

San José State University
Political Science
POLS 170V- 80, American Politics in Global Perspective

Fall 2022

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Rania Marwan

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 9:00 -10:45 and by appointment via Zoom
<https://sjsu.zoom.us/my/raniamarwan>

Class Days/Time: Wed 3:00-4:15 pm

Classroom: Zoom

Course Overview

This course is designed to be an introduction to American government, its historical foundations, its functions, institutions, political processes and its civic culture. We will examine how our political system was designed, how it has changed over time and how public opinion, the media and the "information age" have affected our government institutions and public policy. We will discuss the role and scope of government as it was conceived by the Founders and as it is viewed today. We will also learn how the U.S. and the world interact and learn to explain why actions by one government may impact nations or peoples in other locations. Finally, we will examine current policy issues, weigh the costs and benefits of actions and engage in thoughtful discussion of contemporary policies and actions with a view toward how those issues and actions impact the current political scene. To achieve these objectives, I have chosen a textbook that focuses attention on the role of citizens as key actors in the democratic experiment that we call the United States of America.

Course Format

Only one Zoom class will be held during the Wednesdays of each week of the class on the official allotted time for POLS 170 V (from 3:00 to 4:15). The instructor might schedule further zoom meetings and upload Panopto recordings on Canvas related to the material covered during class. In order for this to be a positive learning experience for everyone, it is important to log on to Zoom during the class gatherings. Students should keep their video on, and microphone muted (when you are not speaking) during the class session. If you have any issues with sharing your video feed, adhering to this policy, or anything else related to your use of Zoom please notify me via email in the first week of class. I'm happy to consider and provide accommodations, but you will need to be in communication with me. Students who attend all classes and show active participation during class discussions will receive 3 extra points on their final grade.

To foster class discussion, you are also required to post one open-ended question and two responses via the online platform, Packback. Packback Questions is a way to engage students through online discussion. Participation is a requirement for this course, and the Packback Questions platform will be used for online discussion about class topics. Packback Questions is an online community where you can be fearlessly curious and ask open-ended questions to build on top of what we are covering in class and relate topics to real-world applications. The assigned readings should be read before the class meeting and the relevant discussions started on Packback.

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](#). You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU](#) on [Spartan App Portal](#) to learn of any updates. For help with using Canvas see [Canvas Student Resources page](#). Please make sure you are consistently reachable via the messaging system as e-mails through the Canvas system and the student's individual e-mails are how I maintain contact with the class over the course of the semester. The responsibility for being up to date on developments in the class and assignments lies with the student.

By enrolling in this course, you consent to all course requirements listed in this syllabus, published on our Canvas site, and announced in class. You accept responsibility for accessing the Canvas course website to download any required handouts, assignments, or readings. You also accept responsibility for checking the course website regularly for any announcements. You also accept responsibility for receiving any messages sent via the MySJSU email system. Make sure that MySJSU has your current email address. I will make every effort to promptly return emails between M-F. If I do not respond within 24 hours, please feel free to send me another email. I will answer emails on the weekends and evening, though I can't guarantee prompt response at those times. I am available to meet with you by appointment if you have class or work during my regularly scheduled office hours.

Course Goals

To understand the nuances of government and politics and its impact on our daily lives, the course has the following learning objectives: (1) To identify and articulate the core values associated with American government and evaluate current issues and debates. (2) To assess the causes and consequences of different forms of political participation and outline the ways in which individuals and groups can affect the political outcomes (3) Develop your ability to think critically, analytically, and politically about the interrelationships of American government, politics, society and culture. (4) Explain how a culture outside the U.S. has changed in response to internal and external pressures.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

1. LO1: To identify and articulate the core values associated with American government and evaluate current issues and debates at the local, national and global levels. This outcome is assessed by in-class participation, Packback Discussions and case studies.
2. LO2: To assess the causes and consequences of different forms of political participation and outline the ways in which individuals and groups can affect the political outcomes. This outcome is assessed by in-class participation, Packback Discussions and case studies.
3. LO3: Develop your ability to think critically, analytically, and politically about the interrelationships of American government, politics, society and culture. This outcome is assessed by Packback Discussions, case studies and Quizzes.

4. LO4: Explain how a culture outside the U.S. has changed in response to internal and external pressures. This outcome is assessed in class activities, Packback Discussions, case studies and final presentation.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

- Barbour, Christine, and Gerald C. Wright. *Keeping the republic: Power and citizenship in American politics*. Cq Press, 2020 (9th edition)

Additional class material and assignments will be posted on the class Canvas website. Students are expected to complete the assigned readings prior to each class

Course Requirements and Assignments

Weekly Chapter Packback discussions (10% of grade) aligns with CLO 1, 2, 3 and 4. Participation is a requirement for this course, and the Packback Questions platform will be used for online discussion about class topics. Packback Questions is an online community where you can be fearlessly curious and ask open-ended questions to build on top of what we are covering in class and relate topics to real-world applications.

