

San José State University
Department of Political Science
Pols 108, Political Participation Section 01, Fall 2016



Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Mary Currin-Percival
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Office Hours:	Mondays and Wednesdays 12:30pm-2:00pm
Class Days/Time:	Mondays and Wednesdays 3:00-4:15pm
Classroom:	BBC 326
Prerequisites:	Upper Division Standing or Instructor Consent

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as the syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the on Canvas Learning Management System course login website at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU at <http://my.sjsu.edu> to learn of any updates.

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. Contact me within the first week if you cannot access the Canvas website, download and read .pdf files, link to other websites, or send or receive email.

Communication

YOU MUST CHECK OUR CANVAS COURSE PAGE ROUTINELY. This is a course requirement. All course materials will be posted on Canvas. I will also frequently make announcements on Canvas. I will make every effort to promptly return emails between 8am and 6pm M-F. If I do not respond within 48 hours, please send me another email. I will answer emails on the weekends and evenings periodically and more often before exams and around paper due dates. I am available to meet with you by appointment if you have class or work during my regularly scheduled office hours.

Course Description

In this course we will explore the nature of political participation in America. We will examine the roles of societal influences, the media, political campaigns, and individual voter psychology in shaping patterns of political participation, and how the Internet may be changing this process in important ways.

We will also participate in several “hands on” political activities in and outside of class, including a voter registration drive, an exciting public forum on two California initiatives, and the creation of a television/Internet GOTV advertisement.

You will come away from this class with a deeper understanding of what political participation means, from both a societal and a personal point of view.

Political Science Program Learning Outcomes

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

PSPLO1: Breadth

Students should possess a broad knowledge of the theory and methods of the various branches of the discipline.

PSPLO2: Application

Students should be able to apply a variety of techniques to identify, understand, and analyze domestic and international political issues and organizations.

PSPLO3: Disciplinary methods

Student should be able to formulate research questions, engage in systematic literature searches using primary and secondary sources, have competence in systematic data gathering using library sources, government documents, and data available through electronic sources, should be able to evaluate research studies, and should be able to critically analyze and interpret influential political texts.

PSPLO4: 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.

PSPLO5: 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.

Course Learning Outcomes

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

CLO1. Demonstrate an understanding of political science scholarship on political participation and voting, including theories of voter turnout, vote choice, and civic engagement.

CLO2. Demonstrate an applied understanding of civic and political engagement through hands-on exercises in practical politics.

CLO3. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the various influences on political participation including political socialization and learning, social characteristics, the media, technology, campaigns and elections.

CLO4. Demonstrate an understanding of the effect of campaign advertising on voting turnout.

Mapping CLOs

Mapping POLS106 Course Learning Outcomes to Political Science PLOs	Program Learning Outcomes	Assessment Methods
CLO1: Demonstrate an understanding of political science scholarship on political participation and voting, including theories of voter turnout, vote choice, and civic engagement.	PLO1	Exams, papers, GOTV ad assignment, GOTV project, quizzes, initiative forum
CLO2: Demonstrate an applied understanding of civic and political engagement through hands-on exercises in practical politics.	PLO1, 3, 4, 5	GOTV ad assignment, GOTV project, initiative forum
CLO3: Demonstrate a critical understanding of the various influences on political participation including political socialization and learning, social characteristics, the media, technology, campaigns and elections.	PLO1, 2, 4	Exams, quizzes, GOTV ad assignment, GOTV project, papers
CLO4: Demonstrate an understanding of the effect of campaign advertising on voting turnout.	PLO2, 3, 4, 5	GOTV ad assignment, final exam

Required Texts

Political Behavior of the American Electorate, 13th Edition (2015), CQ Press. William H. Flanigan and Nancy H. Zingale (abbreviated F&Z in the course schedule). ISBN: 9781452240442

Get Out the Vote: How to Increase Voter Turnout, 2nd Edition, Brookings Institution Press. Donald P. Green & Alan S. Gerber. ISBN: 9780815725688

Is This Any Way to Run a Democratic Election? 5th Edition (2014), Sage, CQ Press. Stephen J. Wayne. ISBN: 9781452205656

All texts available for purchase in the Spartan Bookstore. Additional readings are listed in this syllabus and will be posted electronically on the CANVAS course website.

