

San José State University
Department of Political Science
Pols 141: Eurasian Politics, Spring 2018

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Sabrina L. Pinnell
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Office Hours:	M 9-10, 2-3; W 2-3, 4:30-5:30; additional hours by appointment
Class Days/Time:	M W 12:00-1:15
Classroom:	Clark 303
Prerequisites:	Pols 2, Pols 4 strongly recommended

Course Format

This class is a combination of lecture, in-class discussion, and presentations of research work. There is a Canvas page for the class that will be used for reserve materials, uploads of papers to check for course use and as an archive for course handouts. Students are expected to be able to access this page.

Course Description

Political development in Russia and Soviet Successor States, with emphasis on democratization, privatization, and international relations with the European Union and the United States.

Department of Political Science Learning Outcomes

The Political Science Department has the following objectives for its students:

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

- 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-Specific Learning Outcomes

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

- 1) Describe the end of the USSR and how various countries in what was the Soviet Union transitioned into new governments;
- 2) Explain how democratization succeeded (or not) in various former Soviet countries, using factors such as political culture, institutional change or inertia and civil society;
- 3) Explain how economics changed and now functions in various former Soviet countries, which may include privatization, but could also include government-led economic policy;
- 4) Describe factors that may hurt democratization and economic reforms, such as corruption, oligarchic politics, and inherited political culture and institutions;
- 5) Explain how regional politics work among Eurasian countries, and their relations with the EU and other major countries such as the U.S.¹

Students will fulfill these outcomes through a combination of in-class discussion, exams and a research project which combines an independent paper and presentation to the class.

Required Texts/Readings (Required)

Textbook

This class will use a combination of texts and articles for essential material in the class. The two textbooks you should purchase ASAP are Stephen White, Richard Sakwa, and Henry E. Hale, eds., Developments in Russian Politics 8 (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2014, ISBN: 9780822358121) and Brent Hierman's Russia and Eurasia: The World Today Series 2017-2018 (48th ed.; Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2017, ISBN: 9781475835168). The schedule will note the readings for the White, Sakwa and Hale text by chapter, but the Hierman has no chapter numbers; instead, look for the country headings. There will also be texts in the Schedule that are either electronic texts accessible through the King Library webpage, as files on Canvas, or with the link information listed. Please see the Schedule for the readings and when they are assigned. *All readings for the course are required unless labeled as "recommended" in the Schedule.*

Library Liaison

Paul Kauppila is our library liaison in Political Science; he can be reached via e-mail at Paul.Kauppila@sjsu.edu or via phone at 408-808-2042. We will be meeting with him early in the semester to go over accessing materials in King Library for your research projects; you may want to schedule time with him individually if you have questions about finding material.

¹ This brings up the issue of the Baltic countries (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) – they will be considered primarily members of the EU for this course, but will also come up in various places as post-Soviet countries.

Course Requirements and Assignments

This course is worth four units as an upper division course, although you may elect to take it for three. In either case, please note SJSU's Credit Hour Requirement: "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." This means that this course will have a higher amount of reading and activities attached to it than you may find in other classes. Students will be expected to meet the instructor in office hours as part of their research projects. They will also be expected to participate in research presentations as spectators at the end of the class. To not fulfill these extra time requirements may mean a lower grade, so please keep this in mind as you take the course.

Students will be evaluated in the following ways for this course:

Participation	80 points
Exams (3 x 40)	120 points
Research Project	
Outline	40 points
Meetings (2 x 10)	20 points
First Draft	80 points
Poster Presentation	40 points
Second Draft	<u>40 points</u>
	420 points

Participation: This class is meant to introduce political and economic issues connected to post-Soviet countries. It is not assumed that you have extensive knowledge of this region or these issues; therefore, a fair amount of background information will be presented through class lecture and discussion as well as the written material. While students cannot be graded only on attendance, if you are not in class, your absences can be noted for not participating in discussions when they occur. In addition, you are expected to attend the class presentations at the end of the course to assist in evaluating your fellow students' work; if you do not attend these sessions (particularly during the final period, when the end-of-class activity requires attendance), this could mean a loss of half of your participation points.

