San José State University
Department of Political Science
Pols 100M, Political Inquiry
Section 01, Spring 2020

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Mary Currin-Percival
Office Location:	Clark Hall 406L
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Office Hours:	Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:30am-1pm (and by appointment)
Class Days/Time:	Mondays and Wednesdays 10:30am-11:45am
Classroom:	Dudley Moorhead Hall 160

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as the syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the on Canvas Leaning Management System course login website at http://sjsu.instructure.com. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU at http://my.sjsu.edu to learn of any updates. By enrolling in this course, you consent to all course requirements listed in this syllabus, published on our Canvas site, and announced in class. You accept responsibility for accessing the Canvas course website to download any required handouts, assignments, or readings. You also accept responsibility for checking the course website regularly for any announcements. You also accept responsibility for receiving any messages sent via the MySJSU email system. Make sure that MySJSU has your current email address. Contact me within the first week if you cannot access the Canvas website, download and read .pdf files, link to other websites, or send or receive email.

Communication

YOU MUST CHECK OUR CANVAS COURSE PAGE ROUTINELY. This is a course requirement. I will frequently make announcements on Canvas. I will make every effort to promptly return emails between 8am and 6pm M-F. If I do not respond within 48 hours, please send me another email. I will answer emails on the weekends and evenings periodically and more often before the exam and around assignment due dates. I am available to meet with you by appointment if you have class or work during my regularly scheduled office hours. You are expected to keep up with the readings and actively participate in our class discussions. My office hours are listed at the top of this syllabus. Please do not hesitate to come by during these scheduled times or contact me to schedule an appointment.

Course Description

Introduction to the scope and methods of political science. Beginning with research design, measurement, and ethical considerations, and including a variety of research methods including surveys, experiments, interviews, fieldwork, content analysis, and an introduction to quantitative

and qualitative analysis. Notes: Should be taken junior year. This course offers an introduction to theory and research methods in political science. It will help you to understand how theory is developed, used, and built upon by scholars in various subfields in the discipline. It will introduce you to and give you a working knowledge of research methods including but not limited to: survey research, content analysis, small-n studies, and experiments. There is no "one-size-fits-all" research method in political science and you will find researchers use different methods to attempt to answer research questions. The major project in this course is a research design for an original project that you propose. There will be a considerable amount of reading and extensive discussion of the readings each week. You are expected to keep up with these readings and actively participate in our class discussions.

Political Science Program Learning Outcomes
Upon completion of the Political Science major program, students should be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes.
PSPLO1: Breadth
Students should possess a broad knowledge of the theory and methods of the various branches of the discipline.
PSPLO2: Application and Disciplinary Methods
Students should be able to formulate research questions, engage in systematic literature searches using primary and secondary sources, evaluate research studies, and critically analyze and interpret influential political texts. Students should be able to apply these techniques to identify, understand, and analyze domestic and international political issues and organizations.
PSPLO3: 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.
PSPLO4: Citizenship
Students should acquire an understanding of the role of the citizen in local, state, national, and global contexts and appreciate the importance of lifelong participation in political processes.

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

Mapping POLS 100M Course Learning Outcomes to Political Science PLOs	Program Learning Outcomes	Assessment Methods
CLO1: Compare and contrast the ways social scientists study political phenomena.	PLO 1, 2	Quiz 3 & 4, midterm exam
CLO2: Develop hypotheses and measure and conceptualize variables.	PLO 1, 2	Quiz 1 & 2, midterm, research design
CLO3: Match best-suited research method to research question.	PLO 1, 2	Midterm essay, Quiz 1, research design
CLO4: Construct a research design for an original social science research project.	PLO 1, 2, 3	Research design, Research design poster presentation
CLO5: Interpret original political science research.	PLO 1, 2, 3	Research design, Research design poster presentation

Required Text
Janet Buttolph Johnson, H.T. Reynolds, and Jason D. Mycoff. *Political Science Research Methods*, 9th ed. (2019). Sage/CQ Press. ISBN: 9781544331430. **The textbook is required.** Electronic, used, and rentals are acceptable. ***Use the current edition*** only as it will contain updated information and examples. The text is available for purchase in the Spartan Bookstore.

