

San José State University

Political Science 120: Law and Society, Tu 6:00-8:45,

HGH 116, Spring Semester 2017

Instructor: Ben Field

Office Location: 2102 Almaden Road, Suite 114,
San Jose

Telephone: 408-606-2060

Email: Benjamin.Field@sjsu.edu

Office Hours: By appointment

Canvas and mySJSU Messaging

Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, and study guides can be found on Canvas. Go to www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/ to sign in. You will need your 9-digit SJSU id number. I will also communicate with you using the mySJSU messaging system. Please check your mySJSU email account frequently.

Course Objectives

This course examines the relationship between a democratic, capitalist, multicultural society and public policy. The course emphasizes the use of the law to achieve economic and social objectives. Special attention is given to patterns of discrimination endemic in the United States and how the law can alleviate patterns of discrimination based on race, class, ethnicity, gender, religion and sexual orientation.

In addition, this course will contribute to the Political Science Program Learning Outcomes, which political science students are expected reach by upon graduation.

- Breadth: Students should possess a broad knowledge of the theory and methods of the various branches of the discipline.
- Application: Students should be able to apply a variety of techniques to identify, understand, and analyze domestic and international political issues and organizations.
- 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.
- **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.
 - **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.

Required Texts/Readings

Readings are noted below and available online or through Canvas. Additional readings may be added to the syllabus over the course of the semester.

Expectations for the Class

Students should come to each class prepared by having done the assigned readings. In class, each student should make regular and meaningful contributions to the discussion. If you have a question, raise your hand and the instructor will call on you. The in-class discussions and lectures will often not address the same information that is covered in the readings; nonetheless, students are responsible for knowing all materials covered in both the lectures and the readings. Questions about the readings and lectures are welcome at any time; there will always be time for questions, comments, and discussion at the end of class as well.

Attendance

Every lecture covers material that will appear on exams. If you miss class, you are still responsible for any lecture material that you missed. It is every student's responsibility to maintain excellent class attendance and to keep up with each class lecture.

Adding and Dropping

Dropping and Adding--Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the [current academic calendar](http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/) web page located at http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes. Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Electronic Devices

Turn off your cell phone and put it away when you come to class. Do not answer phone calls in class. Do not send, receive, or read messages in class. Do not leave the room to use your cell phone. Do not record, transmit, or broadcast the lectures in any way.

Examinations, Assignments, other Requirements, and Grading Policy

Class Participation: In-class, written work collected at the end of each class.

Midterm: A one hour, multiple choice examination based on the lectures, discussions, and readings from the first half of the class.

Research Paper and Bibliography:

- 1) A bibliography in proper form listing all sources that inform your paper. Sources in your bibliography must be published books, peer reviewed articles or government studies in hard copy form. Websites (e.g. Wikipedia) cannot be cited. The bibliography, which is due several weeks before the paper and is worth up to 20 points, must identify your

paper topic at the top of the page. It should cite no fewer than six substantial sources, not including the course readings.

- 2) You will write a research paper on the redistributive effects of a public policy of your choosing. The paper is designed to teach you scholarly research methodology, critical thinking and analytical writing skills. It should meet the following requirements:
- It should be five pages long, not including the bibliography, which should be resubmitted with the paper.
 - Typed on a computer in 12 point font, double-space your sentences, and use one side of the paper only. Indent all paragraphs. Do not put spaced lines between paragraphs. Put a 1" margin on both sides of the paper.
 - Put your name, the class (PoliSci 120) and the date the paper is due at the top left or right corner of your first page (single-space).
 - All factual assertions must be properly footnoted.
 - It must be written with correct grammar, punctuation and spelling.
 - It should be carefully proofread.
 - Tip: After you have written something, read it out loud to yourself or someone else. Often this helps to identify unclear writing

The paper will be due in draft form and in final form. The draft and final versions will be graded separately, each on a scale of 1-50 points.

The best papers will contain clear, logical writing, thorough research and probing analysis. Late papers will be accepted, but the score will be reduced 5 points for every school day they are late. All papers must be submitted to Professor Field through Canvas and Turnitin.com.