Exams 1-3: To measure your understanding of the material, there will be three exams over the course of the semester (see Schedule for dates). These exams will be held in the final 45 minutes of the class the day that they are scheduled. Each exam will require you to select four out of five possible short-answer questions, and answer each in 4-5 sentences, no more than a paragraph. These exams will be closed-book and closed-note; you do not need to bring in any materials apart from pens or pencils. A study guide will go out with terms and concepts considered "fair game" for the sections covered by the test. If you miss an exam due to a verifiable emergency, you may take a makeup within one week after the test day; please contact the instructor ASAP to schedule a time within this one-week period. No exams will be given ahead of the scheduled time for any reason.

Research Project: The bulk of your grade for this class will be fulfilled through an independent research project that you will complete in stages over the course of the semester. As these stages build upon one another, it is essential that you complete each stage in time for feedback where necessary to go on to the next stage, and to ensure you get the best possible grade. Please see the information appended to the end of the syllabus for the requirements.

Final Examination or Evaluation

Because of the large number of students in the class, poster presentations for the projects will be held during the last two lecture days of the semester, but also the final period (May 16th, 9:45-12:00); those presentations will therefore be the concluding activity for the class. Even if you are not presenting during the final period, you must attend and assist in evaluating your fellow students' work; if you do not, you risk losing 40 points of your participation grade. Obviously, this is not a requirement that can be fulfilled earlier than the scheduled date, so you should plan on being present for the final time. If you miss the presentations that day due to a verifiable emergency, you need to contact the instructor immediately to schedule a makeup activity on May 23rd, whether you are presenting or evaluating as a spectator.

Grading Information

This course is based upon a point system, with percentage of points earned on assignments and exams corresponding to the following grades: 97-100% is an A+, 93-96% is an A, 90-92% is an A-, 87-89% is a B+, 83-86% is a B, 80-82% is a B-, etc. Keep track of your points over the course of the semester as noted above, and you should have an idea how you stand in the class.

Note that "All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades." See [University Policy F13-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details. That said, please note that grades will not be posted on Canvas in this course; if you need information on class standing, please see me in office hours so we can access your scores and I can give you an accurate assessment of your progress.

All grades on exams and the various parts of the research project are final. You will note that the rough draft of the paper is worth considerably more than the final draft; this is by design, to ensure that you will have the bulk of the research work done earlier in the semester, so you can use the final draft for polishing your writing and you can also prepare a presentation.

Per University policy, any extra credit activities have to be extended to all members of the class; individual requests will not be considered. The instructor will assign extra credit activities if she feels they are appropriate to this particular class, and only if the activity can be done by all students.

Policy on Submitting Written Work in this Course

In order to make sure all students complete their work under equal and fair conditions and to facilitate turnaround on grading, the following policy applies to submitting written work (for this class, the written parts of the research project) for this course:

- 1) For full credit, students must submit written assignments by the day designated in the syllabus, barring an emergency that is verifiable in writing. Other situations where a student may not be able to turn in an assignment on time require contacting the instructor before or on the date of submission to get an extension. Extensions will be granted at the instructor's discretion.
- 2) All written assignments must be submitted as hard copies on the day they are due to qualify for full credit. No assignments may be submitted via e-mail for any reason. Late hard copies of papers will lose the equivalent of one letter grade per day (if 80 points, then 8 points a day) late, barring an excused emergency or an extension granted by the instructor.
- 3) Both essay drafts must also be uploaded via the Canvas page under "Assignments" in order to qualify for credit, as this will allow checking of source use. If the paper is not submitted to the Canvas

page, it is not considered “turned in.” Uploads are due by 11:59 p.m. on the due date for the paper. Late uploads are possible, but papers will not be graded until the upload occurs.²

4) If a student must turn in a hard copy late due to an emergency, the student should submit the work as soon as possible and provide the written verification of the emergency with the hard copy, to restore any lost grade points as well as have the work graded.