Other technology requirements/equipment/material
You will need access to Qualtrics (free software available to all students, located on MySJSU homepage). You will be programming a survey in Qualtrics. **On Qualtrics in-class training dates (please see assignments and course schedule), you will need to bring a laptop to class. You will not be able to participate in this graded assignment without a laptop.

Computer labs and other resources for student use are available in:
A.S. Print and Technology Center on the Student Union (East Wing 2nd floor Suite 2600)
http://www.sjsu.edu/as/departments/ptc/computer-lab-rentals/index.html
Student Computing Services at http://library.sjsu.edu/student-computing-services/student-computing-services-center
Computers at the Martin Luther King Library for public at large at https://www.sjpl.org/wireless

Accessible Education
If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with AEC to establish a record of their disability. Academic Senate Policy F06-2

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

Political Science Department 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. Ideas from others must also be referenced. Failure to cite your sources constitutes academic misconduct, which carries with it serious sanctions. A tutorial on citations is available at http://libguides.sjsu.edu/writeandcite.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 http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Course Workload Expectations: Succeeding in a Four-Unit Course
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 3 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. Because this is a four-unit course, you can expect to spend a minimum of 9 hours per week, in addition to the time spent in class, on readings, assignments, and other course activities. Careful time management will help you keep up with readings and assignments and enable you to be successful in all of your courses. More details about student workload can be found in University Policy S12-3 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf.

Delineation of Workload for Four-Unit Course

Course Component	Student Work	Instructor Engagement
Regular 3 units (9 hours/week)	Readings, quiz and exam preparation, quizzes, midterm exam, plagiarism tutorial, syllabus quiz, measurement paper, research design, research design poster presentation	• Class contact hours. • Prepare in-class activities. • Provide written feedback on quizzes, and midterm exam. • Provide written feedback on measurement paper, research design, and research design poster presentation. • Meetings with students about research designs. • Read drafts of papers by request.
Activity 1 unit (3 hours/week)	Activities related to online survey project: Online readings and training for Qualtrics survey project. On-line training on Qualtrics survey software. Preparing and programing individual survey.	• Online training in survey construction. • Prepare discussions and activities related to survey research. • Online training in Qualtrics survey software. • Meet with students about survey projects. • Provide feedback and evaluate individual survey projects.

Course Assignments

Plagiarism Tutorial (5 points)   ***02/03   8pm***
You must pass all of the modules of this tutorial with a score of at least 75%. If you complete the quiz on time and earn at least 75%, you will receive 5 points for the plagiarism quiz. Please note the following:

- The plagiarism tutorial is a requirement for the research design. I will not accept this paper until you submit your tutorial quiz results (with at least 75% score) to me.
- You must **email** your plagiarism tutorial quiz results to me [mary.currinpercival@sjsu.edu.](mailto:mary.currinpercival@sjsu.edu) **Please note:** The library will not send your results to me. You must forward to me the results the library sends to you. Do not send a screenshot of your quiz results. Forwarding to me the email ensures we both have a copy that includes your information.
- The date I receive your email with the forwarded results is the date of submission, regardless of the date you actually completed the quiz. The plagiarism quiz results are due by **8pm on 02/03.** Late quizzes will be penalized one point per day, beginning at 8:01pm, 02/03/20.
- The tutorial can be found here: http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/tutorial/plagiarism/index.htm

In-Class Quizzes (40 points)   ***various dates (see syllabus for dates)   10:30am***
There will be four in-class quizzes (worth 10 points each) covering the assigned readings and class discussion. Quizzes will consist of short answer-type questions and mini-essays. Quizzes are open notes and open book. Electronic devices may only be used to access the electronic version of our textbook.

Midterm Exam (100 points)   ***03/25   10:30am***
The midterm exam will cover the material learned in the first nine weeks of the course and will consist of a multiple-choice section worth 50 points (25 questions; 2 points each) and an essay section (worth 50 points). Make-ups will only be allowed in accordance with the make-up policy described later in this syllabus. The midterm will be held at the beginning of class on 03/25. Bring a greenbook, a scantron, a pen, and a pencil.

On-line Survey Construction Workshop (10 points)   ***due via Canvas 03/25 8pm***
You will work on a draft of your survey and workshop it online with classmates. In this online workshop, be prepared to offer advice to peers, based on readings and class discussions. You will post a draft of your survey on Canvas no later than 03/15 and then offer comments to classmates (to which you are assigned), no later than 03/25 at 8pm. I will also be available for assistance. This is a graded assignment. No make-ups are available, except under the make-up policy.