Final:

A one and a half hour, multiple choice examination based on the lectures, discussions, and readings for the entire semester, but weighted toward the lectures, discussions, and readings from later weeks.

Student grades will be determined by the following:

Class Participation	100 points
Midterm	80 points
Term Paper	120 points
Final	<u>100 points</u>
Total	400 points

Grading of Political Science Writing

An “A” paper is clearly written and well-organized, but most important, it contains a perceptive, central argument supported by specific evidence. It demonstrates that the student has grappled with the issues raised in the reading and lecture, synthesized the material, and formulated a compelling, independent argument.

A typical “B” paper is solid work that demonstrates that the student has a good grasp of the material. It may provide a summary or reiteration of ideas and information already covered in the literature, with no evidence of independent thought or synthesis. Other “B” papers give evidence of independent thought, but do not present an argument clearly or convincingly.

A typical “C” paper provides a less thorough or accurate summary or a less thorough defense of an argument. A paper that receives a grade less than a “C” typically does not respond adequately to the assignment, and is marred by frequent errors, unclear writing, poor organization, or some combination of these problems.

Please note: NO STUDENT WILL PASS THIS CLASS WITHOUT TURNING IN THE PAPER.

Students should also note that plagiarism will be detected and will result in a failing grade for the assignment at the very least.

University Policies

Please see <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

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Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf), <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 him/her. 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.”

- It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor's process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.
- In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- "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."

Academic integrity

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The policy on academic integrity can be found at <http://www2.sjsu.edu/senate/S04-12.pdf>. SJSU rules against plagiarism are set forth in the SJSU Catalog, which defines plagiarism as the act of representing the work of another as one's own (without giving appropriate credit) regardless of how that work was obtained, and submitting it to fulfill academic requirements."

The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

Plagiarism at San Jose State University includes, but is not limited to: the act of incorporating the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof, or the specific substance of another's work, without giving appropriate credit, and representing the product as one's own work. It is the role and obligation of each student to know the rules that preserve academic integrity and abide by them at all times.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see the instructor during office hours. [Presidential Directive 97-03](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every

reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See [University Policy S14-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf>.

Other Helpful Resources and Information

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the [Academic Success Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for 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.

SJSU Peer Connections

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals. In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC). Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit [Peer Connections website](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu/) at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu/> for more information.

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>.

Academic Counseling Center for Excellence in the Social Sciences: ACCESS

All College of Social Sciences students and interested students are invited to stop by the Center for general education advising, help with changing majors, academic policy related questions, meeting with peer advisors, and/or attending various regularly scheduled presentations and workshops. Looking for academic advice or maybe just some tips about

how to navigate your way around SJSU? Check out the COSS Student Success Center (Clark Hall Room 240). It's also a great place to study.

<http://www.sjsu.edu/socialsciences/ACCESS/>

Additional Class Notes

This is a course that covers a significant body of material in a short period of time. Every student is encouraged to participate by asking questions and actively participating in group and class discussions. Although attendance in the class is not mandatory, participation is a portion of the grading scale and it is obviously difficult to contribute if you do not attend class. Each student has intellect, experience and a personal point of view to bring into the class and the course becomes much more rewarding if you frequently participate.

Handouts, PowerPoint slides and other support documents may be posted on the course Canvas site which you can link to here: <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. Either Canvas or group email distributions will be used throughout the semester for supplemental items such as newspaper articles and outlines of academic papers, and when the time comes, to communicate your performance on the graded assignments.

Please avail yourself of the instructor to answer any questions you may have regarding the course and the context in which the subject matter is considered.