5) The last day for submission of any late written work due to an emergency or extension is the last actual lecture day of the session (May 14th). It is also the last day that points can be corrected on late work if an emergency is verified.

6) Barring adjustments to grade points on late work because of an emergency, all grades on written work are final.

Students at the college level are expected to submit written work that fits the grammatical, stylistic and citation expectations for college-level work in English. All written assignments in this course are therefore graded in two ways: both in terms of content (information in terms of logic, quality of evidence, etc.) and in terms of writing. If you are at all uncomfortable with writing at the college level, you need to take steps to rectify this. The instructor is willing to preview rough drafts of work in office hours before assignments are due to provide feedback. You may also want to see the instructor after assignments are handed back if comments indicate that there are specific errors in argument or writing.

You may not rewrite assignments for additional credit or regrades in this course. The second draft of the research paper is graded independently of the first. At this level of academic work, you should be prepared to submit work that is ready for scrutiny in your first effort.

Collaboration and Source Use Policy

The University has a clear policy on Academic Integrity, but I feel that some issues need to be made more explicit within the body of this syllabus. Please review below, and see me if you need clarifications.

The following actions on papers could be considered plagiarism:

- 1) Copying words or passages of text from an in-class (lecture, discussion, slides, text or assigned reading) source without proper quotation and citation;
- 2) Using ideas, definitions or arguments from in-class sources, even if paraphrased or summarized, without proper citation;
- 3) Copying words or passages of text from sources outside of class (including electronic sources) without proper quotation and citation;
- 4) Using ideas, definitions or arguments from sources outside of class, even if paraphrased or summarized, without proper citation.

Per the SJSU Academic Integrity Policy, you may not submit work done in another course, in whole or in part, for evaluation in this course without prior instructor approval. This includes your own writing for another course – that is actually a form of plagiarism as well as cheating. If you are considering using research done in another class to help you with your project in this class, it is strongly recommended that you clear this with the instructor before you use the material.

You are not permitted to collaborate with other students on written work in this class unless expressly permitted by the instructor. If collaboration is permitted, it will be made clear in the requirements for the assignment; otherwise, you should not assume you can do this.

² . I strongly suggest that you verify your uploads to Canvas when you do them, as Turnitin on Canvas does not always accept files, or evaluate them after accepting them. .docx files appear to be a major issue for Canvas.

Collaboration in preparing for exams such as sharing notes before exams and group study is encouraged, but keep in mind that there may be more than one answer to an exam question.

If there are issues with source use or possible cheating, it is the policy of SJSU for the instructor to have a face-to-face meeting with a student to clarify the issue and particulars before any decisions are made about possible sanctions. Serious infractions must be reported to the University per the Academic Integrity Policy for recording purposes, and possible administrative action.

To sum up – the University is serious about cheating and plagiarism, and so is your instructor. If you are concerned about how to cite and use sources, come to office hours, consult the Library sources on how to deal with these issues (<http://library.sjsu.edu/research-support/research>), or one of the writing centers for assistance.

Classroom Protocol

Students are expected to come to class ready to participate. Asking questions regarding the reading material or class lecture is expected and encouraged. You are also expected to behave in a civil and respectful manner in discussion, particularly to your fellow students. There are topics that we will discuss which may be considered controversial, and many students may have strong opinions about them from the outset. With that in mind, students should avoid any colloquial language, characterizations, remarks or outright slurs that pertain to groups in the abstract or to their fellow students in particular. Any remarks made in ways that attack a student's personality or physical characteristics that have nothing to do with his or her actual points in a discussion will not be tolerated. Students may be asked to leave if this occurs. If you want to challenge a particular point in the course of discussion, challenge the point – don't challenge the student.

Laptops may be used during class for the purpose of taking notes, but students are expected to stop typing and participate in discussions when they occur. Cell phones and pagers must be turned off or put on silent for the duration of class. All electronic devices must be off during exams.

Recordings of lectures for personal use outside of class is permitted, provided the instructor is consulted and approves such recording. If you feel you may need to do this, please contact Dr. Pinnell and clear this with her at the start of the course.