In-Class Qualtrics Survey Software Training (15 points)   ***04/06 or 04/08 10:30am***
You will be trained on Qualtrics survey software, in class, during one of two in-class training sessions. This is a graded assignment. Arriving late or leaving early from class will affect your grade. No make-ups are available, except under the make-up policy. You may attend either day; you do not have to attend both. You may attend both for extra assistance. Bring a draft of your survey as you will begin programming your survey in Qualtrics. These two training days are the only assisted training days available. Please consult with me about where to receive Qualtrics training if you do not attend this training. Even if you are not able to make up the points (because

your absence does not fall under the make-up policy), it is imperative that you learn the software as you will not be able to complete the online survey assignment without an understanding of this software.

Online Survey (100 points)   ***04/20***   ***8pm***
You are going to construct an original short online public opinion survey, using the skills you obtain in this class. This survey project is also highly related to your research design. We will begin our discussion of this project during week 3. You will not be fielding the survey as a part of this class, but your survey would be field-ready (subject to Institutional Review Board approval). You may work as a group on the final online survey only if your questions fit logically within a group survey and it would not take longer than 15 minutes for a respondent to complete. Your grade will be affected by the total survey however, so keep this in mind when deciding whether you would like to work with a group. I will elaborate upon this in detail when we review the project in class. The online survey project is due by 8pm on 04/20. Late projects will be penalized one letter grade for every day they are late, beginning at 8:01pm on 04/20. You may submit your survey early. You must share your survey with me in Qualtrics by the deadline by "collaborating" through Qualtrics. Surveys will be graded based upon quality of each of the following: survey question wording, question ordering, appearance of survey (e.g., survey flow, background, intro, professionalism), and email invitation.

Research Design Poster Presentation (30 points)   ***various dates (see syllabus)***   ***10:30am***
You will present your research design at an academic-quality poster presentation on one of the last four days of the semester. Dates will be randomly assigned, though university-excused events will be considered when the schedule is made. A detailed prompt for this assignment will be posted on Canvas. We will also review requirements in class. Your grade will be based on the following: poster organization, poster content and appearance, your responses to my questions and to your colleagues' questions, and your peer reviews of your colleagues' presentations on two presentation dates (other than your own).

Final Evaluation. Research Design (100 points)   ***05/15 12pm***
There is no in-class final exam in this course. The final evaluation is the research design—a 10-12-page proposal for an original research project you could conceivably conduct. You will use the skills learned throughout the course to complete this project. **You will not actually have to collect data for the RD.** The research design is a comprehensive outline of how you would conduct the project, including a description of the online survey you designed for your project. Your research design will include a discussion of your research question, a review of the relevant scholarly literature, a discussion of the theory upon which your hypothesis is based, a discussion of your hypothesis, your measurement, your survey design and your expectations. I will elaborate upon this project in class and give you a detailed prompt for the assignment.

The research design is **due in person (hard copies only) by noon on Friday, 05/15.** This is the end of the final exam period scheduled for this class. Submit your research design **in person to me** in Clark Hall 406L. I will be in my office during our scheduled final exam period 9:45am-12:00pm. You must sign the research design submission sheet when you submit your research design. **You must submit it to me personally in order for it to be considered submitted. Late research designs will only be accepted in accordance with**

the make-up policy. If your research design is late and your reason for submitting it late does not fall under the make-up policy, you will receive a "0" on the research design.

Grading Information

The prompts for the measurement paper and research design will be posted on Canvas. Your grades for each will be based upon the following:

1) how well the assignment addresses the points/questions in the prompt
2) the quality of arguments and conclusions—are these logical and backed up by research. in political science and related disciplines?
3) the quality (and appropriate quantity) of the sources cited as well as the proper use of APA or APSA formatting
4) the quality of the writing

There will be specific questions in the prompts that must be addressed. Failure to adequately address these questions will result in a loss of points. There is a specific source requirement for each assignment to ensure that your work is grounded in political science research. If your work does not meet the source requirements, you will not receive a passing grade on the assignment. I am happy to meet with you to assist in this area. Please also contact our research librarian. Failure to consistently and correctly adhere to either APSA or APA citation format will result in up a letter grade penalty. Failure to cite sources will result in a failing grade (please see the university's policy on plagiarism). Feel free to see me in office hours or make an appointment with me to go over questions about your paper to review a rough draft. I cannot read paper drafts by email. I encourage you to get started early on your paper.

