

San José State University
Political Science Department
Political Science 190 (section 2): Senior Seminar
Fall 2022

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Danijela Dudley
Office Location:	Clark Hall 449
Email:	danijela.dudley@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Mondays & Wednesdays 12:00-1:00pm
Class Day/Time:	Mondays 4:30-7:15pm
Classroom:	HGH 116
Prerequisites:	POLS 100W and POLS 100M, or instructor consent

Course Description

From the catalog: Culminating experience for the political science major. Seminar class with significant participation required. Specific course topics vary each semester. Prerequisites: POLS 100W and POLS 100M or instructor consent. A minimum grade of C- is required to fulfill the BA Political Science capstone requirement.

This is an integrative capstone course that will culminate your experience within the political science major field. It will examine the complex world of democracy and democratic politics with special emphasis on issues associated with the process, causes, and consequences of democratization. The class will explore how democracy is defined and understood, under which conditions political systems move toward democracy and under which conditions they are likely to endure, the relationship between democracy and economic development and some international and domestic consequences of democratization. From this course, students will gain an in-depth understanding of a range of issues related to the complex topic of democracy and democratization.

Since this class is a seminar, regular attendance and participation are crucial to your success in the course. Students must read all assigned readings and be committed to participating in class discussions. For those considering going to graduate school, this course will be a transition into learning at the graduate level.

Required Texts/Readings

No textbooks are required for this course. All readings or links for readings are available on [Canvas](#).

Course Format

This is an in-person class with regularly scheduled class meeting times. We will meet each Monday at 4:30-7:15pm in HGH 116.

Students must have access to an electronic device (computer, laptop, tablet) and reliable internet connection to access course materials and submit assignments. SJSU has a free [equipment loan program](https://www.sjsu.edu/learnanywhere/equipment/index.php) available for students (https://www.sjsu.edu/learnanywhere/equipment/index.php).

Canvas Course Page

Course materials such as syllabus, readings, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course website](http://sjsu.instructure.com) (http://sjsu.instructure.com). **You are responsible for regularly accessing the Canvas course website to read access course materials, complete assignments, and check for announcements.** Make sure that Canvas has your current email address. For help with using Canvas see [Canvas Student Resources](https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/software-tools/teaching-tools/canvas/student-resources/index.php) page (https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/software-tools/teaching-tools/canvas/student-resources/index.php). For technical problems with Canvas, please contact [eCampus](https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/how-we-can-help/contact-us.php) (https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/how-we-can-help/contact-us.php).

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

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

CLO 1: demonstrate knowledge and understanding of different approaches to defining democracy and different types of democratic systems (assessed in exams, participation, summaries, and paper);

CLO 2: understand and critique competing theoretical explanations of the conditions under which political systems are more or less likely to democratize and endure, where democracy is likely to flourish or fail, and similar (assessed in exams, participation, summaries, and research paper);

CLO 3: read and critically analyze the literature, conduct original research, and propose original solutions to contemporary problems related to the issue of democracy and democratic transition (assessed in presentations, participation, and research paper);

CLO 4: discuss and debate major issues related to the topic of democracy and democratization, and present research and conclusions in a public forum (assessed in presentations and participation).

Political Science Program Learning Outcomes (PSPLO)

Upon completion of the Political Science major program, students should be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

PSPLO 1 Breadth: Students should possess a broad knowledge of the theory and methods of the various branches of the discipline.

PSPLO 2 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.

PSPLO 3 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 or public administration, public policy, and law.

PSPLO 4 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.

University Policy Regarding Workload

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

Because this is a four-unit course, you can expect to spend a minimum of 12 hours per week on scheduled tutorials, assignments, or activities. This additional unit will allow for more in-depth investigation and engagement with course topics.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Reading reflections/questions (as discussion posts) (10% of the course grade)

Each Sunday by midnight, you will submit a discussion post with the following two components:

1. One main takeaway/conclusion **from each reading assigned for that day**. These are brief reflections that explain the main lesson of each reading. Please make sure NOT to use any outside sources for these summaries.
2. 2-3 comprehensive discussion questions **for each reading** assigned for that day. Your questions should go beyond simple “yes” or “no” answers. Think about questions that will engage the class in conversation and encourage your peers to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate the information presented and the issues raised in the readings.