While lecture will involve the use of Powerpoint slides, these will not be uploaded to Canvas. If you miss a lecture day, you will need to get the notes from a colleague or see the instructor in office hours to cover what you missed. The only exceptions to this policy are if a student requires accommodations due to a disability that is verified by AEC; in that case, accommodations will be made on an individual student basis where necessary.

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/>. Please peruse these policies at the link, which cover academic integrity, religious holidays and recording information in class. These policies may also be important for students that require accommodations due to disability.

Disclaimer

All information in this syllabus, including due dates for evaluation instruments such as exams or papers may be subject to change with fair notice by the instructor, the Department of Political Science or San Jose State University.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1-3	1/24-2/7	<p><u>Topic 1: Introduction/Collapse, Reformation and Consolidation</u> White, Sakwa & Hale, Chs. 15, 1; then 2-3, 9</p> <p>Library Presentation on 2/7 in King Library 213 (during class time)</p>
4	2/12-2/14	<p><u>Topic 2: Civil Society and Political Culture</u> White, Sakwa & Hale, Chs. 7-8</p> <p>Meetings to Discuss Topics: 2/12-2/16</p>
5-6	2/19-2/28	<p><u>Topic 3: Elections and Partisan Politics</u> White, Sakwa & Hale, Chs. 4-6 Hierman, "Ukraine"</p> <p>Exam 1: Last 45 minutes of class on 2/26 (Topics 1-2)</p>
7	3/5-3/7	<p><u>Topic 4: Regional Government</u> White, Sakwa & Hale, Ch. 10 Hierman, "Georgia"</p> <p>Topic Outlines Due: 3/5</p>
8-9	3/12-3/21	<p><u>Topic 5: Ethnic and Religious Politics</u> De Waal, Thomas. "Armenia and Azerbaijan: An Intimate Quarrel," in <u>The Caucasus: An Introduction</u>. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010, 98-130 (electronic book: use OneSearch to access.) Duina, Francesco and Carlo Miani, "Fitting in the Baltics: National Identity, Minorities and Compliance with EU Accession Requirements in Lithuania and Latvia," <u>Comparative European Politics</u> 13, No. 5 (2015): 535-552 (on Canvas). Hiro, Dilip. "Uzbekistan: The Complex Hub of Central Asia," in <u>Inside Central Asia</u>. New York: Overlook Duckworth, 2011, 125-191 (on Canvas).</p> <p>Exam 2: Last 45 minutes of class on 3/21 (Topics 3-5)</p>
	3/26-3/30	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS
10	4/2-4/4	<p><u>Topic 6: Economic Policy</u> White, Sakwa & Hale, Chs. 11-12 Hierman, "Kazakhstan"</p> <p>First Draft of Research Paper is due 4/2</p>
11	4/9-4/11	<u>Topic 7: Corruption and Oligarchic Politics</u>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		<p>McMann, Kelley. <u>Corruption as a Last Resort: Adapting to the Market in Central Asia</u>. Ithaca; NY: Cornell University Press, 2014, 20-57 (electronic book; use OneSearch to access.)</p> <p>Meetings to Discuss First Drafts: 4/9-4/13</p>
11-12	4/11-4/18	<p><u>Topic 8: Elite Transitions</u> Hierman, "Belarus" Hierman, "Turkmenistan"</p>
13-14	4/23-5/2	<p><u>Topic 9: Foreign and Military Policy</u> White, Sakwa & Hale, Chs. 13-14 Pomerantz, William E., "Ground Zero: How a Trade Dispute Sparked the Russia-Ukraine Crisis," in <u>Roots of Russia's War With Ukraine</u>. NY: Columbia University Press, 2016, 52-73 (electronic book; use OneSearch to access). Wolff, Andrew T. "The Future of NATO Enlargement After the Ukraine Crisis," <u>International Affairs</u> 91, No. 5 (2015): 1103-1121 (on Canvas).</p> <p>Second (Final) Draft Due on 4/30 Exam 3: Last 45 minutes of class on 5/2</p>
15-16	5/7-5/14	<p>Poster Presentations</p> <p>May 14th is the last day to submit written work for credit</p>
Final Exam	5/16, 9:45-12:00	<p>Poster Presentations (cont.)</p> <p>All students must attend on May 16th, even if not presenting</p>

