

San José State University College of Social Sciences /  
Political Science Department POLS 15, Essentials of  
U.S. & California Government, Section 7, Fall, 2020

**Course and Contact  
Information**

**Instructor:** Al Schendan

**Office Location:** Zoom <https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/98510803128>

**Telephone:** (510) 382 - 9117 (Please call between 10 - 5, M - F) **Email:**  
[albert.schendan@sjsu.edu](mailto:albert.schendan@sjsu.edu),

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 9-11 am (8/25 – 12/8)

**Class Days/Time:** M/W 12:00-1:15 pm

**Classroom:** Zoom <https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/93421218250>

*Password:*  
*politics*

GE/SJSU Studies Category: US2, US3 &  
D3

**Course Format**

This course will be taught using a traditional lecture based format with extensive use of slide presentations. Students will need to utilize a computer to attend lectures through Zoom and access Canvas for assignments, course readings, and announcements.

## Course Description

University catalog <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/catalog/courses/POLS015.html>

### *POLS 15 United States and California Politics Fall 2020 1*

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). GE Area: D3, and American Institution Requirement: US2 and US3

From the SJSU GE Guidelines (S14-5): 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 our interactions, including cooperation and conflict, as these many and varied peoples have dealt with social, economic, and political issues.

SJSU graduation requirement of D- (if used to satisfy US2, US2, and D3)

### Course and GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

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

1. 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. Assessed by multiple-choice questions in three exams and the Canvas activities. 2. 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. Assessed by multiple-choice questions in three exams and the Canvas activities. 3. GELO 3 (D3): Place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts. Assessed by policy paper assignment. 4. 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. Assessed by policy paper assignment and multiple-choice questions in three exams.

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5. GELO 5 (D3): Evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues. Assessed by policy paper assignment. 6. GELO 6 (D3) Apply multidisciplinary material to a topic relevant to policy and social action at the local, national, and/or international levels. Assessed by policy paper assignment.

Required Texts/Readings (PDF's provided)

Kenneth Janda, Jeffrey M. Berry, Jerry Goldman, Deborah Schildkraut, *The Challenge of Democracy*, 2014, 12th Edition. Wadsworth Cengage Learning, ISBN-13: 978-1-133-60233-0

Larry N. Gerston, Terry Christensen, *California Politics and Government: A Practical Approach*, 2016, 14<sup>th</sup> Edition. Wadsworth Cengage Learning, ISBN-13: 978-1305-95349-9

Study Websites :

<http://uspolitics.org/student/student.html>

[http://college.cengage.com/polisci/janda/chall\\_dem/10e/student\\_home.html](http://college.cengage.com/polisci/janda/chall_dem/10e/student_home.html)

[http://www.cengage.com/cgi-wadsworth/course\\_products\\_wp.pl?fid=M20b&product\\_isbn\\_issn=97811336023](http://www.cengage.com/cgi-wadsworth/course_products_wp.pl?fid=M20b&product_isbn_issn=97811336023)

### 30 Other Readings (PDF provided)

Metaphor, Morality, and Politics, Or, Why  
Conservatives Have Left Liberals In the Dust

<http://www.wvcd.org/issues/Lakoff.html>

Library Liaison Paul Kauppila is the Political Science library liaison. You may contact him for questions about Political Science research and library holdings. His email is [Paul.Kauppila@sjsu.edu](mailto:Paul.Kauppila@sjsu.edu) and his phone number is (408) 808-2042. You can also find a research guide for Political Science here:  
<http://libguides.sjsu.edu/politicalscience>

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Writing Center The San José State University Writing Center offers a variety of resources to help students become better writers, and all of their services are free for SJSU students. The writing center is located in the library on the second floor and appointments are available Monday-Thursday from 10 am to 3 pm. During this pandemic they are providing online tutoring and can be reached through: <https://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/>

### Course Requirements and Assignments

University policy S16-9

(<http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/index.html#CreditHour>)

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 practice. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in this syllabus.

All exams will be conducted over Canvas and culled from readings, lectures, and videos.

EXAM #1 (100 points): Exam #1 will consist of fifty multiple-choice questions. It will cover the assigned chapters in the readings, and activities for the material before the first exam. It will assess GELOs 1-2 .

EXAM #2 (100 points): Exam #2 will consist of fifty multiple-choice questions. It will cover the assigned chapters in the readings, and activities for the material after the first exam. It will assess GELOs 1-2 .

EXAM #3 (180 points): Exam #3 will consist of 90 multiple-choice questions. Sixty to seventy-five questions will cover the assigned chapters in the readings and materials after the second exam. 25 to 40 questions will cover material prior to the second exam. It will assess GELOs 1-2 .