Reading assignment presentation and discussion (10% of the course grade)

Each student will be responsible for preparing a presentation on one of the readings assigned in class and leading class discussion (with my help) that follows. This is a key aspect of the seminar experience—it demonstrates your ability to read, explain, and analyze academic-level work in political science. Your reading assignment presentation should consist of the following 3 components:

1. 5-6 minute presentation on your assigned reading which you will deliver during our class meeting. Your presentation **should not be a summary of the reading**. Instead, the presentation should provide a critical evaluation of the reading by addressing the following: a) what is the intellectual issue/debate? b) what is the thesis of this article/chapter and its logic? c) what are the merits of the argument?
2. You will prepare a written outline of your presentation (maximum 2 pages). The outline should include a) the main points of your presentation (not a transcript) and b) 4-5 discussion questions based on the reading that will jumpstart class discussion. You will post the outline and questions on Canvas no later than Sunday at midnight.
3. You will then participate in leading class discussion (with the instructor) of the material during our class meeting.

Participation (15% of the course grade)

This is a seminar (as opposed to a lecture-based course), which means that it is grounded in discussion among students, not lecturing by the instructor. Class meetings should serve as an opportunity to explore the material, to help make sense of the readings, to critically evaluate arguments made by authors, your classmates, and the instructor, and to explore how the assigned material helps us understand the world of democracy and democratization.

As this is a seminar and not a regular lecture course, students are expected to engage in discussions for the entirety of each class meeting. You are required to complete all readings by the day they are assigned and come to class ready to discuss them. Class participation grade will be based on the quality and frequency of your contribution to class discussions. If participation is lacking, I may call students by name to address concepts from the readings.

Exams (25% of the course grade)

There will be 2 exams, which will cover the material from assigned readings and discussions. Exams will consist of essay questions only and will test your knowledge and understanding of the material, as well as your ability to think critically about the various issues discussed in class and in assigned readings. Both exams will be timed and will be administered during our regular class meeting time.

Research paper preparation (15% of the course grade)

In preparation for your paper, you will complete three assignments:

1. **Paper proposal and consultation:** you will submit a 1,000-word paper proposal. After submitting the proposal, you must meet with me for at least one 20-30 minute meeting to discuss your paper. Please note that the consultation is mandatory—not meeting with me during the assigned time period will immediately translate into a grade of zero on paper proposal and consultation.
2. **Peer review:** you will participate in a peer-review assignment of paper drafts. You will be required to submit a draft of your research paper, read/provide feedback to your classmates' papers, and receive feedback on your paper from classmates. Detailed instructions will be available on Canvas.
3. **Research paper presentation:** this presentation will be conducted during our class meeting. It will involve a summary of your research paper in which you will present your topic, argument, and your findings. You will also answer questions raised by the instructor and your classmates and receive feedback from us. The presentation should last 15-20 minutes, followed by 15-20 minutes of questions and comments from the class (these times may be adjusted depending on the size of the class).

Research Paper (25% of the course grade)

University policy S17-1 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S17-1.pdf>) states that “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.” The culminating activity in this course is a research paper which is due during the assigned final exam period.

You will write a 6,000-6,500 word research paper examining one aspect of democratization process or quality of democracy in one or two countries of your choice. Possible topics include democratization process, prospect for a successful transition, prospect for a successful consolidation, quality of democracy, democratic backsliding, one aspect of democratic systems such as elections, form of government, the rule of law, human rights, and similar. These are just potential topics; you can choose any topic that addresses democratization.