Determination of Grades

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

	Points
Plagiarism Tutorial	5
Quizzes	40
Midterm Exam	100
Online Survey Construction Workshop	10
Qualtrics Survey Training	15
Online Survey	100
Research Design Poster Presentation	30
Research Design	100
Total	**400**

Your final grade will be calculated by dividing your total points by 400. For example, consider the following: Total points = 380. 380/400 = .95= 95%. Using the scale below, this individual would be assigned an A. Final letter grades for the course will be assigned based on the following scale:

Grade	Percentage
A plus	98 to 100%
A	93 to 97%
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	59% or less

Extra credit

There will be occasional extra credit opportunities offered in class. These will usually consist of group research and short write-ups on the topics of the day and **will not be announced in advance.** You will also have an opportunity to watch a documentary, attend a political talk, or attend political event and write a short response paper for extra credit added to your midterm exam or research design. I will elaborate upon this (and announce events and talks) later in the semester. Make-up extra credit opportunities will only be offered in accordance with the make-up policy below.

Make-up/Late Policy

There are no make-up exams, papers, presentations, in-class activities, or extra credit without appropriate documentation (e.g., serious medical illness or serious medical emergency, religious holiday, pre-approved university-sanctioned event or activity, military orders, family emergency) that you were unable to complete the assignment on time or participate in class. Please note the dates of the training sessions, assignments, and quizzes and let me know if you have a university-sanctioned event (with documentation) within the first two weeks of the course. These are graded activities that contribute toward your total grade on these projects. This is not an attendance grade.

If you are seriously ill, you must notify me as soon as possible by email or on my office voicemail that you will be unable to complete an assignment on time. Except in cases of

documented medical emergency, you MUST notify me **before** the scheduled assignment. Out of fairness to your colleagues, work, missing an alarm, and generally not feeling well will not be accepted excuses for missing assignments or attending a class activity. Be certain you schedule all of our assignments right away. If you have a vacation or social obligation, considering taking this course during another session, as these types of events do not fall under the make-up policy. **Do not schedule job interviews or other events on assignment days.**

Classroom Protocol

Cell phones, laptops, and other electronic devices
On designated dates noted in the syllabus, we will be using our laptops in class to work on the survey. At other times (e.g., in-class extra credit opportunities), we may need to use laptops or other mobile devices. Aside from these times, laptops and other electronic devices need to be put away. You are welcome to keep your cell phone on vibrate for emergency messages, but do not keep it on your desk. If you need to use your phone for emergency reasons, please leave the classroom. Students who violate the classroom electronics policy more than once will be asked to leave.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material
University Policy S12-7, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:
  ▪ "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.**"

You **may not** make audio or video recordings in this class without my written permission. You must also obtain the explicit permission of every student in the class in order to record lectures, except in the case of academic accommodations. Do not distribute any assignments, quizzes, exams, prompts, or materials provided to you on Canvas or in class from this course without my explicit permission. Violation of these policies will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. Notetaking services can be obtained for students with disabilities. Please see me in the first week of the course so we can set this up as soon as possible.

Attendance
"Students are expected to attend all meetings for the courses 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. Participation may be used as a criterion for grading when the parameters and their evaluation are clearly defined in the course syllabus and the percentage of the overall grade is stated." http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf

It is expected that you will attend class regularly. If you miss class, please notify me as soon as possible. It is your responsibility to find out what you missed. Please come to class on time. If you are late, please do not be disruptive. If you know that you need to leave early, let me know before class and sit near the door. Every student is expected to participate in class discussion regularly. The class is more enjoyable when we are all participating!

University Policies
Per University Policy S16-9 *(http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf)*, relevant information to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. is available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' Syllabus Information web page at http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/"

Academic integrity
Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University Academic Integrity Policy F15-7 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.** Visit the Student Conduct and Ethical Development website for more information.

Pols 100M Political Inquiry, Spring 2020, Section 01
Course Schedule

The schedule below is subject to change with fair notice (provided in class, by email, or on Canvas).