Other equipment / material

The GOTV ad project will require use of audio-visual equipment available for (free) student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors. Student computing services also provides free access to software such as iMovie.

Library Liaison

The library liaison for Political Science is available to answer questions and provide one-on-one help using the library for research. His name and contact info is: **Paul Kauppila**, Librarian (Political Science Liaison). He can be reached by telephone (408) 808-2042 or by email Paul.Kauppila@sjsu.edu.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Course Workload Expectations: Succeeding in a Four-Unit Course

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 Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

1. Quizzes (100 points)

There will be four quizzes covering the assigned readings, given in class, announced in advance. Quizzes will generally be multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, and short-answer. Each quiz will be worth 25 points.

2. Initiative Forum Project (50 points)

As part of this class, you will participate in the organization of an exciting initiative forum project scheduled for September 23, 2016 at SJSU. The event will be recorded and available online. This is a required activity for this course. You will help advertise the event to SJSU students and the surrounding community. You will also assist in the logistics before and the day of the forum. Further details will be announced in class. The event is designed to educate California voters about two initiatives on the November 2016 ballot.

3. Ideology Quiz Reflection Paper (100 points)

The Ideology Quiz Reflection Paper is 3-4 pages and is due on Wednesday, September 14, 2016 at the end of class. A detailed prompt will be available on Canvas at the end of week 2.

******IMPORTANT****** You must complete and pass (with at least 75% total grade) the plagiarism quiz in order for your papers to be accepted for this course. You must complete the plagiarism quiz by **SEPTEMBER 12 at 9pm** to avoid a late penalty applied to your Ideology Quiz Reflection Paper grade. This late penalty is -1 point per day. This is a required component of the papers.

EMAIL your quiz results to me. Be certain that I receive the score for each of the questions, not just a final score. Your quiz is not considered completed until I receive this. I will reply to your email—look out for it.

4. Midterm Exam (100 points)

The midterm exam will cover the material learned in the first half of the course and will include a multiple-choice section (25 questions worth 2 points each and an essay section worth 50 points). The midterm exam is on Wednesday, October 19, 2016.

5. Final Exam (100 points)

The final exam will cover the material learned in the second half of the course and will include a multiple-choice section (25 questions worth 2 points each and an essay section worth 50 points). The final exam is on Monday, December 19th, 2016.

6. GOTV Group Project (50 points)

As part of this class, you will engage in a voter mobilization project. You will participate in a group project designed to mobilize people to vote in the upcoming 2016 General Elections. This project may involve door-to-door canvassing, tabling, a voter registration drive on campus or in neighborhoods near campus. Your groups will develop a plan using the Green and Gerber text as a guide. I will elaborate upon this assignment in class. The GOTV project plan is due on Wednesday, October 5, 2016. The final project must be completed by November 7th. Your GOTV Project group report is due by Monday, November 14, 2016.

7. GOTV Ad Group Assignment (50 points)

Using equipment and software readily available on campus (and free to SJSU students), small ad teams will produce original "Get Out the Vote" advertisements for a target audience of 18-24 year-olds. All scripts graphics, and music must be original or public domain. You may cite statistics and research in your ads (and list sources) however. Any actors appearing in the ad must sign a release or your grade will be lowered and your ad will not be aired. The ads will be posted on the Political Science Department website (if the actors have signed releases). Your team's final GOTV ad is due (in electronic form) by October 26, 2016. There are additional due dates for the project as listed in the syllabus.

8. GOTV Project Individual Paper (50 points)

You will write a 3-4 page paper summarizing your individual experiences during the GOTV Project, incorporating relevant political science literature. I will post a detailed prompt on Canvas. The GOTV Individual Paper is due at the end of class on Monday, November 21, 2016.

