

**San José State University**  
**School/Department**  
**POLS 110, Race and Politics, Spring 2022,**

**Course and Contact Information**

Instructor: Xintong Chen  
Office Location: Clark Hall, 406N  
Telephone: 408-924-5346  
Email: [xintong.chen@sjsu.edu](mailto:xintong.chen@sjsu.edu)  
Office Hours: M/W 10:00 - noon via Zoom and by appointment  
Class Days/Time: M/W 3:00 – 4:15 PM  
Classroom: Online  
Zoom Link: <https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/84366050372?pwd=eW9oT0RFL1k5NjQ0d2ljeGhZaHhNZz09>

**Course Description**

This is a 4-credit course. Examines race and politics in America by focusing on political participation and social movement strategies among minoritized groups. Explores theories of equality, diversity, and justice, and the changing legal relationship between states and citizens.

**Course Overview**

This course examines the relationship between race and American politics. This course is organized into three sections. The first section defined race and racism and presents a racialization framework that explain when, why and how race and ethnicity have mattered and still matter. The second section examines the political history of several minority groups including native Americans, African Americans, Latinos and Asian Americans. Sections three focus on policy and social issues. It first provides a theoretical overview for explaining group identity, then discuss how minority groups influences U.S. electoral, civic and political outcomes, and finally explore public policies that affects minority groups development in the United States. This course examines race as both an illusion and ordering principle in U.S. society, and asks students to ask critical questions about democracy, citizenship, power, and belonging.

**Course Learning Outcomes**

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

- CLO1: Describe and demonstrate how race developed as a special construct in Europe and the Americas and the impact of racial and ethnic barriers on social and political equality. This outcome is assessed by class participation, online discussion forum #1 and midterm exam.
- CLO2: Understand the contemporary and historical theories that are integral to race and ethnic politics and the effect that race, racism and discrimination has had on shaping political behavior and institutions. This outcome is assessed by class participation, race and policy/social issue presentation and final exam.
- CLO3: Compare and contrast political history of multiple minority groups including, but not limited to, Native American, African American, Latino, and Asian-American. This outcome is assessed by class participation, online discussion forum #2 and #3 and midterm exam.

- CLO4: Analyze the history and future political participation in different communities, including, but not limited to, Native American, African American, Latino, and Asian-American. This outcome is assessed by class participation, online discussion forum # 2 and #3 and final exam.
- CLO5: Assess and discuss social issues facing by minority communities and public policies affect minority communities critically. This outcome is assessed by class participation, race and policy/social issue presentation and final exam.

### **Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging**

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on my faculty web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/people/firstname.lastname> and/or on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](#). You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU on Spartan App Portal](#) (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor) to learn of any updates. For help with using Canvas see [Canvas Student Resources page](#).

### **Communication and Office Hour**

I provided all course materials on Canvas and will frequently make announcements on Canvas. It is essential that you check the class Canvas page routinely. I am available to meet you every Monday and Wednesday morning 10:00 to noon. You will use the link <https://www.wejoinin.com/sheets/hnllp> to sign up for office hours. One spot is for 15 minutes. You should sign up at least two hours early before the meeting time. You can sign up for at most two spots per week. If you need more time, send me an email. I will set up a special appointment with you. Free feel to contact me through email as well if you have any questions.

### **Required Texts/Readings**

#### **Textbook**

Todd Shaw; Louis DeSipio; Dianne Pinderhughes; Toni-Michelle C. Travis, *Uneven Roads: An Introduction to U.S. Racial and Ethnic Politics*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., (Sage CQ Press) Print ISBN # 9781506371764

### **Course Requirements and Assignments**

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. Because this is a four-unit course, you can expect to spend a minimum of nine hours per week, in addition to time spent in class, on scheduled tutorials, assignments, or activities. This additional unit will allow for more in-depth investigation and engagement with course topics. Careful time management will help you keep up with readings and assignments and enable you to be successful in all of your courses. More details about student workload can be found in [University Syllabus Policy S16-9](#) and [University's Syllabus Information web page](#). This course include four types of assignments.

**Online Discussion Forum (30%).** The syllabus schedule includes three online discussion forums via Canvas. Online Forums will be open for one week per the syllabus schedule. Online Forums will have a prompt and require watch the film of the week be completed. Students are expected to make 3 posts to the forum. One post will introduce a question or comment and must be made within five days of the forum opening. One additional post should be made where you comment on the first posts of one of your classmates. The third post is a reply to the comments made of your first post and is due by midnight on the closing date of the forum. Additional posts to the Online Forums are encouraged, though not required. Participation in online discussion forums includes asking good questions and/or offering ideas, responding to the question or idea of another, sharing important insights, and presenting quality writing. This assignment evaluates CLOs 1, 3 and 4.

**Exam (40%).** Students will complete two exams over the course of the semester (a midterm and a final exam). The midterm exam includes 10 short essay questions. You will write a paragraph to show your understanding of each question. There is a total of 100 points available. Each question worth 10 points. You have 75 mins to complete the exam. This is an open book exam, which means notes, readings, electronic devices are allowed during the exam. You should finish the exam independently, which means you cannot discuss with other people. This assignment evaluates CLOs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

**Race and Policy / Social Issue Presentation (15%).** In partners or groups, students will present a policy issue or social issue facing by a race and ethnic group. Students will research on social issue and identify the cause and potential solutions of the social issues and specify their recommendations for the ethnic group to change the situation. This assignment gives students the opportunity to investigate the relationship between race and politics in more depth. This assignment evaluates CLOs 2 and 5.

