

San José State University
Department of Political Science
Pols 15. Essentials of US and California Government
Class number: Pols 15-09
Section: 46764
Fall 2021

Instructor: Robert Ovetz, Ph.D.

Office location: online

Phone: 415 602 1585 (please use only in case of emergency)

Email: robert.ovetz@sjsu.edu

Office hours: Wednesdays, noon to 1 by phone or Zoom. The Zoom link is the same for each week. No appointment necessary. Other times by phone by prior appointment. Please email other suggested days and specific times Mon to Fri from 9 am to 6 pm.

Hybrid class days and time: every Tuesday 4 - 5:15 pm in person on campus. The other day is asynchronous and does not meet.

Classroom for Tuesday Class Meetings: Washington Square 207

Course Description

Treatment of essentials of U.S. and California government. Satisfies the American institutions requirements in U.S. Constitution US2 and California government US3, GE Area D2, and the Core GE requirement in Social Sciences: Social Issues D3.

SJSU GE Guidelines

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 the interactions, including cooperation and conflict, as these many and varied peoples have dealt with social economic, and political issues.

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 as described in the syllabus.

Political Science Program Learning Outcomes (PSPLO)

Upon completion of the Political Science major program, students should be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes.

PSPLO 1 Breadth: Students should possess a broad knowledge of the theory and methods of the various branches of the discipline.

PSPLO 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.

PSPLO 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.

PSPLO 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.

General Education Learning Outcomes (GELO)

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

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.

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.

GELO 3 (D3): Place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts.

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.

GELO 5 (D3): Evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues.

GELO 6 (D3): Apply multidisciplinary material to a topic relevant to policy and social action at the local, national, and/or international levels.

| Learning Outcomes | How the LOs Will be Assessed | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| | Exams | Weekly Essays | Constitutional Amendment Paper |
| PSPLO 1 | √ | | |
| PSPLO 2 | √ | √ | √ |
| PSPLO 3 | | √ | √ |
| PSPLO 4 | | | √ |
| GELO 1 | √ | √ | √ |
| GELO 2 | √ | √ | |
| GELO 3 | √ | | √ |
| GELO 4 | √ | | |
| GELO 5 | | √ | √ |
| GELO 6 | √ | √ | √ |

Important Dates

Notes:

- Class meets every Tuesday
- All Short Essay in class presentations occur only during our Tuesday in class meetings
- The topic of the ‘short Essays should correspond to the topic of the presentations listed for each Tuesday below
- All Quizzes occur on Thursdays except the US & CA Judicial Branch Quiz which is on a Tuesday due to the holiday

Thursday 8/19—First day of course, complete the Syllabus Quiz, and post your photo to the Canvas page

Tuesday 8/24—Class meeting to review the syllabus & discuss Short Essay assignment

Tuesday 8/31—Class meeting; **Democracy Short Essay** in class presentations

Tuesday 9/7—Class meeting; **Declaration of Independence Short Essay in class presentations;**

Democracy & Declaration of Independence Short Essay due on-line by 11:59 pm

Thursday 9/9—**Democracy & Declaration of Independence Quiz** due on-line by 11:59 pm

Tuesday 9/14—Class meeting; **US & CA Constitution Short Essay in class presentations**

Tuesday 9/21—Class meeting; **Federalism in class presentations; US & CA Constitution & Federalism**

Short Essay due on-line by 11:59 pm

Thursday 9/23— **US & CA Constitution & Federalism Quiz** due on-line by 11:59 pm

Tuesday 9/28—Class meeting; **Congress Short Essay in class presentations**

Tuesday 10/5—Class meeting; **Congress Short Essay in class presentations**

Tuesday 10/12—Class meeting; **CA Legislative Branch Short Essay in class presentations; Congress &**

CA Legislative Branch Short Essay due on-line by 11:59 pm

Thursday 10/14—**Congress & CA Legislative Branch Quiz** due on-line by 11:59 pm

Tuesday 10/19—Class meeting; **US Executive Branch Short Essay in class presentations**

Tuesday 10/26—Class meeting; **CA Executive Branch Short Essay in class presentations; US & CA**

Executive Branch Short Essay due by 11:59 pm

Thursday 10/28—**US & CA Executive Branch Quiz** due on-line by 11:59 pm

Tuesday 11/2—Class meeting; **US Judicial Branch Short Essay in class presentations**

Tuesday 11/9—Class meeting; **CA Judicial Branch Short Essay in class presentations; US & CA**