Final Examination

The final exam will cover the material learned in the second half of the course and will include a multiple-choice section (25 questions worth 2 points each and an essay section worth 50 points). The final exam will be held in our usual classroom on Monday, December 19th, 2016 12:15pm-2:30pm.

Grading Information

Prompts for each paper will be posted on Canvas at least three weeks before the paper due date, with the exception of the Ideology Quiz Reflection Paper. This prompt will be posted two weeks before the paper due date. Paper grades are based on the following:

- 1) how well the paper addresses the points/questions in the prompt
- 2) the quality of arguments and conclusions-are these logical and backed up by research in political science and related disciplines?
- 3) the quality of the sources cited within the paper as well as the proper use of APA, APSA, or Chicago formatting
- 4) the quality of the writing

Each paper assignment will have specific requirements that must be addressed. Please refer to the prompt on Canvas for further information.

Exam essay grades are generally graded the same way as papers, though I do not expect you to include a References page. I do expect you to refer to authors by name when you refer to their work however.

You are welcome to meet with me for additional quiz review. Please email me to set up a time to meet. Taking notes while we review the quizzes is an excellent way to prepare for the exams, as the multiple-choice sections of the exams are very similar to the multiple-choice on the quizzes.

The Initiative Forum, GOTV Project, and GOTV Group Ad Assignment are all group assignments.

We will work in teams for each project (there will be some overlap between the projects) and you will be working on these projects throughout the semester. It is vital that you do not wait until the end of the semester to fulfill your obligations to your teams. The grading for these projects is meant to ensure that you are rewarded for your hard work as a team and that you are recognized for your individual achievement. It is also designed to discourage freeriding on team efforts.

For each of these assignments, your individual grade will be determined in the following way:

1. My assessment of your contribution to the group project: 50% of your individual grade

(This will be based on my observations of your in-class work, your out-of-class work, your attendance at in-class group meetings, your responses to my emails and your teammates' emails, your contributions to your GoogleDoc or other record, your attendance at actual events, and other observations I make).

2. Your teammates' assessments (average) of your contribution to the group project: 25% of your individual grade (using the same criteria as Item 1).

3. My assessment of your group's performance: 25%

You will receive a detailed prompt for each of these assignments.

Determination of Grades

Your grade will be calculated as follows. You may keep track of your grade in the class on the CANVAS course website.

	Points
Quizzes (4 quizzes 25 points each)	100
Initiative Forum Project	50
Ideology Quiz Reflection Paper	100
Midterm Exam	100
Final Exam	100
GOTV Group Project	50
GOTV Advertisement	50
GOTV Project Individual Paper	50
Total	600

Your final grade will be calculated by dividing your total points by 600. For example, consider the following: Total points = 528. $528/600 = .88 = 88\%$ Using the scale below, this individual would be assigned a B+.

Final letter grades for the course will be assigned based on the following scale:

100%-98 = A+	89%-87% = B+	79%-77% = C+	69%-67% = D+
97-93% = A	86%-83% = B	76%-73% = C	66%-63% = D
92%-90% = A-	82%-80% = B-	72%-70% = C-	62%-60% = D-
			59% or less = F

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 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. Make sure you schedule all of our assignments right away. If you have a vacation or similar event planned during one of these assignment days, take this course during another semester.

Late papers will be graded; however, these will be penalized 2/3's letter grade for each day they are late. The late period begins at 4:16pm on the day the paper is due. Late papers will NOT be accepted after the last day of class.

Classroom Policies and Protocol

Attendance and participation

It is expected that you will attend class regularly. The class projects require active in-class planning and participation from all students. If you miss class, please notify me as soon as possible. Then notify any project teammates. It is your responsibility to find out what you missed. Please come to class on time. If you are late, please do not be disruptive. If you know that you need to leave early, let me know before class and sit near the door. Every student is expected to participate in class discussion regularly. The class is more enjoyable and lively when we are all participating. It's an election year!

