

San José State University  
College of Social Sciences / Political Science  
Department POLS 15, Essentials of U.S. & California  
Government, Section , Spring, 2022  
Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Al Schendan

Office Location: [ZoomLinks to an external site. https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/87945672677 \(Links to an external site.\)](https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/87945672677)

Google Voice: (510) 473 - 2591 (please use email or office hours first)

Email: [albert.schendan@sjsu.edu \(please allow for a response within 24 hours not including weekends\)](mailto:albert.schendan@sjsu.edu)

Office Hours: Thursday 8 -9 am ( 2/3 -5/12, except 3/24 & 3/31)

Class Days/Time: Online

Classroom: Canvas

TA Office Hours:

GE/SJSU Studies Category: US2, US3 & D3

### Course Format

This class is a fully online asynchronous course with no required class meetings. Students will need to utilize a computer to access the readings, watch lectures, submit assignments, and attend office hours.

### Course Description

[University catalog \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

**From the SJSU Catalog:** Treatment of essentials of U.S. and California government. Satisfies the American Institutions requirements in U.S. Constitution (US2) and California

Government (US3), and the Core GE requirement in Social Sciences: Social Issues (D3).  
GE Area: D3, and American Institution Requirement: US2 and US3

**From the SJSU GE Guidelines (S14-5):** In this course you will be exposed to alternative interpretations of the historical events and political processes that have shaped the social, economic, and political system in which you live. This course will provide a multicultural framework, including both conflict and consensus perspectives, of the choices and options available to individuals and groups in their social, economic and political relations. The focus of the course is the growth of a multicultural society and our interactions, including cooperation and conflict, as these many and varied peoples have dealt with social, economic, and political issues.

SJSU graduation requirement of D- (if used to satisfy US2, US2, and D3)

Course and GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

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

1. **GELO 1 (US2):** Explain how political decisions are made, their consequences for individuals and society, and how individuals and groups may affect the decision-making process. Analyze the meaning and content of the democratic process as it has evolved in the United States and California and describe the foundations of the political system and the evolving institutions of government, the links between the people and government, and the operations of California government. **Assessed by multiple-choice questions in five exams and the Canvas activities.**
2. **GELO 2 (US3):** Identify the tools of political action and collective decision making at the local, state, national, and global level and articulate the values and assumptions that inform their civic engagement. **Assessed by multiple-choice questions in five exams and the Canvas activities.**
3. **GELO 3 (D3):** Place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts. **Assessed Canvas activities.**
4. **GELO 4 (D3):** Identify the dynamics of ethnic, cultural, gender/sexual, age-based, class, regional, national, transnational, and global identities and the similarities, differences, linkages, and interactions between them. **Assessed by Lakoff Policy Analysis and multiple-choice questions in five exams.**
5. **GELO 5 (D3):** Evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues. **Assessed by Lakoff Policy Analysis assignment.**
6. **GELO 6 (D3)** Apply multidisciplinary material to a topic relevant to policy and social action at the local, national, and/or international levels. **Assessed by multiple-choice questions and Lakoff Policy Analysis.**

**Required Texts/Readings (PDFs provided)**

Kenneth Janda, Jeffrey M. Berry, Jerry Goldman, Deborah Schildkraut, *The Challenge of Democracy*, 2014, 12th Edition. Wadsworth Cengage Learning, ISBN: 978-1-305-95492-

Larry N. Gerston, Terry Christensen, *California Politics and Government: A Practical Approach*, 2016, 14<sup>th</sup> Edition. Wadsworth Cengage Learning, ISBN: 978-1305-95349-9

### **Other Readings (PDFs provided)**

Metaphor, Morality, and Politics, Or,  
Why Conservatives Have Left Liberals In the Dust

<http://www.wgcd.org/issues/Lakoff.html>

### **Study Websites:**

<http://uspolitics.org/student/student.html> (Links to an external site.)

[http://college.cengage.com/polisci/janda/chall\\_dem/10e/student\\_home.html](http://college.cengage.com/polisci/janda/chall_dem/10e/student_home.html) (Links to an external site.)