Judicial Branch Short Essay due on-line by 11:59 pm

Tuesday 11/16—Class meeting; **US & CA Judicial Branch Quiz** due on-line by 11:59 pm

Tuesday 11/23—Class meeting; **Elections & Money in Politics Short Essay in class presentations**

Thursday 11/25—Thanksgiving, no class

Tuesday 11/30—Class meeting; **Elections & Money in Politics Short Essay in class presentations;**

Elections & Money in Politics Short Essay due by 11:59 pm

Thursday 12/2—Last day of the semester; **Elections & Money in Politics Quiz** due on-line by 11:59 pm

Tuesday 12/7—**Constitutional Amendment Paper** due by 11:59 pm

Thursday, 12/9—**Final exam** (complete by 11:59 pm) and the last day that late Short Essays and

Constitutional Amendment Paper may be turned in late by 11:59 pm

Grading

Grading Scale

| | |
|---------|--------|
| A plus | 96-100 |
| A | 93-95 |
| A minus | 90-92 |
| B plus | 86-89 |
| B | 83-85 |
| B minus | 80-82 |

| | |
|---------|-------|
| C plus | 76-79 |
| C | 73-75 |
| C minus | 70-72 |
| D | 60-69 |
| F | 0-59 |

| <u>Assignment</u> | <u>Percentage (100 total points each)</u> |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Quizzes (highest 5 of 6) | 20 |
| Final Exam | 20 |
| Short Essays (highest 4 of 6) | 20 |
| Short Essay Presentations (2) | 10 |
| Short Essay Presentation Notes (10) | 10 |
| Constitutional Amendment Paper | 20 |
| <hr/> Total | 100 |

Student Evaluation/Grading Policies

- **No withdrawals (W) will be granted** except for **verifiable** medical reasons.
- 10 percent will be deducted for each **week** that the Constitutional Amendment Paper and Short Essays are turned in late. A period of seven days or less is consider one week. No Short Essays or paper will be accepted after the day of the final exam at 11:59 pm.
- The **lowest** quiz grade will be **dropped**.
- The **lowest two** Short Essay grades will be **dropped**.
- There are **no make up, early, or late quizzes or exam**. If you **miss** without a **demonstrable excuse** you will receive a 0. Missed quizzes or exam due to demonstrable medical, religious, or university related activities may be made up by prior arrangement only.
- The quizzes or exam must be **taken and completed** by 11:59 pm of the last day of the week they are due.
- Sign up for the Short Essay Presentation days and time slots on the calendar sign up form in Canvas. You may change your time slot to another at any time as long as one is available. **No changes** will otherwise be made to the Short Essay Presentation Canvas sign up form without a demonstrable excuse (see above) so do not miss your slot.
- All Short Essay Presentation Notes must be turned in at the end of class. **No early or late** Notes will be accepted.
- Be sure to check your grades on Canvas closely. If there are any questions about specific assignments other than the final exam they must be made to me **no later than** the end of the last day of the course.
- Note that your grade in Canvas is only for the graded assignments at that point in time and are subject to change with each new graded assignment. To estimate your grade at any point during the semester use the Canvas tool to fill in grades for future assignments.
- All assignments must be cut and pasted into the assignment text box to be graded. Do not post a link. No assignments will be accepted by email.
- All late Short Essays and the Constitutional Amendment Paper may be turned in no later than the day of the Final Exam by 11:59 pm. No late assignments will be taken after that time.
- Grades will be rounded up to the next letter only when the difference is .49 or less.

Classroom Policy

- No copies of the class video lectures are allowed except as an accommodation with campus documentation. University Policy S12-7, <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course.
- Masks must be worn at **all times** covering the mouth and nose with protective fabric.
- Any act of plagiarism will result in an **automatic "F"** for the assignment.
- Any student who has special needs that may affect his or her performance in this class is asked to identify his or her needs to Dr. Ovetz in private by the end of the first day of class and provide documentation as soon as possible. Any resulting class performance problems that may arise for those who do not identify their needs will not receive any special grading considerations.
- If you expect to miss class for an extended period of time due to COVID please contact me ASAP and review the university policy to take extended leave.

Mask Policy

While SJSU mask policy has been changing during the summer this class will follow the August 10th email sent with the subject line "Updates on Fall 2021 and COVID Planning." Masks must remain on at all times in class and cover the mouth and nose with protective fabric. For all of our mutual safety and well-being please adhere to this SJSU policy so we can continue to meet in person.

Canvas

For help with using Canvas please see the Canvas Student Resources page at: https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/canvas/student_resources/. If you need immediate help please contact the Canvas Help at the tab on the left side of the Canvas page.

