

San José State University
Department of Political Science
Political Inquiry, POLS-100M Section 03, Fall 2021

Course and Contact Information

Instructor(s): Xintong Chen

Office Location: Clark Hall, 406N

Telephone: 408-924-5346

Email: xintong.chen@sjsu.edu

Office Hours: M/W 3 – 5p via Zoom and by appointment

Class Days/Time: M/W, 12:30 - 1:45p

Classroom: Dudley Moorhead Hall 160

Course Description

From the SJSU Course Catalog: 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.

This course can be divided into three sections. In the first section, we will introduce the research process and the components of designing a research proposal. In the second section, we will turn to measurements and data collection method and a variety of research method. Finally, we will dive into data analysis techniques. Those include descriptive analysis, correlation, and some simple regression models.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

1. CLO1: Identify sources of good research and research data, as well as explain why and how these are sources are valid. This outcome is assessed by class participation, group research project, and final exam.
2. CLO2: Understand the process of political science inquiry, including common data collection and sampling techniques. This outcome is assessed by class participation, group research project and final exam.

3. CLO3: Explore basic quantitative strategies for data analysis and hypothesis testing. This outcome is assessed by class participation, homework assignments and final exam.
4. CLO4: Communicate their results effectively to others through presentation and research proposal. This outcome is assessed by group research project presentation and group research project.

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU](#) on [Spartan App Portal](#) (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor) to learn of any updates. For help with using Canvas see [Canvas Student Resources page](#).

Communication and Office Hour

I provided all course materials on Canvas and will frequently make announcements on Canvas. It is essential that you check the class Canvas page routinely. I am available to meet you every Monday and Wednesday afternoon 3:30 to 5:30. You will use the link <https://www.wejoinin.com/sheets/mogde> to sign up for office hours. One spot is for 15 minutes. You can sign up for at most two spots per week. If you need more time, send me an email. I will set up a special appointment with you. Free feel to contact me through email as well if you have any questions.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

- Andy Field, *Discovering Statistics Using IBM SPSS*, 5th ed., (Sage CQ Press, 2018) ISBN# 978-1526436566
- John W. Creswell and David Creswell, *Research Design Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed methods Approaches*, 5th ed., (Sage, 2018) ISBN# 978-1-5063-8670-6

Please note older editions of this book is perfectly acceptable to purchase. However, key information, page numbers and chapter numbers may vary from edition to edition. It is the student's responsibility to account for these discrepancies when they exist.

Students are also required to download and have available for their use a copy of SPSS. Students can download this program for free at

<https://www.sjsu.edu/it/services/collaboration/software/instructions/index.php>.

Course Requirements and Assignments

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 three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practice. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Homework assignments (30%). Homework assignments are an opportunity to practice the methods presented in class and in the readings. These assignments will consist of a set of problems or applications of techniques covered in class. Some of these assignments will involve using SPSS to apply statistical techniques to actual data. Students may work in groups on these assignments, but the work students turn in must be their own. Students must complete and submit all of the assignments by the due date to pass the course. Details will be provided at the appropriate time. This assignment evaluates CLOs #3.

Group Research Project (30%). Students will self-organize into groups of 2 based on a shared research interest. Groups will then select a research topic in political science. Next, groups will develop the research topic into a research proposal. The research proposal will include three sections, which are introduction, literature review, and method. More details about this assignment are available in Group Research Project Guidelines and Group Research Project Grading Rubrics on Canvas. This assignment evaluates CLOs #1, #2, and #4.

Group Research Project Presentation (10%). Each research project group will provide a 12 to 15 minutes presentation. In the presentation, briefly discuss the five sections of research paper. This assignment evaluates CLOs #1, #2, and #4.

Final Take Home Exam (20%). Final exam is scheduled at the end of the semester. It will be an open book exam. There will be no provision for an alternate test time except as provided by university policy for students with special needs. If you have a verifiable medical or family emergency, please contact me ASAP to make arrangements. This assignment evaluates CLOs #1, #2, and #3.

Participation and in-class activities (10%). Regular class attendance is highly encouraged, though per University Policy F-15-12 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf>), students will not be graded on daily attendance. We will be using class time to engage in hands on learning with group projects and other in-class activities to meet course. This assignment evaluates CLOs #1, #2, #3 and #4.