LAKOFF POLICY PAPER (75 points): Apply George Lakoff's theory to one political issue and explain why both liberals and conservatives would be for or against a policy preference. Be sure to list and define at least four metaphors

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from each model (Strict Father & Nurturant Parent) that apply to the issue; then apply each model and metaphor to the issue. For example, if you chose single-payer healthcare or Medicare For All as your issue, you will need to explain why a conservative would be opposed to or in favor of such a policy and then explain a liberal's opposition or preference for such a policy. If you can apply the models and metaphors effectively, you can also argue that both liberals and conservatives would be in favor or opposed to the same policy preference. As this requires more effort, you may wish to consult me during office hours. You do not need an introduction but be sure explain the models briefly before you discuss and apply the metaphors and models to your issue. Your paper will be assessed through Turnitin.com and should be at least 800 words and submitted in one of the following formats: Microsoft Word (.doc/.docx), OpenOffice (.odt), WordPerfect (.wpd), or PostScript (.ps) . Papers in the following conditions will receive a zero: not submitted in a required format or a corrupted file (it can't be read and Turnitin.com can't assess plagiarism), incomplete papers, high similarity ratings by Turnitin.com (25 % or above), or emailed to me. Late papers may be accepted at the discretion of the instructor for half credit. For details on how your paper will be graded, please see the rubric attached to your

assignment in Canvas. It will assess GELOs 3-6.

CANVAS ACTIVITIES AND VIDEOS (110 points): There are several assignments that will be posted on Canvas or watched during the class period that require typed responses. Each Canvas activity will include a prompt with a discussion of requirements. All activities are due on the date listed in Canvas. It will assess GELOs 1-2

Final Examination or Evaluation

University policy S17-1

(<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S17-1.pdf>)

Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment.

The final exam (Exam # 3) will consist of 90 multiple-choice questions. Sixty to seventy-five questions will cover the assigned chapters in the readings and materials after the second exam. 25 to 40 questions will cover material prior to the second exam.

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GRADING INFORMATION Your final grade in the course will be determined by the points you earn for Exams #1, #2, and #3, as well as the Lakoff Policy Paper, and Activities. Exam dates are subject to change and will be confirmed in class. Different activities must be submitted on specific days-please see the course schedule and/or Canvas for due dates. EXAMS & ASSIGNMENTS POINTS POSSIBLE WEIGHT

GELOs  
ASSESSED

EXAM #1 9/28/2020 100 POINTS 16.90 %

GELOs 1-2

EXAM #2 11/2/2020 100 POINTS 16.90%

GELOs 1-2

EXAM #3 12/15/2020 180 POINTS 30.58%

GELOs 1-2

Lakoff Policy PAPER 10/28/2020 100 POINTS 16.98%

GELOs 3-6

ACTIVITIES 110 POINTS 18.64%

GELOs 1-2

*590 TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE*

A plus= 97 to 100 % A=  
93 to 96 % A minus= 90  
to 92 % B plus= 87 to 89  
% B= 83 to 86 % B  
minus= 80 to 82 % C  
plus= 77 to 79 % C= 73  
to 76 % C minus= 70 to  
72 % D plus= 67 to 69 %  
D= 63 to 66 % D minus=  
60 to 62 % F= 0 to 59 %

NOTE that University policy F15-12 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf> states that "Students are expected to attend all meetings for the courses

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in which they are enrolled as they are responsible for material discussed therein, and active participation is frequently essential to ensure maximum benefit to all class members. In some cases, attendance is fundamental to course objectives; for example, students may be required to interact with others in the class. Attendance is the responsibility of the student."

Missed Exams and Missed Work If you miss an exam and have a valid documented excuse, I will allow you to make up the exam on December 8<sup>th</sup> on Canvas. However, if you wish to take a make-up exam before December 8th,

please see me during office hours. Be sure to submit your other assignments by the due dates, otherwise they may incur a penalty of no more than 50%.

**Classroom Protocol** This course requires you to attend regularly and participate actively through discussions and questions. You should sign onto Zoom and remain for the full length of the period. In addition, your camera should be turned on and your face visible. Please see me if you have any questions regarding expectations.

**Consent for recording of class and public sharing of instructor material**

University Policy S12-7, <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 them. 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.”
- Please contact Prof. Schendan in person to request permission *in advance* to make audio or video recordings in this class. 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 their approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for

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this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

**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/> Be sure to review these policies and resources. Additional policies may be found here: [http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/policies/pol\\_chron/](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/policies/pol_chron/)

Disability Access Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor ASAP . The Accessible Education Center (AEC) is available to facilitate the reasonable accommodations process. The AEC is located at One Washington Square in ADM 110 and can be reached by telephone (voice/408-924-6000, or by email at: [aec-info@sjsu.edu](mailto:aec-info@sjsu.edu) or [aec-exams@sjsu.edu](mailto:aec-exams@sjsu.edu) .

