

San José State University
Political Science Department
Pols/Hist 15B (Sections 7 & 8): Essentials of U.S. and CA Government
Fall 2016

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Danijela Dudley
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Office Hours:	Tuesday 10:00-11:30am, Thursday 1:30-2:30pm, and by appointment
Class Day/Time	Tuesday/Thursday 3:00-4:15pm
Classroom:	Washington Square Hall 207
GE/SJSU Studies Category	US2, US3 & D3

Course Format

In addition to in-person lecture, this course utilizes two online platforms, Globalyceum American Government (<https://www.globalyceum.com/>) and Canvas (<http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/canvas/>). Globalyceum will be used to access readings, complete pop-quizzes and in-class activities, and submit paper proposal. Canvas will be used for final paper submission, announcements, and course schedule updates.

Course Description

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).

From the SJSU GE Guidelines: 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 the interactions, including cooperation and conflict, as these many and varied peoples have dealt with social economic, and political issues.

Required Texts

Two textbooks are required for this course:

Globalyceum American Government (online)

Guide to California Government (print)

One of the texts for this course is ***Globalyceum American Government***. Go to:

<https://www.globalyceum.com/>, register, and subscribe for this course with the following Unique Section Number APMCA2HT. (This number is case sensitive.) Please make sure to use only this code, as using any other access code will not give you access to correct readings and assignments. The cost of this subscription is \$39.99. You can also purchase an optional print copy of the essays, or text chapters, for \$30.00 on the site. Your purchase options are Paypal, debit/credit, or check/money order.

Please make sure to verify your browser and update it if necessary on the Sign In page. Globalyceum recommends Chrome, Firefox, and Safari browsers. If you have any technical problems during the term, please contact: <mailto:support@globalyceum.com>. You can CC me on the email, but your first contact should be with Globalyceum. This video, Getting Started on Globalyceum, will explain how to pay for Globalyceum and features of the Student Portal: <https://glpro.s3.amazonaws.com/ah/00/stdt/g/00g01.mp4>.

Guide to California Government, 15th edition by League of Women Voters of California. (2013). ISBN13: 978-0963246516

Guide to California Government is available for purchase at the Spartan Bookstore or from various online retailers. While I have assigned the 15th edition for this course, you are welcome to use the 16th edition too.

Other technology requirements / equipment / material

Wireless laptop or tablet is required in class: You will be required to have a wireless-network ready laptop computer to complete in-class pop quizzes and participate in online class activities. If you don't own a laptop, you can rent it at no cost from Student Computing Services (<https://library.sjsu.edu/scs>). Your laptop must remain closed until I inform you that it is needed for a particular activity.

You will also need access to the internet outside classroom to complete readings from Globalyceum American Government, complete online homework assignments, upload policy paper to the Canvas course page, and access syllabus, announcements, and course updates. Computer access is available in the campus library and in Clark Hall 102.

If you have any technical problems with Globalyceum American Government, please contact: <mailto:support@globalyceum.com>. You can CC me on the email, but your first contact should be with Globalyceum.

This video, Getting Started on Globalyceum, will explain how to pay for Globalyceum and features of the Student Portal: <https://glpro.s3.amazonaws.com/ah/00/stdt/g/00g01.mp4>.

General Education Learning Outcomes (GELO)

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

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.

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.

GELO 3 (D3): Place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts.

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.

GELO 5 (D3): Evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues.

GELO 6 (D3): Apply multidisciplinary material to a topic relevant to policy and social action at the local, national, and/or international levels.

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

PSPLO 3 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.

PSPLO 4 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.

PSPLO 5 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 Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of 45 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 three-unit course, you can expect to spend a **minimum of 6 hours per week** completing class-related assignments in addition to the in-person class meetings. 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>.

Midterm exams: There will be two midterm exams. Each will consist of multiple-choice questions. Exam 1 will cover the material (assigned readings, lectures, class activities, discussions, and videos) from weeks 1-5. Exam 2 will cover the material from weeks 6-12. Please bring scantron form 882e, a pencil, and a photo ID for each exam.