On-Line Power and Connection Interruptions

Due to internet service, weather, high risk fire power shutoffs and other causes, internet service may be interrupted either preventing me from launching the class Zoom office hour or completing the grading in a reasonable amount of time (usually 1 week). Because I live in a high risk fire area which may experience intentional PG&E power shut offs and I do not have a landline, I may not be able to communicate with the class sufficiently to let you know that class was cancelled for these reasons. I will do my best to inform you about possible cancellations. Please check your SJSU email in these circumstances. It may be necessary to reschedule class meetings in the event of cancellations.

Required Readings

Required course readings can be found in the following assigned books and readings. You are expected to complete the readings **before** they are scheduled to be discussed.

The following books are required reading. You may purchase your own print or e-reader (if available) copies at the campus bookstore or on-line.

US Government Book

Katznelson, Ira, Mark Kesselman, and Alan Draper (2013) *The Politics of Power: A Critical Introduction to American Government*, W. W. Norton & Company: NY, 7th edition, 403 pp., ISBN-13: 978-0393919448. You may not use older editions of the book.

California Government Book

Field, Mona (2012) *California Government and Politics Today*, Pearson: NY, 14th edition, 160 pp., ISBN-13: 978-0205251780. You may use newer editions but not older editions of the book. If you use a newer edition be sure to match up the chapters with this edition to be sure you read the right chapters.

Historical Documents and the Reading Packet

There is also a “Reading Packet” folder with assigned readings under Files in Canvas.

Other Resources

The CQ Researcher and ABC-CLIO American Government databases available through the SJSU library website are good reference resources for topics covered in this class.

For more detailed background explanation of each part of the US Constitution go to <https://www.law.cornell.edu/anncon/>, <https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution> or any other reputable annotated constitution.

Library Liaison

Please contact Paul Kauppila the library liaison for Political Science to answer questions and provide help with research, citations, and other library needs. He can be reached by phone at (408) 808-2042 or by email at paul.Kauppila@sjsu.edu or <https://libguides.sjsu.edu/politicalscience>

University Policies

Per University Policy s16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to 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 \(https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php\)](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.

Office Hours

I will be available by Zoom during office hours to talk about the readings, video lectures, and the writing assignments. Office hours are also an opportunity to discuss a current event you plan to write about for your Weekly Essay or a possible amendment for your Constitutional Amendment Paper.

Office hours will be conducted by Zoom without reservations. I will send the invite at least an hour in advance. Click on the Zoom link to enter. If there is another student already speaking with me you will be put into the waiting room until that student is finished. Please turn on your video and mic when you enter.

If you have a scheduling conflict with my designated office hour please send me a day and time from Mon to Fri before 6 pm in which you will call me. Your request should be sent at least 24 hours in advance.

Course Requirements

The required assignments will test your knowledge and ability to apply and assess principles and concepts of US and California government as models of representative democracy.

Required Video Lectures

The video lectures for each of the topics of the course listed below in the Course Outline are found in the modules on the Canvas home page.

Quizzes and Final Exam

There will be six quizzes and one final exam taken on Canvas. The quizzes and exam are all multiple choice and based on the assigned readings and class lecture. The final exam is comprehensive, incorporating all previous course content. No proctoring is required.

The quizzes and final exam must be **taken and completed** by 11:59 pm of the assigned day. Be sure not to miss the quizzes and exam as **there are no make-ups** without a **demonstrable excuse** (medical, religious, or university related activities only). No quizzes or exam may be taken early. Once you start taking the quizzes or exam it cannot be paused.

Be sure to take the quizzes and exam on a computer with a stable internet connection and leave yourself sufficient time to **complete** the quizzes or exam by 11:59 pm. You do not need to use any proctoring service. **No additional time will be given** except for previously arranged university accommodations.

Beginning the next day at 12 am you may print out the quizzes or exam or save it as a pdf so you can have the questions to review later. Corrected quizzes or exam will be available for only one week after the quizzes or exam closes.