Student disclosures of sexual violence San Jose State University requires all incoming students to complete Sexual Assault Prevention for Undergraduates or Sexual Assault Prevention for Graduate Students, mandatory online sexual assault prevention trainings. Title IX requires higher education institutions to take necessary precautions to prevent sexual assault on their campuses, and to respond promptly and effectively when an assault is reported. To fully comply with Title IX, the CSU Chancellor's Office issued [Executive Order 1095](#) which mandates educational training programs to help prevent sexual violence. For more information and resources, go to: <http://notalone.sjsu.edu>

For more information go to: <http://www.sjsu.edu/wellness/onlinetraining/>

# POLS 15, Essentials of U.S. and California Government, Section 2, Fall 2020, Course Schedule

Complete each reading assignment before coming to class.

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice that will be announced in class and/or via Canvas. Be sure to keep track of your assignments on Canvas.

## Week Date Lecture Topics and Reading Assignments

### 1 8/19 COURSE INTRODUCTION

POLITICS & POWER

Read: Course

Syllabus

### 2 8/24 ORIGINS OF GOVERNMENT AND DEMOCRACY

Read: Ch. 1 & Ch.

2

### 2 8/26 CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Read: Ch. 3 Read: Appendix A1: Declaration of  
Independence

### 3 8/31 THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Read: Ch.

3

### 3 9/2 THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Read: Ch.

3

### 4 9/7 No Class – Labor Day!

Read: Ch. 3 *Canvas Activity:*

## Constitution Outline

### 4 9/9 THE CONSTITUTION

*Read Constitution*

### 5 9/14 CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

Federalist vs. Antifederalists Read: Ch. 3

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*Canvas Activity video: An Empire of Reason*

<https://vimeo.com/231093077>

### 5 9/16 THE CONSTITUTION

Read: Ch. 3 6 9/21 GROWTH AND  
CHANGE

Read: Ch. 3 &  
4 CA- Ch 1

### 6 9/23 FEDERALISM

Read: Ch 4 CA- Ch. 9, 10 Turn in these  
assignments: *Constitution Outline due 9/24*  
*Empire of Reason due 9/26 A More Perfect*  
*Union due 9/27 7 9/28 EXAM # 1*

Covers all readings, lectures, and videos from the first day through the  
Federalism lecture. 7 9/30 METAPHOR, MORALITY, AND POLITICS

Conservatives – Strict  
Fathers Reading on Canvas

### 8 10/5 METAPHOR, MORALITY, AND POLITICS

Liberals – Nurturant  
Parents Reading on

Canvas

8 10/7 METAPHOR, MORALITY, AND POLITICS

Conservatives – Strict Fathers  
Reading on Canvas *Political*  
*Typology Quiz* due 10/10

9 10/1

2

9 10/1 POLITICAL PARTIES

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4 Read: Ch. 8

10 10/1

9

POLITICAL PARTIES Read: Ch. 8 Read: CA- Ch. 2

10 10/2

1

THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE Read: Ch. 9

11 10/2

6

THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE Read: Ch. 9

11 10/2

8

THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE Read: Ch. 9 CA – Ch. 8 *Canvas Assignment: Lakoff Theory Paper due at 11:59pm* 12 11/2 EXAM # 2

Covers all readings, lectures, and videos from Ideology through Electoral College. 12

11/4 THE LEGISLATURE

Read: Ch. 11

13 11/9 THE LEGISLATURE

Read: Ch. 11 & CA- Ch. 5

13 11/1

1

No Class - Veteran's Day!

14 11/1

8

THE LEGISLATURE Read: Ch. 11 & CA- Ch. 5

14 11/2

0

THE EXECUTIVE Read: CA – Ch. 7 THE EXECUTIVE Read: Ch. 12

15 11/2 THE COURTS

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3 Read: Ch. 14

CA – Ch.

6

15 11/2

0

5

Thanksgiving Break *Inside Obama's*

*Obama's Deal due 11/28*

16 11/3

16 12/2 CIVIL LIBERTIES AND CIVIL RIGHTS

Read: Ch. 16

17 12/7 CIVIL RIGHTS

Read: Ch.

16

12/9 Final Exam 9:45-12 pm on Canvas. Exam #3 - the Final exam, will

consist of 90 multiple-choice questions. Sixty to seventy-five questions will cover the assigned chapters in the textbook and the Canvas readings and activities/videos for the material after the second exam. Twenty to forty questions will cover material prior to

the second exam. Once you begin the exam you must complete it.

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