**Participation and in-class activities (15%).** Regular class attendance is highly encouraged, though per University Policy F-15-12 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf>), students will not be graded on daily attendance. Participation will be evaluated based on in class activities such as group discussions, exercise, and quizzes. This assignment evaluates CLOs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

### Grading Information

Your grade will be calculated as follows:

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>A plus</i>	<i>980 to 1000</i>	<i>98 to 100%</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>930 to 979</i>	<i>93 to 97%</i>
<i>A minus</i>	<i>900 to 929</i>	<i>90 to 92%</i>
<i>B plus</i>	<i>860 to 899</i>	<i>86 to 89 %</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>830 to 859</i>	<i>83 to 85%</i>
<i>B minus</i>	<i>800 to 829</i>	<i>80 to 82%</i>
<i>C plus</i>	<i>760 to 799</i>	<i>76 to 79%</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>730 to 759</i>	<i>73 to 75%</i>
<i>C minus</i>	<i>700 to 729</i>	<i>70 to 72%</i>
<i>D plus</i>	<i>660 to 699</i>	<i>66 to 69%</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>630 to 659</i>	<i>63 to 65%</i>
<i>D minus</i>	<i>600 to 629</i>	<i>60 to 62%</i>

Assignment Points Breakdown and Due Dates:

<b>Grade Item</b>	<b>Points (percentage of grade)</b>	<b>Due Dates</b>
Discussion Forum	30 (10 each)	2/2; 3/2; 4/6
Presentation	15	5/2 or 5/4
Midterm Exam	20	3/16
Final Exam	20	5/16
Attendance and Participation	15	N/A

## **Classroom Protocol**

### **Make-up/Late Policy**

Students are expected to complete assignments on time and turn them in by the beginning of class on the day they are due. Students are not allowed to make up all assignments of this course. If these are not completed; the student will receive a zero for that day. The late policy may be waived in the following two situations. First, it may be waived at the instructor's discretion in case of an emergency. If an emergency arises that prevents you from completing your work on time, please email the instructor as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made for you to keep up in the class. Emergencies are defined as anything which is serious and unexpected. Emergencies cannot be written on the calendar in advance. Examples of emergencies are heart attacks, car accidents, a serious health crisis of the student or in the student's immediate family. Examples of non-emergencies are family weddings, vacations, conferences or any other event which can be planned around. Second, university-related absences (e.g., university athletics, conferences, and other university-related absences) are considered as excused absences. If students cannot complete assignments on time due to university-related absences, students should inform the instructor before the due time of an assignment.

### **Recording of Lectures**

Please obtain my permission before taking an audio or video recording of lectures or other class activities. I will almost certainly grant such permission, but it is common courtesy to let people know you will be recording them before you do so. Thus, out of respect to your colleagues and to me, please do not record this class without my explicit permission.

### **University Policies**

Per [University Policy S16-9](#), 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](#) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

### **Workload and Credit Hour Requirements**

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 practice. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

### **Additional Information**

#### **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>.

#### **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.

### **Spartan Food Pantry**

The Spartan Food Pantry is a walk-in, full-service, staffed, food assistance program offering non-perishable goods, fresh produce, and refrigerated items to eligible students. No student should have to face food insecurity. We define those in need as students who have limited or uncertain access to nutritious and safe foods because of a lack of money and other resources. For more information, visit Spartan Food Pantry website at <https://www.sjsu.edu/sjsucares/get-assistance/spartan-food-pantry.php>

## Race and Politics, POLS 110, Spring 2022

Please note, the schedule below is subject to change with fair notice. It is the student's responsibility to stay apprised of changes to the course schedule.

Week/Lesson /Module	Date	Topics and Assignments	Readings
1	1/26	Course Overview	NA
2	1/31; 2/2	<b>Race; Film Screening I and Discussion Forum I</b>	Textbook Ch.1
3	2/7;2 /9	Historical Foundations I	Textbook Ch.2&3
4	2/14; 2/16	Historical Foundations II	Textbook Ch.4&5
5	2/21; 2/23	Voting Rights	Textbook Ch.7
6	2/28; 3/2	<b>Film Screening II and Discussion Forum II</b>	NA
7	3/7;3 /9	Group Identity, Ideology, and Activism	Textbook Ch.8
8	3/14; 3/16	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	NA
9	3/21; 3/23	Political Behavior and Representation	Textbook Ch.9
10	3/28; 3/30	Spring Break	NA
11	4/4;4 /6	<b>Film Screening III and Discussion Forum III</b>	NA
12	4/11; 4/13	Education and Criminal Justice Policies	Textbook Ch.10
13	4/18; 4/20	Immigration Policy	Textbook Ch.11
14	4/25; 4/27	Intersections of Race, Gender, Class and Sexual Orientation	Textbook Ch.13
15	5/2;5 /4	<b>Group Presentations</b>	NA
16	5/9;5 /11	Final Exam Preparation	NA
<b>Final Online Exam - 5/16 Class Time</b>			