POLS 120, Law and Society, Spring 2016 Course Schedule

Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
Jan. 31	<p>Inequality and the Law</p> <p>Michael Parenti, Chapters 3 and 4;</p> <p>Milton and Rose Friedman, <i>Free to Choose</i>, Chapter 1;</p> <p>Thomas Piketty, <i>Capital in the Twenty-First Century</i>, Conclusion, pages 571-573;</p>
Feb. 7	<p>Inequality in Education</p> <p>Harvie Wilkerson, From Brown to Bakke, Chapters 3 and 10;</p> <p><i>Brown v. Board</i> at 60, http://www.epi.org/publication/brown-at-60-why-have-we-been-so-disappointed-what-have-we-learned/;</p> <p>Perspectives on <i>Vergara</i>: http://www.cta.org/en/Issues-and-Action/Ongoing-Issues/Vergara-Trial1.aspx;</p> <p>http://studentsmatter.org/case/vergara/;</p> <p>U.S Constitution, Article XIV, section 1, https://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/amendmentxiv</p>
Feb. 14	<p>Gender and Sexual Orientation Issues</p> <p>Congressional Research Service Report on Pay Discrimination and <i>Ledbetter v. Goodyear</i>, https://www.everycrsreport.com/files/20090429_RS22686_77a3cf9cdd72fdcc20164d7db09f223baa3569a0.pdf;</p> <p>National Women’s Law Center Amicus Brief in <i>Ledbetter</i>, pgs 1-6, http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/ledbetteramicusbrief.pdf;</p> <p><i>Obergefell v. Hodges</i> opinion (Kennedy) https://www.law.cornell.edu/supremecourt/text/14-556#writing-14-556_OPINION_3</p>
Feb. 21	<p>Criminal Justice</p> <p>Michelle Alexander, <i>The New Jim Crow</i>, Chapter 1</p>

Feb. 28	<p>Criminal Justice</p> <p>Michelle Alexander, <i>The New Jim Crow</i>, Chapter 3</p>
Mar. 7	<p>Labor and the Law</p> <p>Economic Policy Institute, Unions, Inequality and Faltering Middle Class Wages, http://www.epi.org/publication/ib342-unions-inequality-faltering-middle-class/;</p> <p>Colin Gordon, <i>Growing Apart</i>, http://scalar.usc.edu/works/growing-apart-a-political-history-of-american-inequality/what-unions-did-labor-policy-and-american-inequality/;</p> <p>Eric Schlosser, <i>Fast Food Nation</i>, Chapters 7 and 8</p>
Mar. 23	<p>Social Safety Net</p> <p>Michael Parenti, Chapter 7;</p> <p>The Negro Family: The Case For National Action, Chapter IV, Office of Policy Planning and Research, United States Department of Labor, https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/09/the-moynihan-report-an-annotated-edition/404632/#Chapter%20III;</p> <p>Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, http://www.cbpp.org/research/social-security/policy-basics-top-ten-facts-about-social-security,</p> <p>http://www.cbpp.org/research/federal-tax/policy-basics-federal-payroll-taxes,</p> <p>http://www.cbpp.org/research/health/policy-basics-introduction-to-medicaid;</p> <p>Draft of Term Paper Due</p>
Mar. 30	<p>Spring Break</p>
Apr. 4	<p>Midterm</p>
Apr. 11	<p>Social Safety Net</p> <p>Jacob Hacker, <i>The Great Risk Shift</i>, Chapters 1 and 2.</p>
Apr. 18	<p>Tax Policy</p> <p>Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, <i>Who Pays</i>,</p>

	<p>http://www.itep.org/whopays/executive_summary.php;</p> <p>Tax Policy Center, <i>Distribution: Are Federal Taxes Progressive?</i>, http://www.taxpolicycenter.org/briefing-book/background/distribution/progressive-taxes.cfm;</p> <p>Pew Research Center, <i>High Income Americans Pay Most Income Taxes</i>, http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/03/24/high-income-americans-pay-most-income-taxes-but-enough-to-be-fair/;</p> <p>New York Times, <i>How the Tax Burden Has Changed</i>, http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2012/11/30/us/tax-burden.html?_r=0</p>
Apr. 25	<p>Monetary and Trade Policy</p> <p>Dean Baker, <i>The End of Loser Liberalism</i>, Chapters 5-8, http://deanbaker.net/images/stories/documents/End-of-Loser-Liberalism.pdf</p>
May 2	<p>Housing and Land Use Policy</p> <p>Kenneth Jackson, <i>Crabgrass Frontier</i>, Chapter 11</p> <p>Term Paper Due</p>
May 9	<p>Money, Speech and the Political Campaigns</p> <p>The Top 10 Things Every Voter Should Know About Money in Politics, https://www.opensecrets.org/resources/dollarocracy/ (Read all ten)</p>
May 16	<p>Review</p>