Research Project

The major task for this class is a combination of a research paper of 8-10 pages (2000-2500 words in 12 point font with 1” margins and page numbers, not counting bibliography) plus a poster presentation to the class, on a topic of the student’s choosing regarding Eurasian politics. Because of the four-unit nature of this class, students will be expected to dedicate time outside regular class sessions for formulation of their topic, do the necessary background research to inform their paper, compose the paper in an initial draft for review, and then turn in a revised draft. Students will also be expected to meet with the instructor outside of class at least two scheduled times to review progress on their papers.

This project will take place in various stages, outlined below.

Topic Formulation/Outline (40 points of the total project grade)

Students must choose a topic that deals with an issue in post-Soviet country politics, create a topic question and then draft an outline that shows how they will answer the question. To get you started, possible topics could be in any one of the general areas:

- a. A question that deals with the *internal politics* of one of the post-Soviet countries. You may focus on the Russian Federation, but students are encouraged to consider a policy issue in one of the other Eurasian regions – the Caucasus (Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan), Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan or Tajikistan), or Eastern Europe (Ukraine, Belarus, or Moldova). The Baltics are also possible, but keep in mind these are also considered EU countries, and there may be less overlap with the issues of the class. Possible policy issues for a country-specific paper could include electoral/party politics; political culture; civil society; state-media relations; elite transitions; military politics. Other possibilities may be considered, but you may want to discuss these with the instructor.³
- b. A question that is *comparative* in nature and deals with two or more countries we are studying in the class. For example, you may wish to contrast electoral politics between Russia and another post-Soviet state. This is a good area of topics to choose from if you wish to apply what we learned in class about the Russian Federation to another country, but with less detail than concentrating solely on the second country.
- c. A question that focuses on the *foreign policy/relations* between a post-Soviet state and other countries. This would include regional relations between Russia and its post-Soviet neighbors (the “near abroad”); a foreign policy issue that concerns regional relations with the EU or other countries such as the U.S.; military cooperation between post-Soviet countries; economic cooperation between post-Soviet countries. Wars may be considered here, but only if they have an interstate nature; internal/civil conflicts may better fit under internal politics, depending on the nature of the conflict.

Your question could be either *descriptive* (“What is the likely outcome of the next Russian presidential election, and why?) or *prescriptive* in nature (“Should NATO prepare for possible armed conflict with Russia in the near future?”) All topics will have to be cleared in a meeting with the instructor during an in-person meeting during the fourth week of classes (February 12-16). This meeting is mandatory and worth ten points of your grade; a schedule of times will be set up the week before.

We will be having a session with the Library Liaison for our department (Paul Kauppila) on February 7th to help you start locating sources for your projects. Please make sure that whatever topic you choose, you will be able to find and use sources to complete your research. This should be one of the first considerations when you are choosing your topic.

³ . We will not be able to cover all post-Soviet countries in this class with the same amount of detail; students are allowed to consider a country that does not get as much coverage from the Caucasus, Central Asia and/or Eastern Europe.

This section of the project will be completed with a topic outline of approximately 2-4 pages due on March 5th. You need to give your question and a thesis statement that tries to answer it, but also give some preliminary answers to the following questions over the course of the paper:

1. The background of the question: what essential information someone not acquainted with the issues of the question need to know in terms of concepts, actors, and events.
2. An assessment of the current state or nature of the topic;
3. The ultimate answer to the topic question. If a descriptive question, you need to give the essential explanation of the why or how. If prescriptive, you need to make your case for the action you are prescribing, as well as consider possible challenges to your position.

You will need to address points 1-3 in the paper in greater detail as you research your topic and do the initial draft. But for the outline, a brief preliminary answer to all of these points plus a preliminary list of sources will be sufficient for this stage of the project.⁴ You will receive written comments at this stage of the project to help you move forward, although you may want to meet with the instructor to discuss them in office hours.