Packback Requirements:

- Your participation on Packback will count toward 10% of your overall course grade.
- There will be a Weekly Wednesday at 2:00 pm deadline for submissions. In order to receive your points per week, you should submit the following per each deadline period:
- 1 open-ended Question per week with a minimum Curiosity Score of 30, each worth 33.33% of each assignment grade
- 2 Responses per week with a minimum Curiosity Score of 30, each worth 66.67% of each assignment grade
- Half credit will be provided for questions and responses that do not meet the minimum curiosity score.

You are expected to read the news daily and to make connection between the daily news and the lessons you are learning from the text. You have access to national, state, and local news sources through the SJSU MLK library at <https://www.proquest.com/usnews/index?accountid=10361> and <https://infoweb-newsbank-com.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/apps/news/?p=NewsBank>. Other resources: The [ABC-CLIO American Government database](#) available through the SJSU library. Utilize these resources to formulate your Packback questions, make it relevant to current issues in the state of California.

Case analysis - 5 cases total (30% of grade) aligns with CLO 1,2,3, and 4. In the discussion board on Canvas, students are required to post 5 case analysis throughout the semester. The case due dates are shown below. The grade for this assignment is earned by posting the primary post and responding to at least 3 other posts. If you choose to cite literature we have not read in class, a full bibliographic citation must be included. Students will be evaluated on participation, timeliness of submissions, thoughtful analyses of the discussion, and communication skills. Each set of posts is worth 6%. The purpose of the discussion board and posting throughout the week is to create a sense of community around a topic.

The response to the case analysis should be done in light of what is discussed in the lectures and in reference to the video links that are presented with the case questions. In the case analysis you are urged to evaluate politics based on the information you are learning and by answering three important questions:

- Who are the parties involved?
- What do they have at stake?
- How do the rules shape the outcome?

Each post must be at least equal to 250 words minimum to qualify, and 500 words maximum to be considered and “A” posting. Students will need to post:

- Primary post (due Wednesday at 11:59 pm)
- Rebuttals – at least 3 (due Saturday at 11:59 pm, throughout the week)

The primary post is due during the early part of the week (Mon-Wed) and the rebuttals are due during the latter part of the week (Thurs-Sat). The deadline for the primary post is Wednesday, 11:59 pm and the rebuttals by Saturday, 11:59 pm. The entire post closes on the Saturday of the week listed at 11:59 pm. In addition to the primary post, short rebuttals and comments on your colleagues’ posts are due as well. The schedule for case analysis posts is:

Case Analysis Topics	Period for Primary Post	Period for rebuttals
1. Case #1	Feb21-Feb 23	Feb 24-Feb 26
2. Case # 2	Mar 14-Mar 16	Mar 17-Mar 19
3. Case # 3	Mar 21-Mar 23	Mar 24-Mar 26
4. Case # 4	Apr 8-Apr 20	Apr 21-Apr 23
5. Case # 5	Apr 25-Apr 27	Apr 28-Apr 30

Midterm (25%) aligns with CLO 1 and 2. There will be a midterm to assess the learning key concepts. The exam will be multiple-choice questions and short answers, which cover the contents of the chapters you have learned.

3 Quizzes (15%) aligns with CLO 1 and 2. Students will complete 3 quizzes online. Each quiz will mainly include multiple choice questions on the knowledge covered in class or readings. It may also include short answer questions or a short essay question. Quizzes will be given on the dates indicated in the syllabus.

Final paper/presentation (20%) aligns with CLO 3 and 4 . Students will work in groups of two throughout the semester delivering a country case paper. A schedule of the dates of the presentations and the assigned country will be announced on the second week we meet. As a group you will be required to upload a paper and present a 15-minute presentation discussing the following aspects of the country:

- Brief summary of your assigned country
- The political system of the country
- How this country is affected by and affects the American government

The paper should be 5 pages, double spaced, APA style. The final paper is due on May 18th to be uploaded by 11:59 pm on Canvas.

Grading Information

In this course, students will not be graded on attendance. This class is primarily based on doing the readings and regularly making the submissions and sticking to the deadlines. Your grades will be calculated as follows:

Grading Scale

Grade	Percentage
A +	96 to 100%
A	93 to 95%
A -	90 to 92%
B +	86 to 89 %
B	83 to 85%
B -	80 to 82%
C+	76 to 79%
C	73 to 75%

C -	<i>70 to 72%</i>
D +	<i>66 to 69%</i>
D	<i>63 to 65%</i>
D -	<i>60 to 62%</i>

Summary Course Assignments and Weights

Assignment	Weight %
Weekly Chapter Packback discussions	10
Case analysis - 5 cases total:	30 (6% each case)
1. Case # 1	
2. Case # 2	
3. Case # 3	
4. Case # 4	
5. Case # 5	
Midterm	25
Quizzes (4)	15
Final presentation/ Paper:	20 divided as follows:
1. Group Paper	10
2. Presentation	10

Make-up/Late Policy

There are no make-up exams or other assignments without appropriate documentation (serious medical illness or serious medical emergency, religious holiday, pre-approved university-sanctioned event or activity, military orders, family emergency) that you were unable to complete the assignment on time.

