

**WRITING IN THE MAJOR
Pols100w(1) – Fall 2021
San José State University**

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Lawrence Quill

LECTURE TIMES: ONLINE

COURSE WEBSITE: CANVAS

OFFICE HOURS: T/TR 12:00PM-2:00PM VIA ZOOM AND BY APPT.

OFFICE LOCATION: CLARK HALL 455

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a workshop designed for political science majors. Quizzes are designed to enhance students understanding of grammar and punctuation. Short writing assignments are designed to foster critical thinking, reading, and writing skills. A research paper (divided into distinctive parts) on a topic of the student's choosing will form the main focus of the course. A minimum of 8000 written words is required for the completion of the course.

This course must be passed with a C or better as an SJSU graduation requirement.

Written Communication and Information Literacy Assessment Fall 2021

This semester SJSU is assessing written communication and information literacy skills of students pursuing undergraduate degrees. The assessment is used to evaluate effectiveness of the General Education (GE) and writing curricula. This class has been selected for collection of student sample work. I will select random samples of work from this class to provide to a team of assessment officials. The work will be anonymized and will not be traced back to you. The assessment will be conducted after the semester is over and will not affect your grade. Please let me know if you prefer to have your work excluded from this process.

COURSE FORMAT

This is an Online course. Students will need access to a computer or similar device to view lectures, conduct scholarly research, read assigned material, review worksheets, answer quizzes, midterms, and finals, and submit writing assignments. Office hours will also be held online each week via the Zoom app.

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](http://sjsu.instructure.com) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>.

You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU](http://one.sjsu.edu) on [Spartan App Portal](http://one.sjsu.edu) <http://one.sjsu.edu> to learn of any updates.

For help with using Canvas see [Canvas Student Resources page](http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/canvas/student_resources) (http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/canvas/student_resources)

COURSE CALENDAR - SEE CANVAS

PREREQUISITES

Students should be aware that this is a reading and writing intensive course.

Useful Resources

<http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/onlineresources/>

<http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/handouts/index.html>

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: 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 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course is a required "core" course for Political Science majors. It fulfills the Written Communication II (Z) General Education Requirement. Success in this course is dependent upon active engagement with the reading, research, and writing process. By the end of the course, students should feel comfortable writing short and long pieces, be comfortable revising and editing their own work and that of others, and be comfortable presenting their ideas to an audience.

Grading Scale

A plus 96 to 100
A 93 to 95
A minus 90 to 92
B plus 86 to 89
B 83 to 85
B minus 80 to 82
C plus 76 to 79
C 73 to 75
C minus 70 to 72
D plus 66 to 69
D 63 to 65
D minus 60 to 62
NP or F 59 or less

GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES (GELOs)

BY THE END OF THE COURSE STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO:

GELO 1 PRODUCE DISCIPLINE-SPECIFIC WRITTEN WORK THAT DEMONSTRATES UPPER-DIVISION PROFICIENCY IN LANGUAGE USE, GRAMMAR, AND CLARITY OF EXPRESSION

GELO 2 EXPLAIN, ANALYZE, DEVELOP, AND CRITICIZE IDEAS EFFECTIVELY, INCLUDING IDEAS ENCOUNTERED IN MULTIPLE READINGS AND EXPRESSED IN DIFFERENT FORMS OF DISCOURSE

GELO 3 ORGANIZE AND DEVELOP ESSAYS AND DOCUMENTS FOR BOTH PROFESSIONAL AND GENERAL AUDIENCES

GELO 4 ORGANIZE AND DEVELOP ESSAYS AND DOCUMENTS ACCORDING TO APPROPRIATE EDITORIAL AND CITATION STANDARDS

GELO 5 LOCATE, ORGANIZE, AND SYNTHESIZE INFORMATION EFFECTIVELY TO ACCOMPLISH A SPECIFIC PURPOSE, AND TO COMMUNICATE THAT PURPOSE IN WRITING

GELO	ASSIGNMENT	%	DUE DATE
GELO 1	GRAMMAR QUIZZES 1,2,3,4,5	10	VARIOUS
GELO 1,2,3,4, 5	SHORT WRITTEN RESPONSES 1,2,3	30	VARIOUS
GELO 1,2,3,4, 5	RESEARCH PROPOSAL; RESEARCH BIBLIOGRAPHY; RESEARCH OUTLINE; RESEARCH PAPER	55	VARIOUS
GELO 1,2, 5	POWER POINT PRESENTATION	5	VARIOUS

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ASSIGNMENTS

Grammar Quizzes (5 X 3%) You are required to take 5 grammar quizzes over the course of the semester. These will be posted on the Canvas system.

Short Written Responses (3 X 7%) The short responses will each be 500 words in length. Students will learn how to develop an analysis, thesis statement, outline, draft, reverse outline, redraft, edit, revise, and submit for each short response.

Research Paper (55%)

The research PROPOSAL is composed of three sections: the cover page, a proposed research topic, and an annotated bibliography.

The cover page should contain the name of the student, the name of the class, the name of the professor, the institution's details, a space for the word count, the title of the research topic, the date. This is the 'standard information' part of the proposal.

The research topic outlines in detail the student's interest in the subject and its significance for the study of politics. This is the 'so what?' part of the proposal. (500 words)

The annotated BIBLIOGRAPHY provides relevant context for the research topic. Suitable materials from scholarly sources are required. The bibliography is an accurate catalog of the materials to be used in the research paper. It is normally between 2-4 pages in length. This is the 'I know what I am talking about and I know how to use MLA or APA' part of the proposal. (500 words minimum)

The materials from the research proposals will eventually be incorporated into the introduction to the research paper. This means that once you've perfected the proposal on the proposal, you've already written a good portion of the research paper and you've made an excellent plan for what you have left to do.

Research Paper

The research PAPER is 5000-6000 words in length including the cover page, notes, and bibliography.

Students will submit multiple drafts for feedback over the course of the semester. The final version will be graded on the strength of the analysis, the elegance of the writing, the conventions of grammar and punctuation, and adherence to a citation style.

Power Point Presentation

At the very end of the course students will be required to present a summary of their research paper in PowerPoint or Keynote format to the class. Students will be limited to 5 slides, excluding a title slide, and a notes/bibliography slide. Each presentation will be

limited to 4 minutes in duration, with one minute for Q & A (time permitting). (500 words approx.)

Course Requirements

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>."

Because this is a 3-unit course, students can expect to spend a minimum of 9 hours per week preparing for and attending classes and completing course assignments. Careful time management will be required to keep up with readings and assignments in an intensive course such as this one.

Political Science Program 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 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.
- 3) **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.
- 4) **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.

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>"

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT

Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San José State University, and the University's Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The policy on academic integrity can be found with the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development at http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct

CAMPUS POLICY IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

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 DRC to establish a record of their disability.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR: STUDENT RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

See <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/s90-5.htm> about Academic Senate Policy S90-5

PLAGIARISM

See http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct (Office of Student Conduct & Ethical Dev)

DEPARTMENTAL 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 and a specific reference to the page in the source from which it was taken. Failure to cite your sources constitutes academic misconduct which carries with it serious sanctions. A tutorial on citations is available at the library website at http://www.sjlibrary.org/services/literacy/info_comp/citing.htm.

Arguably the best way to improve your own writing is to read quality material on a regular basis. To that end, students are encouraged to read articles from scholarly sources but also newspapers such as The Wall Street Journal, The Financial Times, The New York Times, and The Economist. These publications also contain articles of direct relevance to their political science classes.

QUESTIONS?

Finally, if you get stuck, feel overwhelmed, or just want to clarify something from the reading, ask me. I am here to help.