As part of the topic outline, you will need to give a preliminary bibliography of at least five peer-reviewed sources you are considering using in your paper, along with any others you intend to use at that time. "Peer reviewed" in this case may include texts, periodicals, research journals, and on-line encyclopedias that cannot be edited by the public. (Wikipedia and blogs do not count. See the instructor if you need clarification on what sources qualify.)

First Paper Draft (80 points of the total project grade, due on April 2nd)

Students are expected to complete an initial draft of their project paper and to turn it in both as a hard copy in class on April 2nd and upload it to Canvas by 11:59 p.m. that evening for a source check. In order to expedite turnaround on these papers, drafts will lose a full letter grade (eight points) for each day they are late, including the weekend, barring an extension granted before or on the due date.

Your paper should have a clear thesis answering the topic question you set at the start of the project, information to answer the three areas listed above (1-3), and sufficient information to support your conclusions in the paper. You should assume that a reader may not have more than basic information on the issue/country relations/actors you are covering in this paper, so some background explanation may be needed. Given this, there will most likely be more text coverage of parts 1 and 2 in your paper, especially for the descriptive topics. But try for balanced coverage of the three areas overall -- ideally, no more than four pages for any one section.

Although this paper is the initial draft, it is worth more than the final draft for a very good reason -- this is the paper you would normally turn in at the end of the class in any other course. The second draft is meant for relatively minor revisions such as writing errors and clarifications of points; omissions of major required parts of the paper from the first draft to include in the second will hurt your course grade, compared to covering all of the material completely the first time.

Students will meet with the instructor outside of class during the week of April 9-12 to review their first effort and discuss possible changes for the second draft. As with the topic question meetings, these are mandatory and worth 10 points separate from the rest of the project grade.

Second Paper Draft (40 points of the total project grade, due on April 30th)

The second draft of the paper will be due in class as a hard copy and uploaded to Canvas on April 30th. This draft should take into account the preliminary comments you received and reflect changes after reviewing them and consulting with the instructor.⁵ Unless directed to do so by the instructor, there should be no major changes in the structure of the paper at this stage -- hence, the lower grade points for this part of the project.

⁴ . You may change your answers to these parts of the paper later; doing this as a preliminary outline shows progress, not the final product.

⁵ . Copies of the first drafts, with comments, will be kept on file.

Poster Presentation (40 points of the total project grade, to be completed in class either during the lecture sessions on May 7-14, or in the final period on May 16th)

Given the large number of students in the class, poster presentations will be done by various members of the class on the above dates, with eight students per class except for the final period, when there will be two sessions and a break in between. The schedule for presentations will be set when we return from Spring Break; if you have obstacles to presenting on a specific day, you will need to note this when we create the schedule. Once you are committed to a day, you should plan on being ready to present that day. Makeups for those who were scheduled to present May 7-14th will be held on the final day and only for verifiable emergencies.⁶

Your presentation grade will be split between a poster and a 3-4 minute oral summary of the findings of your paper to the instructor; your fellow students will also get to review your posters and ask questions about your findings, to help determine your presentation grade. If you are not presenting on a given day, your attendance is still required; this is true for the final period as well. Not attending these sessions (particularly the final) may result in a loss of half of your participation points, so please make sure to be there and to fill out the evaluation forms as you review the posters.

Posters should be on heavy paper (cardstock or heavier) or posterboard; 22' x 28' is a good size for this project, although slightly larger or smaller may also work. Your visual elements should include a clear statement of your topic question and then an outline of the points from 1-3 in the paper. You may include a timeline for history if it will be useful. You should also consider adding visual elements such as pictures/tables/graphs you feel will help illustrate your points and make the presentation more interesting.

If you have never done a poster before, I recommend the NCSU website on poster presentations (<https://www.ncsu.edu/project/posters/index.html>) to give you ideas about font, layout, use of visual elements and other advice. We will discuss format in class as well as the presentation time approaches.