Policy Paper: Each student will write a 1500-word policy paper (approximately 4-6 double-spaced pages) on a current domestic or foreign policy issue of his/her choice. You will explain the issue and its relevance, analyze each major point of view involved in the issue, and evaluate possible actions that can be taken by the citizens and appropriate government entities in the future development of this issue. Additional details on topic selection, paper requirements, and sources are available in a separate handout on the Canvas course page. Paper proposal is due by November 1 and should include your thesis, a brief description of how you intend to develop your argument, and bibliography of at least three sources you intend to use in your paper. The proposal is graded on a credit/no credit basis. A “no credit” grade on the proposal will lower your paper grade by 10%.

Pop Quizzes: Unannounced in-class quizzes will be administered throughout the semester. They will vary in format and may include multiple choice, short answer, and/or fill-in-the-blanks questions. You will need a laptop or a tablet with wireless internet access to complete pop quizzes. Each quiz will test your knowledge of the readings/lectures from previous three class meetings (for example, a quiz on September 15 would test your knowledge of the material covered on September 6, 8 and 13). Quizzes will be administered at the beginning or at the end of the class. Missed pop quizzes cannot be made up, so make sure to arrive on time and stay for the entire period.

Class Participation: Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned readings and ready to discuss them, as well as take part in any class activities. In this course, your participation grade will be based on the following 3 criteria: 1) frequency and quality of your contributions to class discussions, 2) participation in and completion of class activities, and 3) disruptive behavior such as using cell phones or arriving to class late. Students may be called by name to address concepts from the readings. Please note that disruptive behavior such as arriving to class late or leaving early, using cell phones, talking to your classmates, and similar, counts as negative contribution to class discussion and will adversely affect your participation grade.

Final Exam: University Policy S06-4 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S06-4.pdf>) states that “There shall be an appropriate final examination or evaluation at the scheduled time in every course, unless specifically exempted by the college dean who has curricular responsibility for the course.” Final exam in this course will be cumulative and will cover course readings, lectures, activities, and discussions for the entire term. It will consist of multiple choice questions. It will consist of multiple choice questions. Please bring scantron form 882e, a pencil, and a photo ID. Students will not be allowed to take the final exam early.

Assignment weight and tentative dates (dates subject to change with fair notice):

Assignment	% of Course Grade	Date	GELOs Assessed
Exam 1	15%	September 29	1-2
Exam 2	15%	November 17	1-2
Policy Paper Paper proposal	25%	December 8 November 1	3-6
Pop Quizzes	15%	Unannounced	1-2
Participation	10%	Recorded each day	4-6
Final Exam	20%	December 20	1-3

Grading Policy

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.

A+ = 97-100%	B+ = 87-89.9%	C+ = 77-79.9%	D+ = 67-69.9%
A = 93-96.9%	B = 83-86.9%	C = 73-76.9%	D = 63-66.9%
A- = 90-92.9%	B- = 80-82.9%	C- = 70-72.9%	D- = 60-62.9%

Late Work

Late assignments and exam make-ups will be allowed **only in cases of medical or family emergency** for which proper documentation is provided. If you miss an exam, you must contact me immediately to schedule a make-up. **Missed participation, pop quizzes, and in-class activities cannot be made up under any circumstances.** Late papers will be penalized 10% for each 24-hour period for the first 5 days. After 5 days, the paper will receive 0. Final exam will be held on the day scheduled by the University and make-up will be held on the final make-up day, as determined by the University. Final exam **will not be given early** under any circumstances, so plan accordingly.

Use of Electronic Devices

Please turn off cell phones before entering the classroom. **Absolutely no use of computers, phones, or any other electronic devices during class except when instructed by instructor or for medical reasons.** While technology can be very useful in our daily lives it can also cause unnecessary distraction during class both to those using it and to those around them. Thus, bring a pen and a notebook for taking notes. While you are required to bring a laptop for quizzes and in-class activities, **your laptop must remain closed until I inform you that it is needed for a particular activity.** Exceptions to this policy will only be made for medical reasons. Please bring proper documentation before class if you need an approval to use electronic devices.