Assignments and Due Dates

Homework Assignments (2 @ 15 pts each)	10/25 and 11/15
Group Research Project (include three Sections, see below)	Multiple Dates
Initial Research Proposal	10/11
Final Research Proposal	11/22
Group Research Project Presentation	11/22 or 11/29
Class Participation	N/A

Grading Information

Your grade will be calculated as follows:

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>A plus</i>	<i>960 to 1000</i>	<i>96 to 100%</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>930 to 959</i>	<i>93 to 95%</i>
<i>A minus</i>	<i>900 to 929</i>	<i>90 to 92%</i>
<i>B plus</i>	<i>860 to 899</i>	<i>86 to 89 %</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>830 to 859</i>	<i>83 to 85%</i>
<i>B minus</i>	<i>800 to 829</i>	<i>80 to 82%</i>
<i>C plus</i>	<i>760 to 799</i>	<i>76 to 79%</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>730 to 759</i>	<i>73 to 75%</i>
<i>C minus</i>	<i>700 to 729</i>	<i>70 to 72%</i>
<i>D plus</i>	<i>660 to 699</i>	<i>66 to 69%</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>630 to 659</i>	<i>63 to 65%</i>

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>D minus</i>	<i>600 to 629</i>	<i>60 to 62%</i>

And assignments and exams will be weighted accordingly:

Assignments and exams weights	
Homework Assignments (2 @ 15 pts each)	30 Points
Group Research Project (include the following three Sections)	30 Points
Initial Research Proposal	15 Points
Final Research Proposal	15 Points
Group Research Project Presentation	10 Points
Final Take Home Exam	20 Points
Class Participation	10 Points

Cellphones, laptops, and other technology

Students may not use their cell phone for non-class purposes in class. Laptops, tablets, and other such technology are allowed in class but for notetaking and educational use only.

Make-up/Late Policy

Students are expected to complete assignments on time and turn them in by the beginning of class on the day they are due. Students are not allowed to make up homework assignments and group research project presentation. If these are not completed, the student will receive a zero for that day. For the group research project, 10 points will be deducted on top of the students' grade for each day it is late. Students only have up to a week to turn in a late assignment; after that, it will be a zero. The late policy may be waived at the instructor's discretion in case of an emergency. If an emergency arises that prevents you from completing your work on time, please email the instructor as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made for you to keep up in the class. Emergencies are defined as anything which is serious and unexpected. Emergencies cannot be written on the calendar in advance. Examples of emergencies are heart attacks, car accidents, a serious health crisis of the student or in the student's immediate family. Examples of non-emergencies are family weddings, vacations, conferences or any other event which can be planned around.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](#), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page](#) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Workload and Credit Hour Requirements

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 the syllabus.

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/>.

Useful Information for Students

SJSU Counseling Services

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit Counseling Services website at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

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 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook.

Student Technology Training Center

Student Technology Training Center is located in King Library. The Training Center is dedicated to providing software training and support to San Jose State students, faculty, and staff. Need to learn a software program (such as SPSS) to complete a class project, or develop something for your student organization? You can request a one-on-one meeting with one of our talented staff members. To make an individual or small group appointment, visit Student Technology Training Center website at <https://library.sjsu.edu/student-technology-training/student-technology-training-center>.

Spartan Food Pantry

The Spartan Food Pantry is a walk-in, full-service, staffed, food assistance program offering non-perishable goods, fresh produce, and refrigerated items to eligible students. No student should have to face food insecurity. We define those in need as students who have limited or uncertain access to nutritious and safe foods because of a lack of money and other resources. For more information, visit Spartan Food Pantry website at <https://www.sjsu.edu/sjsucares/get-assistance/spartan-food-pantry.php>

Political Inquiry, POLS-100M Section 03, Fall 2021

Please note, the schedule below is subject to change with fair notice. It is the student's responsibility to stay apprised of changes to the course schedule.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics	Readings	Assignments Due
Research Design				
1	8/23	Introduction and Overview; Empirical Research and Philosophy of Knowledge	NA	
	8/25			
2	8/30	Literature Review; Identifying Research Questions	Creswell & Creswell Ch.2 and 7	9/1 Forming group for the final project
	9/1			
3	9/6	Labor Day and No Class	Creswell & Creswell Ch.4	
	9/8	Ethical considerations and IRB (Guest Speaker)		
4	9/13	Formulating Hypothesis	Creswell & Creswell Ch7	
	9/15			
Measurement and Data Collection				
5	9/20	Quantitative Methods (Survey Design and Experiments)	Creswell & Creswell Ch.8	
	9/22			
6	9/27	Qualitative Methods	Creswell & Creswell Ch.9	
	9/29			
7	10/4	Mixed Methods Procedures	Creswell & Creswell Ch.10	
	10/6			
Data Analysis				
8	10/11	Sampling; SPSS Workshop (Guest Speaker)	Field Ch.2	10/11 Research Proposal (the Initial Draft)
	10/13			
9	10/18	Descriptive Statistics	Field Ch.1	
	10/20			
10	10/25	Assumptions and Hypotheses Testing	Field Ch.6	

Week	Date	Topics	Readings	Assignments Due
	10/27			10/25 Homework #1
11	11/1	Correlation	Field Ch.8 p335-p352	
	11/3			
12	11/8	Linear Regression	Field Ch.9	
	11/10			
13	11/15	Logistic Regression	Field Ch.20	11/15 Homework # 2
	11/17			
14	11/22	Group Presentations		11/22 Research Proposal (the Final Draft)
	11/24	No Class		
15	11/29	Group Presentations and Final Exam Review	NA	
	12/1			
16	12/6	Final Take Home Exam	NA	Final Exam due at 12/6