This paper will require a significant amount of outside research. Detailed paper guidelines will be available in a separate handout on Canvas. In preparation for the final draft of your paper, you will submit a paper proposal, have a one-on-one consultation with me, participate in a peer review, and receive live feedback following your paper presentation. You will also have an option to submit a draft of the paper to the instructor for feedback.

Assignment weights and due dates (dates subject to change with fair notice)

Assignment	% of grade	Due date(s)	CLOs
Reading reflections/questions	10% total	due each Sunday by midnight	1-2
Participation	15% total	each class meeting	1-4
Reading assignment presentation	10% total	once per semester, students will sign up for presentation dates on the first day of class	3-4
Exams	25% total	October 3 November 14	1-2
Research paper preparation	15% total	Paper proposal: October 10 Consultation: October 11-21 Optional draft: November 7 Required draft: November 21 Peer review: November 28 Paper presentation: November 21-December 5	3-4
Research paper	25% total	December 12	1-3

Late Work

Reading reflections/questions: due on Sundays by midnight. You have a 12-hour grace period (until Monday at noon). Submissions made between noon and 4:00pm will incur a 25% penalty. Because these readings will be discussed in class, no reflections/questions will be accepted after 4:00pm.

Presentations and reading presentation outline: outline is due on Sunday by midnight. You have a 12-hour grace period (until Monday at noon). Submissions made between noon and 4:00pm will incur a 25% penalty. Because of time constraints and a limited number of readings, no extensions can be granted for missed presentations. If you have a documented emergency when you are scheduled to present, make sure to talk to me as soon as possible (ideally before you presentation).

Paper proposal and peer reviews: you have a 24-hour grace period for paper proposals and peer reviews. After the 24-hour grace period, late submissions will be penalized 25% for each started 24-hour period they are late.

Exams: exam make-ups are only given in cases of medical or family emergencies, in accordance with the university's policy on excused absences. In these cases, proper documentation must be provided. Please note that if you are making up an exam, it will be different from the exam taken by the rest of the class. As a result, you must notify me immediately if you have an emergency because I will need additional time to write a new exam for you.

Research paper: you have a 24-hour grace period for paper. After that, late papers will incur a 25% penalty for each started 24-hour period.

Grading Information

All assignments are graded based upon a percentage system, which can be converted to letter grades. For example, if an assignment is out of 100 points, 97-100 is an A+, 93-96.9 is an A, 90-92.9 is an A-, and so on. All assignments and exams total 100% of the course grade. The same letter grade distribution applies to the final course grade as it does for each assignment.

Grade	Percentage
A plus	97 to 100%
A	93 to 96.9%
A minus	90 to 92.9%
B plus	87 to 89.9 %
B	83 to 86.9%
B minus	80 to 82.9%
C plus	77 to 79.9%
C	73 to 76.9%
C minus	70 to 72.9%
D plus	67 to 69.9%
D	63 to 66.9%
D minus	60 to 62.9%

POLS 190H

Pols 190H is one unit of upper division credit and is open to students with 3.2 overall GPA and 3.5 GPA in Political Science. Honor students will write a longer research paper (8,000-8,500 words), must submit a draft of the paper by November 7, and will have an additional consultation session with me during the following week.

Classroom Protocol

The purpose of discussion in this course is to provide a forum in which students can safely and supportively ask questions, present and debate their ideas, receive and interpret new information and perspectives, and develop and clarify their thinking. While you will likely be passionate about some discussed in class, it is essential to be respectful to others and their opinions. Offensive remarks or attacks of personal nature will not be tolerated. Please arrive to class on time and stay for the entire period. Late arrivals and/or early departures are disruptive to everyone, especially in a seminar where active engagement is crucial. Absolutely no use of cell phones during class.

Attendance Policy

Attendance, in and of itself, will not be graded. However, regular attendance is crucial to your success in this course. As this is a seminar and not a lecture course, most of your overall success in the class (and ultimately your grade) will depend on your involvement in class discussions. Additionally, although attendance is not graded, participation constitutes a significant portion of your grade. If you are not present, you cannot participate.

Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

Students are prohibited from recording class activities (including class lectures, office hours, advising sessions, etc.), distributing class recordings, or posting class recordings.

Students are prohibited from distributing, sharing, or posting class materials, exams, or any other instructional materials. Materials created by the instructor for the course (syllabi, lectures and lecture notes, presentations, exams, etc.) are copyrighted by the instructor. [University policy S12-7](#) is in place to protect the privacy of students in the course, as well as to maintain academic integrity through reducing the instances of cheating. Students who record, distribute, or post these materials will be referred to the Student Conduct and Ethical Development office. Unauthorized recording may violate university and state law. It is the responsibility of students that require special accommodations or assistive technology due to a disability to notify the instructor.

Academic Dishonesty

Students who are suspected of cheating will be referred to the Student Conduct and Ethical Development office and depending on the severity of the conduct, will receive a zero on the assignment of a grade of F in the course. Grade Forgiveness does not apply to courses for which the original grade was the result of a finding of academic dishonesty.

Library Liaison

The library liaison for Political Science is available to answer questions and provide one-on-one help using the library for research. Essy Barosso-Ramirez, library liaison for political science, can be reached via email at essy.barosso-ramirez@sjsu.edu and via phone at 408-808-2041.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page](#) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>), which is hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Education. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Office hours and email policy

If you have questions or need help with class, don't hesitate to talk to me. Here are two main ways to contact me:

Office hours: the best way to communicate with me is during my office hours. I will have regular office hours on Mondays 12-1pm in Clark 449. I recommend using office hours for most issues, as this is the best way to get the most complete answers to your questions. If you are not available during my office hours, let me know what your schedule looks like and we'll figure out an alternative time to meet.

Email: email should be used only for quick inquiries. I will generally reply to your emails within one business day (generally 24 hours except on weekends and holidays). Please note that email should not be used for substantive issues where extensive communication is needed (such as discussing paper topics or explaining concepts from the material) or for confidential issues (such as discussing grades, personal issues, and similar), because email is not considered a confidential form of communication.

The Fine Print

Information in this syllabus can be changed with fair notice. Any changes will be announced through Canvas. It is your responsibility to sign into Canvas regularly and check for any important announcements and updates.

POLS 190 (section 2)/Senior Seminar Fall 2022 Course Schedule

Notes on course reading assignments:

All readings are available on Canvas. Some have been uploaded to Canvas in pdf format, while others have links which you can use to access the readings. The best way to keep track of assigned readings is to follow the modules on Canvas. Everything is uploaded/listed in the appropriate module.

Please note page numbers for assigned readings: if there is no note “read pages...” at the end of a citation, you are required to read the entire chapter/article. If a note is included, you are only required to read those pages.

I recommend you complete the readings in the order they are listed.

POLS 190(2) Fall 2022 Course Schedule (subject to change with fair notice)		
Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Aug 22	Course introduction <u>Readings:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read course syllabus <u>Assignment:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sign up for presentation dates (in class)
2	Aug 29	Understanding democracy <u>Readings:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dahl, <i>Polyarchy: Participation and opposition</i> (read pages 1-10)• Schumpeter, <i>Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy</i> (read pages 250-283)• Schmitter, & Karl, What democracy is . . . and is not. <i>Journal of Democracy</i>. <u>Assignment:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading reflections/questions #1 due Sunday August 28 by 11:59pm
3	Sept 5	Labor Day, no class

POLS 190(2) Fall 2022 Course Schedule (subject to change with fair notice)