[http://www.cengage.com/cgi-](http://www.cengage.com/cgi-wadsworth/course_products_wp.pl?fid=M20b&product_isbn_issn=9781133602330)

[wadsworth/course\\_products\\_wp.pl?fid=M20b&product\\_isbn\\_issn=9781133602330](http://www.cengage.com/cgi-wadsworth/course_products_wp.pl?fid=M20b&product_isbn_issn=9781133602330) (Links to an external site.)

### **Writing Center**

The San José State University Writing Center offers a variety of resources to help students become better writers, and all of their services are free for SJSU students. The writing center is located in the library on the second floor and appointments are available Monday-Thursday from 10 am to 3 pm. During this pandemic they are providing online tutoring and can be reached

through: <https://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/> (Links to an external site.)

[\(Links to an external site.\)](https://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/)**Course Requirements and Assignments**

### **University policy S16-9**

<http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/index.html#CreditHour>

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 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practice. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in this syllabus.

**All exams and quizzes will be conducted over Canvas and pulled from readings, lectures, and videos. Please be sure to submit all your work through Canvas. Emailed submissions will not be accepted.**

**QUIZZES** (10% of final grade) Throughout the term there will be multiple quizzes for subjects that include material from the course including readings, lectures, and videos. Questions are randomly pulled from a test bank and could reappear in your exams. Quizzes should be used to help you gauge your understanding of the material. Take the quiz after you read the provided reading(s) and watch the lectures, then take stock of your score and reread the material and watch the lectures and retake the quiz.

**EXAMS** (40% of final grade) Exams will consist of multiple-choice questions pulled from various sources and could include queries from the readings, lectures, and videos. Exam and quiz questions were created by the *Challenge of Democracy* textbook publisher and Professor Schendan and are randomly pulled from a bank of questions.

**EXAM #1** (60 points): This exam will consist of thirty multiple-choice questions. It will cover the assigned readings, lectures, and videos for weeks one through five. **It will assess GELOs 1-2.**

**EXAM #2** (60 points): This exam will consist of thirty multiple-choice questions. It will cover the assigned readings, lectures, and activities for weeks six and seven. **It will assess GELOs 1-2.**

**EXAM #3** (60 points): This exam will consist of thirty multiple-choice questions. It will cover the assigned readings, lectures, and activities for weeks eight through ten. **It will assess GELOs 1-2.**

**EXAM #4** (60 points): This exam will consist of thirty multiple-choice questions. It will cover the assigned readings, lectures, and activities for weeks eleven through thirteen. **It will assess GELOs 1-2.**

**EXAM #5** (160 points): Exam #3 will consist of eighty multiple-choice questions. thirty questions will cover the assigned chapters in the readings and materials after the fourth exam. Fifty questions will cover material prior to the fourth exam. **It will assess GELOs 1-2.**

**LAKOFF POLICY ANALYSIS** (25% of final grade): Apply George Lakoff's theory to **one** political issue and explain why both liberals and conservatives would be for or against a policy preference. Be sure to list and define at least four metaphors from each model (Strict Father & Nurturant Parent models) that apply to the issue; then apply each model and metaphor to the issue. For example, if you chose single-payer healthcare or Medicare For All as your issue, you will need to explain why a conservative would be opposed to or in favor of such a policy and then explain a liberal's opposition or preference for such a policy. If you can apply the models and metaphors effectively, you can also argue that both liberals and conservatives would be in favor or opposed to the same policy preference. As this requires more effort, you may wish to consult me during office hours. You do not need an introduction but be sure explain the models briefly before you discuss and apply the metaphors and models to your issue. Your paper will be assessed through Turnitin.com and should be at least 800 words and submitted in one of the following formats: Microsoft Word (.DOC/.DOCX), OpenOffice (.ODT), WordPerfect (.WPD), PostScript (.PS), (PDF), (TXT), (RTF), (HWP), (HTML), (PPT) or

Google Docs. Papers in the following conditions will 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), incomplete papers, high similarity ratings by Turnitin.com (25 % or above), or emailed to me. For details on how your paper will be graded, please see the rubric attached to your assignment in Canvas. **It will assess GELOs 3-6.**

**ACTIVITIES** (25% of final grade): There are several assignments that will be posted on Canvas or watched during the class period that require typed responses. Each Canvas activity will include a prompt with a discussion of requirements. All activities are due on the date listed in Canvas. It will assess GELOs 1-2

### **Final Examination or Evaluation**

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.