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Monday, 01/27	Introduction to course Review course syllabus and Canvas website. **Read:** Course Syllabus **Assignment:** online plagiarism tutorial and quiz at: https://libguides.sjsu.edu/plagiarism Follow the link to read the SJSU Academic Integrity Policy when completing this assignment.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Wednesday, 01/29	The Scientific Study of Politics; Research Questions **Read:** Johnson, Reynolds, and Mycoff chapters 1-2
2	Monday, 02/03	Literature Review **Read:** Johnson, Reynolds, and Mycoff, chapter 3 **Assignment:** Bring an article (something that interests you) from a peer-reviewed social science journal. **Assignment:** Plagiarism quiz results due (forward your results from the MLK Library to me at mary.currinpercival@sjsu.edu) no later than 8pm tonight. Late period begins 8:01pm.
2	Wednesday, 02/05	Literature Review **Read:** Johnson, *et al.*, chapter 3
3	Monday, 02/10	Hypotheses and Variables **Read:** Johnson, *et al.*, chapter 4
3	Wednesday, 02/12	Hypotheses and Variables **Read:** Johnson, *et al.*, chapter 4 **Assignment:** Quiz #1 at the beginning of class
4	Monday, 02/17	Measurement **Read:** Johnson, *et al.*, chapter 5
4	Wednesday, 02/19	Measurement **Read:** Johnson, *et al.*, chapter 5
5	Monday, 02/24	Introduction to Survey Research **Read:** Johnson, *et al.*, chapter 6
5	Wednesday, 02/26	Introduction to Survey Research **Read:** Johnson, et al., chapter 10 (skim only) **Assignment:** Quiz #2 at the beginning of class
6	Monday, 03/02	Sampling **Read:** Johnson, *et al.*, chapter 7

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
6	Wednesday, 03/04	Nonexperimental Design: Survey Research Survey Construction **Read:** Johnson, *et al.*, chapter 10
7	Monday, 03/09	Experimental designs **Read:** Johnson, *et al.*, chapter 6
7	Wednesday, 03/11	Experimental designs **Read:** Johnson, *et al.*, chapter 6
8	Monday, 03/16	Quasi-Experimental Designs; Natural Experiments **Read:** Johnson, *et al.*, chapter 6
8	Wednesday, 03/18	Document Analysis and Content Analysis **Read:** Johnson, *et al.*, chapter 9
9	Monday, 03/23	Midterm Exam Review
9	Wednesday, 03/25	**Assignment: Midterm Exam in class** **Assignment:** Online survey construction workshop assignment is due no later than 8:00pm tonight.
10	Monday, 03/30	Spring Break (no class meeting)
10	Wednesday, 04/01	Spring Break (no class meeting)
11	Monday, 04/06	**Qualtrics Training and Programming** **Bring a laptop to class today.** See technology requirement section for information about obtaining equipment on campus.
11	Wednesday, 04/08	**Qualtrics Training and Programming** **Bring a laptop to class today.**
12	Monday, 04/13	Other Types of Research Designs—Observational Studies **Read:** Johnson, *et al.*, chapter 8 **Assignment:** Quiz #3 at the beginning of class
12	Wednesday, 04/15	Intro to Descriptive Statistics **Read:** Johnson, *et al.*, chapter 11

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
13	Monday, 04/20	Intro to Descriptive Statistics **Read:** Johnson, *et al.*, chapter 11 **Assignment:** Online survey project due no later than 8pm today.
13	Wednesday, 04/22	Intro to Inferential Statistics **Read:** Johnson, *et al.*, chapters 11 and 12
14	Monday, 04/27	Intro to Inferential Statistics **Read:** Johnson, *et al.*, chapters 11 and 12 **Assignment:** Quiz #4 at the beginning of class
14	Wednesday, 04/29	Research Design Poster Presentations
15	Monday, 05/04	Research Design Poster Presentations
15	Wednesday, 05/06	Research Design Poster Presentations
16	Monday, 05/11	Research Design Poster Presentations
Final Exam	**Friday, 05/15**	**Research design is due no later than 12pm on Friday, December 15, 2019. Submit your research design in person to me in Clark Hall 406L. I will be in my office from 9:45am-12pm.** No late research designs will be accepted (except in accordance with the make-up policy). This is the final evaluation in this class.