Classroom Courtesy

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 issues 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 **come to class on time and stay**

for the entire period. Late arrivals and/or early departures are disruptive and as such **will affect your participation grade.**

Attendance

Attendance, in and of itself, will not be graded. However, regular attendance is crucial to your success in this course. Lectures will address some themes presented in the course readings, **as well as additional information** that you will not find in the readings but **which you will be expected to know** for exams. Additionally, although attendance is not graded, participation makes a significant portion of your grade. If you are not present, you cannot participate.

Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

Recording in this class is allowed **only with my written permission**, and is granted only on a class by class basis if the student justifies the need to record the lectures. Students must obtain a written permission of any guest speaker and every class member in order to record presentations or class discussions. "Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her 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."

Political Science Departmental Writing Policy

Students of political science should develop the ability to write in clear, grammatical English. Spelling and grammar count! Students must take care that appropriate citations are used. Direct quotations must be so indicated with quotation marks and a specific reference to the page in the source from which it was taken. Failure to cite your sources constitutes academic misconduct which carries with it serious sanctions. A tutorial on citations is available at the library website at http://www.sjlibrary.org/services/literacy/info_comp/citing.htm. For assistance with writing, please see me or visit the Writing Center located in Clark Hall 126 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>).

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/>

The Fine Print

Information in this syllabus can be changed with fair notice. Any changes will be announced in class and/or via announcements through Canvas (<http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/canvas/>). **It is your responsibility to sign into Canvas regularly and check for any important announcements and updates.**

Note: readings for weeks 1-13 are available on Globalyceum. Readings for weeks 14-15 are from Guide to California Government.

If you have any questions or need help with class don't hesitate to talk to me. For quick inquiries it is best to email me at danijela.dudley@sjsu.edu. For any substantive issues it is best to stop by my office in Clark Hall 404F during my office hours. If you can't make it during my office hours, I will gladly work with you on finding alternative time to meet. I hope you enjoy the class!

Pols/Hist 15b (Sections 7 and 8) Fall 2016 Course Schedule
Subject to change with fair notice

Week/Date	Topic	Readings/Assignments
August 25	Introduction, course overview	Read course syllabus
Week 1 Aug. 30-Sept. 1	The Founding & the Constitution	Read: Foundations of American Government
Week 2 September 6- 8	Federalism	Read: Federalism, Civil Liberties, and Civil Rights (Introduction & Section 1)
Week 3 September 13-15	Civil Liberties & Civil Rights	Read: Federalism, Civil Liberties, and Civil Rights (Sections 2 & 3)
Week 4 September 20-22	Political Culture & Participation	Read: Political Culture & Elections (Introduction & Section 1)
Week 5 September 27-29	Exam 1 September 29	Bring scantron 882e, a pencil, and a photo ID
Week 6 October 4-6	U.S. Elections	Read: Political Culture & Elections (Sec. 2 & 3)
Week 7 October 11-13	Elections 2016	Readings TBA
Week 8 October 18-20	Political Parties and Interest Groups	Read: Social Movements, Interest Groups, and Political Parties (Introduction, Sections 2 & 3)
Week 9 October 25-27	The Legislative Branch	Read: The US Congress
Week 10 November 1-3	The Executive Branch	Read: The US President Paper proposal due November 1
Week 11 November 8-10	The Judiciary	Read: The US Supreme Court and Judiciary
Week 12 November 15-17	Exam 2 November 17	Bring scantron 882e, a pencil, and a photo ID
Week 13 November 22	Public Policy in the U.S.	Read: Domestic Policy
Week 14 Nov. 29-Dec. 1	California Constitution & Citizens	Read: Guide to California Government Chapters 1, 2, 3, & 12
Week 15 December 6-8	California Institutions	Guide to California Government Chapters 4-6 Policy Paper due
Tuesday December 20	Final Exam 2:45pm	Bring scantron 882e, a pencil, and a photo ID