Cellphones, laptops, and other technology

YOU MAY NOT USE YOUR CELL PHONE IN CLASS. If you need to have it on for family reasons, please turn it on vibrate and leave it out of sight. 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 not allowed in class except on designated dates. Please see me if you have questions about this policy or regarding SJSU academic accommodations related to this policy.

Recording of Lectures

NO AUDIO OR VIDEO RECORDING OF LECTURES OR OTHER CLASS ACTIVITIES ALLOWED WITHOUT INSTRUCTOR PERMISSION IN ADVANCE. It is common courtesy to obtain permission from people before you record them; therefore, out of respect to your colleagues and to me, 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>"

Pols 108 / Political Participation, Fall 2016 Course Schedule

The schedule is subject to change with fair notice. All changes will be announced in class and posted on Canvas.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Wed Aug 24	Read: syllabus Assignment: online plagiarism tutorial and quiz at http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/tutorial/plagiarism/index.htm
2	Mon Aug 29	Political Culture and American Democracy Read: Flanagan & Zingale (F&Z) Ch.1 Wayne, Chs. 1-3 Initiative Forum Overview
2	Wed Aug 31	Assignment: Bring a laptop, tablet, smartphone, or other mobile device to class today. We have a fun exercise planned. It's 100% related to your ideology paper, so be sure to see me if you miss class today. <i>Try not to miss class today.</i> We'll also go over the GOTV Ad Assignment and assign students to groups.
3	Mon Sept 5	Labor Day—no class meeting

3	Wed Sept 7	<p>Public Opinion and Ideology</p> <p>Read: Flanagan & Zingale (F&Z) Ch.5 Norm Ornstein “Yes, Polarization Is Asymmetric—and Conservatives Are Worse” http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2014/06/yes-polarization-is-asymmetric-and-conservatives-are-worse/373044/</p> <p>Initiative Forum Planning</p>
4	Mon Sept 12	<p>Civic Engagement Guest Speaker</p> <p>Assignment: PLAGIARISM QUIZ RESULTS DUE by 5pm today by EMAIL only.</p>
4	Wed Sept 14	<p>Voting and Nonvoting: Intro to Models of Voting</p> <p>Initiative Forum Planning</p> <p>Read: F&Z Ch. 2-3 Assignment: Ideology Paper Due at the end of class today</p>
5	Mon Sept 19	<p>What if Everyone Voted?</p> <p>GOTV Project Overview, assign students to groups, in-class group meetings</p>
5	Wed Sept 21	<p>GOTV: Getting Out the Vote</p> <p>Read: Green & Gerber Chs 1-4</p>
6	Mon Sept 26	<p>GOTV: The Tools GOTV project group meetings</p> <p>Read: Green & Gerber Chs 5-8</p>
6	Wed Sept 28	<p>GOTV: What Works?</p> <p>Read: Green & Gerber Chs 9-10</p> <p>Assignment: QUIZ 1 AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS TODAY</p> <p>Assignment: GOTV project plan due at the end of class today (email PDF or Word doc to me).</p>