The questions will address concepts, terminology, and important events covered in class and the readings. In order to prepare for the quizzes or exam I strongly encourage you to form study groups, visit me during office hours, and use campus tutoring resources. Contact Peer Connections: https://peerconnections.sjsu.edu/resources/academic_resources/index.html

Students can make appointments with us through Spartan Connect at: <https://peerconnections.sjsu.edu/appointments/appointment/index.html>

What Each Quiz and the Final Exam Cover

Quiz 1 covers Democracy & the Declaration of Independence

Quiz 2 covers US & CA Constitution & Federalism

Quiz 3 covers US & CA Legislative Branch

Quiz 4 covers US & CA Executive Branch

Quiz 5 covers US & CA Judicial Branch

Quiz 6 covers Elections & Money in Politics

Final Exam is comprehensive

Constitutional Amendment Paper

After studying the federal and state constitutional systems of government what is one thing you would change about the US constitution and what would it accomplish? For your concluding paper, write a maximum 1,000 words paper on what amendment of the US constitution you would propose and why. If you need examples about how other constitutions address your issue use: <https://www.constituteproject.org/search?lang=en>

Watch the short video about the **Constitutional Amendment Paper** in the window where the paper is turned in for further instructions. See the “Pols 15 Grading Rubric” under the Constitutional Amendment Paper module on Canvas to see how the paper will be graded.

What your paper should include:

- Explain which part of the US constitution you would amend and why. Be specific about where it is located in the constitution by including the article, section, and clause (if included) or amendment, section, and clause (if included).
- If your issue is not addressed by the constitution explain whether it is entirely new and unrelated or a renewed effort related to a previous related proposed amendment. Note, if you propose something

that is related to the constitution and you say it is not you will have a significant point deduction. For the complete list of previous proposed amendments see <https://www.archives.gov/open/dataset-amendments.html#how>

- Include the text of your amendment written in your own words
- Explain what your amendment would do and how it would address and solve the problem
- Explain if the idea of your amendment has ever been proposed before and if it was what was the outcome. You also need to explain how your amendment is different. To look up previous amendments go to www.congress.gov
- Explain which amendment method you would use and how you would campaign to get it passed
- Avoid filler quotes. Explain the issue in your own words and include in text citations when you refer to the article.
- Use in text citations instead of footnotes. For example: TEXT. (Ovetz, 2020, p. 1)
- You must include **at least 4** references with in text citations and complete APA style citations in the bibliography. You must use **at least 1 of each type** of citation below. See “About Sources and References” and “About In Text Citations” below. Put the citations in alphabetical order. Do not number your references.
- You must use the Lunsford APA Guide for all your complete APA references. The Lunsford APA Guide can be found in the Canvas Writing Guides folder under Files. Note that you are using APA only for the bibliographic references. Do not cut and paste your reference from any source because they are often incorrect.

How to *format* your Constitutional Amendment Paper

- Cut and paste your paper into the text box. Do not post a link. Check the text to make sure it is formatted correctly in Canvas before you submit it.
- Keep your paper to no more than maximum 1,000 words (it is ok to be within 10% of the limit)
- Include your name, date, and name of the assignment
- Write your paper as a research paper with an introductory paragraph including a clear declarative thesis and preview, logically organized subsections, and a conclusion
- Do not write in first person
- Organize your paper into clear sections separated by subtitles
- Include a concise introductory paragraph with a clear thesis and be sure to have a concise conclusion
- Check the formatting to make sure your paper is organized into clear paragraphs and readable
- Proofread your paper for everything in these directions at least once before turning it in
- Avoid filler quotes that add nothing of substance to your analysis. Paraphrase and include an in text citation instead.
- Correct syntax including verb tenses, sentence structure, punctuation, and spelling
- Do not include header, title page or page numbers
- Include the word count
- Check the “Pols 15 Grading Rubric” under Files on Canvas

About Sources and References

There are 3 types of acceptable sources that may be obtained through the library print and database sources. The 3 types of sources are:

1. academic: books, specialized encyclopedias (academic field specific, do not use Britannica, Funk and Wagnall, etc), journal articles. These are written, read, and peer reviewed by academics and published by academic presses. Do not cite an academic paper if it hasn't been published in a book, journal or encyclopedia. Just because it appears on a site ending in “.edu” doesn't mean it's been published.

2. trade: publications specific to an industry or non-profit sector, and governments/inter-governmental organization reports and read only by people who work in that field. Do not use factsheets or press releases.
3. popular: newspapers, newsmagazines, documentary films, TV/radio news. These can be read by anyone and are written by professional journalists or guest experts.

Types of unacceptable sources: commercial non-news sources, aggregators, personal websites, blogs, social media, press releases, factsheets, editorials, open source wikis, or unpublished academic papers.

About In Text and Bibliographic Citations

When citing sources in your paper and in the bibliography:

- Use APA citation style only (use the Lunsford style guide on Canvas)
- Use in text citations **and** a list of references. **Do not** use footnotes.
- When using APA in text citations the cite should appear as follows: TEXT (last name, year, page number). If you cite the video lecture the in text citation should be: (Ovetz, name of video lecture, 2020, hour:minute:second).
- At the end of your paper include a section titled Bibliography
- List your references in alphabetical order by last name—**do not** number your sources
- All bibliographic references should be in APA citation style only. Use the Lunsford style guide on Canvas. Do not use a citation generator or just cut and paste the citation from the database.