The final exam (Exam # 5) will consist of 80 multiple-choice questions. Thirty questions will cover the assigned chapters in the readings and materials after the fourth exam. Fifty questions will cover material prior to the fourth exam.

### **GRADING INFORMATION**

Your final grade in the course will be determined by the points you earn for exams, as well as the Lakoff paper, and activities. Different assignments must be submitted on specific days-please see the course schedule and/or Canvas for due dates.

<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>WEIGHT</b>	<b>GELOs ASSESSED</b>
<b>QUIZZES</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>GELOs 1-2</b>
<b>EXAMS</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>GELOs 1-2</b>
<b>LAKOFF ANALYSIS</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>GELOs 3-6</b>
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>GELOs 1-2</b>
	<b>100%</b>	

A plus=	97 to 100 %
A=	93 to 96 %
A minus=	90 to 92 %
B plus=	87 to 89 %
B=	83 to 86 %
B minus=	80 to 82 %
C plus=	77 to 79 %
C=	73 to 76 %

C minus=	70 to 72 %
D plus=	67 to 69 %
D=	63 to 66 %
D minus=	60 to 62 %
F=	0 to 59 %

NOTE that University policy F15-12 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf> states that “Students are expected to attend all meetings for the courses in which they are enrolled as they are responsible for material discussed therein, and active participation is frequently essential to ensure maximum benefit to all class members. In some cases, attendance is fundamental to course objectives; for example, students may be required to interact with others in the class.

Attendance is the responsibility of the student.”

### **Missed Exams and Missed Work**

All assignments are available from the beginning of the course through their respective due dates. If you submit a late assignment (not including exams or quizzes) it will be penalized (no documentation required or requested) at a rate of 1.5% of the total points available each day it is late. For example, if you submitted an assignment two weeks after it was due it would receive a -21% penalty after assessment. If you miss an exam and have a valid excuse (documentation may be requested), I will allow you to make up the exam—please see during office hours or email me to schedule a make-up exam. Do keep in mind quiz make-ups are not available. The last day to submit work is 5/20/2022.

### **Course Protocol**

This course requires you to watch lectures, read the text, and submit assignments utilizing a computer and an internet connection. You should sign into Canvas regularly and check the announcements and submit your work by the due dates. Please see me if you have any questions regarding expectations.

### **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 them. 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
- “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without their 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.”

### **University Policies**

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 \(Links to an external site.\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at [http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/ \(Links to an external site.\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/)” Be sure to review these policies and resources. Additional policies may be found here: [http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/policies/pol\\_chron/ \(Links to an external site.\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/policies/pol_chron/)

### **Disability Access**

Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor ASAP. 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](mailto:aec-info@sjsu.edu) or [aec-exams@sjsu.edu](mailto: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 \(Links to an external site.\)](http://notalone.sjsu.edu) which mandates educational training programs to help prevent sexual violence. For more information and resources, go to: [http://notalone.sjsu.edu \(Links to an external site.\)](http://notalone.sjsu.edu)

For more information go to: [http://www.sjsu.edu/wellness/onlinetraining/ \(Links to an external site.\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/wellness/onlinetraining/)

**POLS 15, Essentials of U.S. and California Government, Spring 2022, Course Schedule**

**All assignments should be completed by their due dates.**

Week	By Date	Assignments
		Watch Introduction to the Course <b>Take Introductory Questionnaire</b>
1	1/29	<b>Introduce yourself in the Community Forum</b> <b>Read the syllabus and take the quiz</b> Read Ch. 1 & 2
		Read Ch. 1 & 2
2	2/5	Watch Introduction to Politics lecture <b>Take Introduction to Politics quiz</b>
		Read Ch. 3 – Constitution
3	2/12	Watch Constitutional Development lecture Read Declaration of Independence
		Read Ch. 3 – Constitution
4	2/19	Watch Constitutional Convention lecture Read Constitution of the United States <b>Submit Constitution outline</b>