7	Mon Oct 3	<p>Political Communication and the Media GOTV Ad group meetings</p> <p>Read: F&Z Ch. 7 Wayne Ch. 5</p>
7	Wed Oct 5	<p>How Does Campaign Advertising Affect Turnout?</p> <p>Read: Goldstein, K., & Freedman, P. (2002). Campaign advertising and voter turnout: New evidence for a stimulation effect. <i>Journal of Politics</i>, 64(3), 721-740. http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/0022-3816.00143/abstract</p> <p>Doherty, D., & Adler, E.S. (2014). The persuasion effects of partisan campaign mailers. <i>Political Research Quarterly</i> 1-12. http://prq.sagepub.com/content/early/2014/05/20/1065912914535987.full.pdf</p> <p>GOTV project group meetings</p> <p>Assignment: GOTV Ad plan due at the end of class today (by email).</p>
8	Mon Oct 10	<p>Campaign Communication and Mobilization</p> <p>Read: Wayne Ch. 8 Vavreck, L. (2007). The exaggerated effects of advertising on turnout: The dangers of self reports. <i>Quarterly Journal of Political Science</i>, 2(4), 325-343. http://www.lynnvavreck.com/Site/PUBLICATIONS_files/qjps-6005_1.pdf</p> <p>Assignment: QUIZ 2 AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS TODAY</p>
8	Wed Oct 12	GOTV project group meetings
9	Mon Oct 17	<p>Midterm Review GOTV Ad planning day</p> <p>Assignment: GOTV Ad script due by the end of class today (email PDF or Word doc to me).</p>
9	Wed Oct 19	<p>Assignment: Midterm Exam</p> <p>BRING ALL OF THE FOLLOWING: A LARGE GREEN BOOK, A PEN, A T&E 200 SCANTRON, AND A PENCIL.</p>
10	Mon Oct 24	GOTV Ad meetings

10	Wed Oct 26	Assignment: GOTV Ads Due Assignment: GOTV Ad Presentations
11	Mon Oct 31	Assignment: GOTV Ad Presentations
11	Wed Nov 2	The Effects of Political Reform Read: “How American Politics Went Insane.” Jonathan Rauch. <i>The Atlantic</i> . http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2016/07/how-american-politics-went-insane/485570/
12	Mon Nov 7	Who Votes in California? Read: Baldassare, Bonner, Kordus & Lopes (August 2015) “California Voter and Party Profiles,” PPIC Report. http://ppic.org/main/publication_show.asp?i=526 Baldassare (2012) “Improving California’s Democracy,” PPIC Report. http://ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=1033
12	Wed Nov 9	Election and GOTV Project Discussion
13	Mon Nov 14	Polling and Elections Read: “Flashpoints in Polling.” Pew Research Center. http://www.pewresearch.org/2016/08/01/flashpoints-in-polling/ Other reading TBA Assignment: GOTV Project Group Report due by the end of class today.
13	Wed Nov 16	The Voting Rights Act: Past and Present Read: The Voting Rights Act—DOJ http://www.justice.gov/crt/introduction-federal-voting-rights-laws-1 <i>Shelby v. Holder</i> (opinions and dissent) http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/12pdf/12-96_6k47.pdf “Nine Years Ago Republicans Favored Voting Rights. What Happened?” Jim Rutenberg <i>New York Times Magazine</i> http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/12/magazine/nine-years-ago-republicans-favored-voting-rights-what-happened.html?_r=0 Assignment: QUIZ 3 AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS TODAY

14	Mon Nov 21	<p>Effects of the <i>Shelby</i> Decision</p> <p>Read: “‘Shelby County’: One Year Later.” Brennan Center for Justice. http://www.brennancenter.org/analysis/shelby-county-one-year-later</p> <p>“The Recent Court Rulings Against Voting Restrictions, Explained.” German Lopez. <i>Vox</i> http://www.vox.com/2016/8/4/12369778/voter-restrictions-id-laws-supreme-court</p> <p>Assignment: GOTV Project Individual Paper Due at the end of class today</p>
14	Wed Nov 23	No class meeting—Thanksgiving Break
15	Mon Nov 28	<p>Money and Elections</p> <p>Read: Wayne Ch. 4</p>
15	Wed Nov 30	<p>Party Identification & Electoral Change</p> <p>Read: F&Z Chs. 4 Wayne, Ch. 6</p>
16	Mon Dec 5	<p>Social Characteristics of Partisans & Independents</p> <p>Read: F&Z Ch. 6 Assignment: QUIZ 4 AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS TODAY</p>
16	Wed Dec 7	<p>The Nomination Process</p> <p>Read: Wayne Ch. 7</p>
17	Mon Dec 12	Final Exam Review
Final Exam		<p>Assignment: FINAL EXAM BBC 326 Monday, December 19th, 2016 12:15pm-2:30pm</p>