This also applies to in-class assignments. If you are seriously ill, you must notify me as soon as possible by email or on my office phone that you will be unable to complete an assignment on time. Except in cases of documented medical emergency, you **MUST** notify me before the scheduled assignment. Out of fairness to your colleagues, work, missing an alarm, and generally not feeling well will not be accepted excuses for missing assignments. Be sure you schedule all of our assignments right away. If you have a vacation or similar event planned during one of these assignment days, you may want to take this course during another session or make arrangements to hand in the assignment early.

Major assignments like the Final Research Paper will be graded if handed in late; however, these will be penalized commensurate with how late they were. If you have reason to think you will not make a deadline, always at least discuss it with me first. I can't guarantee anything, but I can guarantee a fair hearing. Communication will always lead to a better outcome for you than not communicating.

Classroom Policies and Protocol

Attendance and participation

Students may be called upon by name to address concepts from the readings. Students should take the time and effort to read the materials when they are assigned and be prepared to actively participate in discussion of the topics, using both citations of the readings and their own defended views. Small group discussions during class

will only enhance learning if each participant is prepared to contribute to the group's learning. In addition to the fact that students are graded on the quality and quantity of classroom participation, regular attendance will enhance your grade by virtue of giving students the opportunity to develop the knowledge necessary to complete assignments that might not otherwise be available except from class discussion.

Cellphones, laptops, and other technology

You may not use your cell phone in class for non-class purposes. If you need to have it on for family reasons, please let me know ahead of time, turn it on vibrate and keep it out of sight to the extent possible. If you must make an emergency text, feel free to step outside of class. All other texting needs to take place before or after class. Laptops, tablets, and other such technology are allowed in class but for notetaking and educational use only. I reserve the right to bar specific students from using these technologies if they are making inappropriate use of them during class time. Please see me if you have questions about this policy or questions regarding SJSU academic accommodations related to this policy.

Recording of Lectures

I do not intend to record the Zoom lectures online for a number of reasons. (1) I do not record them when the class is in person and, to the extent that it is possible, I am trying to maintain some level of parity with how the class is usually delivered. (2) The primary benefit of a synchronous learning environment is that you may ask questions to probe for clarification in real time. Studies have shown that when students know there will be a recording of class lecture, it provides an incentive for them not to pay full attention in the moment. As such, barring extenuating circumstances, I do not intend to record my lectures for distribution to the class. 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, 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 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>"

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

Useful Information for Students

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.

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Spring 2022 Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Assigned Readings	Deliverables Due
1	Wednesday 01/26/22	-Course Introduction and Syllabus Review		
2	Wednesday 02/02/2022	- Politics: Who gets what and how?	Chapter 1	Packback discussion post, (introduction, not graded)
3	Wednesday 02/09/2022	- American Citizens and Political Culture -Politics of the American Founding	Chapter 2 & 3	Packback discussion post (Ch 2 & 3) by 2:00 pm
4	Wednesday 02/16/2022	-Federalism and the US Constitution	Chapter 4	-Packback discussion post (Ch 4) - Country Case Presentation 2 groups Quiz 1 (Ch 1-4)
5	Wednesday 02/23/2021	Fundamental American Liberties	Chapter 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Packback discussion post (Ch 5) - Case # 1 due - Country Case Presentation 2 groups
6	Wednesday 03/02/2021	The Struggle for Equal Rights	Chapter 6	Packback discussion post (Ch 6)

				- Country Case Presentation 2 groups
7	Wednesday 03/09/2022	NO CLASS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NO Packback discussion post • Midterm (Chs 1-6)
8	Wednesday 03/16/2022	Congress	Chapter 7	Packback discussion post (Ch 7) - Case # 2 Due - Country Case Presentation 2 groups
9	Wednesday 03/23/2022	The Presidency	Chapter 8	Packback discussion post (Ch 8) - Case # 3 Due - Country Case Presentation 2 groups
Spring Break from March 28-April 1				
10	Wednesday 04/06/2022	The Bureaucracy	Chapter 9	Packback discussion post (Ch 9) - Country Case Presentation 2 groups
11	Wednesday 04/13/2022	-Legal Courts	Chapter 10	Packback discussion post (Ch 10) - Quiz 2 (7-10) - Country Case Presentation 2 groups
12	Wednesday 04/20/2022	-Public Opinion & Political Parties	Chapter 11 &12	Packback discussion post (Ch 11 & 12) - Case # 4 - Country Case Presentation 2 groups
13	Wednesday 04/27/2022	-Interest Groups, Voting Campaigns and Elections	Chapter 13 &14	Packback discussion post (Ch 13 & 14) - Case # 5

				-Country Case Presentation 2 groups
14	Wednesday 05/04/2022	-Media Power and Political Communication	Chapter 15	Packback discussion post (Ch 15) - Quiz 3 (11-15) - Country Case Presentation 2 groups
15	05/18/2022	No Class/ Final Country paper due		Final Paper uploaded on Canvas