made available for those who have schedule conflict. You must send an email in advance to inform me about your schedule conflicts or other engagements that do not allow you to attend the Zoom session on time.

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/>

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

Adjustments could be made on the schedule with fair notice and they will be reflected by the updates and announcements on Canvas.

Course Schedule

MODULE	Class Zoom Session	Date	Topics, Assignments, Deadlines	Readings: Lowi <i>et. al</i>	Readings: Smith	Reading s: LWVC
	1	01/28 R	Course Introduction			
1	2-5	02/02-02/11	Democracy & Constitution	Ch 1-2	Ch 1-2	Ch 12
2	6-7	02/16-18	Separation of Powers & Federalism	Ch 3	Ch 3-4	
3	8-9	02/23-25	The Executive Branch	Ch 6	Ch 5	Ch 5
4	10-11	03/02-04	The Legislative Branch	Ch 5	Ch 6	Ch 4
5	12-13	03/09-11	The Judicial Branch	Ch 8	Ch 7	Ch 6
6	14-15	03/16-18	Political Participation I: Political Parties	Ch 11	Ch10	Ch 6
7	16-17	03/23-25	Political Participation II: Elections	Ch 10	Ch 9	Ch 1-2-3
	18 (M. Review)	04/06 T	MIDTERM (APRIL 6-7)			
8	19	04/08 R	Political Participation III: Interest Groups & Social Movements	Ch 12	Ch 8	
9	20	04/13 T	Political Participation IV: Public Opinion & The Media	Ch 9	Ch 11	
10	21-23	04/15 R-04/22 R	Economic & Social Policy	Ch 13		Ch 10
11	24-25	04/27 T-04/29R	Rights & Liberties 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.	Ch 4	Ch12	
12	26	05/04 T	Policy Areas I: Immigration Pierce, Sarah and Jessica Bolter. 2020. "Dismantling and Reconstructing the U.S. Immigration System: A Catalog of Changes under the Trump Presidency." <i>Migration Policy Institute (MPI)</i> . July. https://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/MPI_US-Immigration-Trump-Presidency-Final.pdf Weil, Patrick. 2017. "Denaturalization and Denationalization in Comparison: France, the			

MODULE	Class Zoom Session	Date	Topics, Assignments, Deadlines	Readings: Lowi et. al	Readings: Smith	Readings: LWVC
			United Kingdom, United States." <i>Philosophy and Social Criticism</i> 43, No. 4-5: 417-429.			
13	26	05/04 T	Policy Areas II: Educational Policy			Ch11
14	27	05/06 R	<p>Policy Areas III: Environmental Policy</p> <p>Environmental Policies Popovich Nadja, Livia Albeck-Ripka and Kendra Pierre-Louis "The Trump Administration Is Reversing 100 Environmental Rules. Here's the Full List." <i>The New York Times</i>, updated July 15, 2020. https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/climate/trump-environment-rollbacks.html</p> <p>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</p>			
15	28-29	05/11 T-05/13 R	<p>Policy Areas IV: Foreign Policy</p> <p>Ikenberry, G.J. 2018. 'The end of liberal international order?' <i>International Affairs</i> 94, No. 1:7–23.</p> <p>Haas, Richard. 2020. "Present at the Disruption: How Trump Unmade U.S. Foreign Policy" <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 99 No. 5 https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/united-states/2020-08-11/present-disruption</p>	Ch 14		
			POLICY BRIEFS DUE MONDAY, 05/17			
		05/19 W	FINAL EXAM WED-THU MAY 19-20, 2021(Online on Canvas)			