Paper Requirements: Content and Writing

Papers (first and second drafts) will be graded with 75% of the points for content, 25% of the points for writing and citations. Content will depend on how well you make an argument that answers the topic, covers the required sections and uses your selected research materials. Lack of/misuse of sources may count as a deduction for content. A factor to keep in mind as you write this paper is that while you are making an argument, you are also speaking to readers who may never have heard of the topic before; you need to weigh the amount of basic information to include as well as your argument. Try to keep basic information on the issue, countries or actors to four pages and conserve the rest for the other sections.

Essays should show a minimum of grammatical errors and good use of citations when class materials are used. Common grammar errors that could receive deductions include:

- Spelling (do not just rely on spell check, as an incorrect word can still be correctly spelled);
- Verb tense and agreement;
- Word choice;
- Run-on or fragment sentences;
- Run-on paragraphs (multiple topics in a paragraph).

Any material that is in words not your own must have proper quotation and citation. Direct quotes as well as paraphrased information must be cited in your work. Quotes that are more than two sentences should be indented as a block, single-spaced and cited. Failure to properly cite will result in deductions up to half of the writing points for the draft. If you are confused over whether to cite or not, the safest course is to do so. If you are concerned about when and where to cite, I suggest either seeing me in office hours or taking the Plagiarism tutorial through the King Library site (<http://libguides.sjsu.edu/plagiarism>).

⁶. If you are scheduled to present on the Final Day and miss due to a verifiable emergency, a makeup may be possible – but it will be on May 23rd, the established makeup day.

Citations must also be given for any ideas or information that is not your own. Citations can either be as footnotes or as endnotes, although you may prefer in-text. APA, APSA or Chicago/Turabian are established citation styles for political science, but MLA can also be used. Lecture must be cited along with any electronic or print sources.⁷

There are writing manuals online that can help with citation formats; see the King Library website under “Research” for information on citations and source use. Whatever form of citations you use, you are expected to append a bibliography with full citations of the sources used in your essay. A lack of proper citations means a deduction from the writing portion of your grade and possibly the content portion as well, as facts cannot be checked.

One last point on citations: a common error students make, which would be reflected in the content portion of an essay, is to fill an essay with quoted information. This is a problem for two reasons. First, it shows that a student is good at locating information, but that she may not understand it. Second, a good writer should be able to rephrase or paraphrase information and present it in an essay. Unless the exact language of the quote is important, you should not just quote. Essays that show this problem will receive a lower grade.

Turnitin on Canvas will be used in this course primarily to evaluate your ability to utilize sources well and cite properly. However, if there are clear similarities between your essay and that of other sources/students that indicates collaboration and/or lack of original writing, the instructor will grade accordingly and may consider possible academic penalties.⁸ There is a clear difference between blatant and inadvertent plagiarism, but ignorance of the rules of citation is ultimately no excuse. Please familiarize yourself with proper source use.

Suggestions on Completing this Project

- Don't hesitate to start working on this project, and move on to the next stage of the project quickly after you've completed the requirements for the last one.
- Use office hours and your scheduled meetings with the instructor to work on research and writing concerns you have over the course of the semester. The instructor will not preview drafts on-line, but is willing to consider them in office hours.
- Plan on looking at a wide variety of information for this project. Electronic sources of information not peer-reviewed may not be reliable, as information in major newspapers and research journals is. Background information may require you to hit the library for texts, perhaps even other libraries in the CSU system as time permits.
- Make sure to schedule and keep your meetings with the instructor outside of class, as these are worth a separate amount of points in your course grade (2 x 10 points), and as they are intended to help with completing the project. Meetings can only be made up in emergencies, and when the instructor and the student can both reschedule.
- Plan on having the paper completed in full for the first draft.
- Make sure you know when you are presenting after the schedule is created.

⁷ . APA requires lecture cited within the body of the paper. Chicago and MLA may also require citations in the bibliography.

⁸ . Re-use of papers or writing from other papers that you wrote may also be considered a form of plagiarism or cheating. Your work for this class must be original. If you intend to use *research* from other previous work, you must still clear this with the instructor before you do this.