Week	By Date	Assignments
		<p>Read CA Government text – Ch. 1</p> <p><b>Watch and respond to Empire of Reason film</b></p>
5	2/26	<p>Watch Constitutional Change lecture</p> <p><b>Take Ch. 3 –Constitution quiz</b></p> <p><b>Take Exam One</b></p>
6	3/5	<p>Read Ch. 4 – Federalism</p> <p>Read CA Government text – Ch. 10</p> <p>Watch Federalism lecture</p> <p>Watch Harvard Scholar video - Federalism</p> <p><b>Watch and respond to Constitution USA – A More Perfect Union</b></p> <p><b>Take Ch. 4 Federalism quiz</b></p>
7	3/12	<p><b>Take Political Typology quiz and submit response</b></p> <p>Read <i>Moral Politics</i> by George Lakoff</p> <p>Watch Moral Politics and Lakoff lectures</p> <p><b>Take Moral Politics quiz</b></p> <p><b>Begin your Lakoff Policy Analysis</b></p>

Week	By Date	Assignments
		<p><b>Take Exam Two</b></p> <p>Read Ch. 10 – Interest Groups</p>
8	3/19	<p>Watch Interest Groups lecture</p> <p>Watch Harvard Scholar video – Interest Groups</p> <p><b>Take Ch. 10 – Interest Groups quiz</b></p>
		<p><b>Submit Lakoff Theory Policy Analysis</b></p> <p>Read Ch. 8 – Political Parties</p>
9	3/26	<p>Read CA Government text – Ch. 2</p> <p>Watch Political Parties lecture</p> <p>Watch Harvard Scholar video – Political Parties</p> <p><b>Take Ch. 8 – Political Parties quiz</b></p>
10	4/2	Spring Break!

Week	By Date	Assignments
		<p>Read Ch. 9 Elections &amp; Electoral College</p> <p>Watch Electoral College lectures</p> <p>Watch Elections text slide presentation</p> <p>Watch Harvard Scholar video – Campaigns &amp; Elections</p>
11	4/9	<p><b>Take Ch. 9 - Elections &amp; Electoral College quiz</b></p> <p><b>Take Exam Three</b></p> <p>Read Ch. 11 – Congress</p> <p>Watch Congressional Representation lecture</p> <p>Watch Harvard Scholar video – Congress and Constituency</p> <p>Read Ch. 11 – Congress</p> <p>Watch Congressional Representation lecture</p> <p>Watch Harvard Scholar video – Congress and Constituency</p>
12	4/16	<p>Watch Congressional Leadership lecture</p> <p>Watch Harvard Scholar video – Congress and Party</p> <p>Watch Congress – The Dance of Legislation lecture</p> <p><b>Take Ch. 11 – Congress quiz</b></p> <p>Read Ch. 12 – The Presidency</p> <p>Watch Presidency lecture</p>
13	4/23	<p>Watch Harvard Scholar videos – President and Policy</p> <p><b>Watch and respond to Obama’s Presidency &amp; Obama’s Deal videos</b></p> <p><b>Take Ch. 12 - Presidency quiz</b></p> <p><b>Take Exam Four</b></p>

Week	By Date	Assignments
14	4/30	Read Ch. 14 – The Courts Watch Courts lecture Watch Harvard Scholar <b>Take Ch. 14 – Courts quiz</b>
15	5/7	Read Ch. 15 – Civil Liberties Watch Civil Liberties lecture Watch Harvard Scholar video - Civil Liberties <b>Take Ch. 15 – Civil Liberties quiz</b>
16	5/14	Read Ch. 16 – Civil Rights Watch Civil Rights text slide presentation Watch Harvard Scholar video - Civil Rights <b>Take Ch. 16 – Civil Rights quiz</b>

Week	By Date	Assignments
17	5/20	<b><u>Take Final Exam</u></b> - Exam Five will consist of 80 multiple-choice questions. Thirty questions will cover the assigned chapters in the textbook, iLearn readings and activities/videos for the material after the fourth exam. Fifty questions will cover material prior to the fourth exam. Be sure to complete the exam by 11:59 pm on <b><u>Friday</u></b> 5/20/2022.