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
4	Sept 12	<p>Prospects for transition to democracy</p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huntington, Will more countries become democratic? <i>Political Science Quarterly</i> (read pages 237-256) • Rustow, Transitions to democracy: toward a dynamic model. <i>Comparative Politics</i> (read pages 346-361) • Levitsky & Way, International linkage and democratization. <i>Journal of Democracy</i> <p><u>Assignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading reflections/questions #2 due Sunday September 11 by 11:59pm
5	Sept 19	<p>Relationship between economic development and democratization</p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lipset, Some social requisites of democracy: economic development and political legitimacy. <i>The American Political Science Review</i> (read pages 75-85) • Ross, Does oil hinder democracy? <i>World Politics</i> (read pages 325-337) <p><u>Assignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading reflections/questions #3 due Sunday September 18 by 11:59pm
6	Sept 26	<p>Democratization process</p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • O'Donnell & Schmitter, <i>Transitions from authoritarian rule: tentative conclusions about uncertain democracies</i> (read pages 15-31 & 37-47) • Bunce, Rethinking recent democratization: lessons from the postcommunist experience. <i>World Politics</i> (read pages 167-179) • Huntington, Will more countries become democratic? <i>Political Science Quarterly</i> (read pages 256-266) <p><u>Assignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading reflections/questions #4 due Sunday September 25 by 11:59pm
7	Oct 3	<p>Exam 1: Monday October 3 at 4:30pm</p>

POLS 190(2) Fall 2022 Course Schedule (subject to change with fair notice)

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
8	Oct 10	<p>Democratic consolidation</p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linz, & Stepan, Toward consolidated democracies. <i>Journal of Democracy</i> • Haggard & Kaufman, The challenges of consolidation. <i>Journal of Democracy</i> • Przeworski, Alvarez, Cheibub, & Limongi, What makes democracies endure? <i>Journal of Democracy</i> <p><u>Assignments:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading reflections/questions #5 due Sunday October 9 by 11:59pm • Paper proposal due Monday October 10 by 4:30pm • Paper consultations start on October 11
9	Oct 17	<p>Forms of democratic systems</p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linz, The perils of presidentialism. <i>Journal of Democracy</i> • Horowitz, Comparing democratic systems. <i>Journal of Democracy</i> • Lijphart, Constitutional choices for new democracies. <i>Journal of Democracy</i> <p><u>Assignments:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading reflections/questions #6 due Sunday October 16 by 11:59pm • Paper consultations end on October 21
10	Oct 24	<p>Hybrid regimes and democratic backsliding</p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levitsky & Way, The rise of competitive authoritarianism. <i>Journal of Democracy</i> • Bermeo, On democratic backsliding, <i>Journal of Democracy</i> • Haggard & Kaufman, The anatomy of democratic backsliding, <i>Journal of Democracy</i> <p><u>Assignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading reflections/questions #7 due Sunday October 23 by 11:59pm

POLS 190(2) Fall 2022 Course Schedule (subject to change with fair notice)

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
11	Oct 31	<p>Is democracy a universal value?</p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sen, Democracy as a universal value. <i>Journal of Democracy</i> • Zakaria, Islam, democracy, and constitutional liberalism. <i>Political Science Quarterly</i> • Sartori, How far can free government travel? <i>Journal of Democracy</i> <p><u>Assignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading reflections/questions #8 due Sunday October 30 by 11:59pm
12	Nov 7	<p>Domestic and international consequences of democratization</p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rosato, The flawed logic of democratic peace theory. <i>American Political Science Review</i> • Mansfield & Snyder, The perilous path to the democratic peace (in <i>Electing to fight</i>, pp. 1-19) • Fukuyama, Why is democracy performing so poorly? <i>Journal of Democracy</i> <p><u>Assignments:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading reflections/questions #9 due Sunday November 6 by 11:59pm • Optional paper draft due Monday November 7 by 4:30pm
13	Nov 14	Exam 2: Monday November 14 at 4:30pm
14	Nov 21	<p>Research paper presentations (in class)</p> <p>Required paper draft due Monday November 21 by 4:30pm</p>
15	Nov 28	<p>Research paper presentations (in class)</p> <p>Peer review due Monday November 28 by 4:30pm</p>
16	Dec 5	Research paper presentations (in class)
	Dec 12	Research paper due Monday December 12 by 5:15pm