Short Essays and Presentations

Students will write six maximum 100 word Short Essays connecting a key concept from any of the readings (the two textbooks or the reading packet) or the video lectures for the current class topic to a current news story about a current local, state or national issue concerning government or politics published during the past week. Short Essays must be turned in on or before the due date no later than 11:59 pm. Short Essays and Presentation must be about key concepts related to the current class topic. See the Course Outline below to see what topic we are currently studying.

The objective of the Short Essays is for you to practice identifying the key concepts from the readings and video lectures and learning to apply them to current issues of US and California government and politics. Do not use current issues not directly related to either the federal or California government and politics. These key concepts will form the basis of a study guide for the exams. They will also help you identify a possible topic for your Constitutional Amendment Paper.

Short Essays will be presented every Tuesday weekly class meeting. You must sign up on the Canvas calendar to present **two** of your short essays during the semester on two different topics. Canvas will prevent you from signing up for more than two slots. Because there are the same number of slots as enrolled students it is necessary to reserve your preferred day and time slot as soon as possible. Once the slots are gone you will not be able to present and will receive a 0. Sign up for the presentation days and time slots on the Canvas calendar by following the directions below in the section “How to sign up for the short essay presentation day and time slots.”

No changes will be made to the Canvas calendar sign up form other than changes you make yourself so do not miss your slot. If you need to change your day and time slot for any reason it is your responsibility to remove your name and put it in another slot. If no slots are available you will not be able to change your time slot.

How to write the short essay:

- The essay should include a brief summary of the current news issue, identify the key concept (use only one), explain how it connects to the news issue. It should include two in text citations (see below).
- Use only key concepts from the current class topic for the week you present. See “Current Class Topics Covered by the Short Essays” below.
- Do not summarize the news issue. Instead, demonstrate your understanding of how the concept applies to the issue.
- Do not repeat a news issue already covered in previous weeks by yourself or other students. Any repeated topics will receive a 0 and can be rewritten and resubmitted as late. Keep a list of all the topics presented in class so you do not repeat an issue.
- Avoid filler quotes. Explain the issue in your own words and include in text citations when you refer to the article.
- Provide at least one in text citation for each APA reference. For example: TEXT (Ovetz, 2020, p. 1). If you cite the video lecture the in text citation should be: TEXT (Ovetz, name of video lecture, 2020, hour:minute:second).
- Provide a minimum of one APA citation for either one of the textbooks or one video lecture or reading packet readings and one more for the 3 types of outside sources explained above in “About Sources and References.” Use the Lunsford APA citation guide under Files on Canvas. Do not include an APA citation for the Declaration of Independence or the US and CA Constitutions. Note that you are using APA only for the bibliographic references. Do not use a citation generator or just cut and paste the citation from the source.
- See “About Sources and References” above about the kinds of sources you may cite.
- Cut and paste the Short Essay into the Canvas Assignment text box. Do not post a link.
- Remove large white spaces, line breaks, and other formatting issues before submitting your essay
- Include a word count. Please do not exceed the word limit by more than 10%. Excessively long essays will need to be rewritten and will be graded as late.
- Do not include a title page, header, or page numbers
- Arrange your bibliography in alphabetical order

Short essay grading rubric:

- Maximum of 100 words not including the in text and APA citations. Include word count.
- Each essay will graded as follows:
 - 80 maximum points for the essay, identifying the reading concept for the current class topic, and explaining how the concept applies to the current issue
 - 10 maximum points for correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, syntax, word count, and word limit. Write in complete sentences and proofread before submitting your work.
 - 10 maximum points each for the two APA citations listed in alphabetical order. Be sure to use the Lunsford APA guide under Files.

Current Class Topics Covered by the Short Essays

Short Essay 1 covers Democracy or the Declaration of Independence

Short Essay 2 covers US or CA Constitution or Federalism

Short Essay 3 covers US or CA Legislative Branch

Short Essay 4 covers US or CA Executive Branch

Short Essay 5 covers US or CA Judicial Branch

Short Essay 6 covers Elections or Money in Politics

Final Exam is comprehensive

How to do the short essay presentation and how it will be graded

You must present **two** of your short essays. Avoid reading from the paper word for word. After your present be prepared to answer questions and engage in discussion about your issue and concept.

Short essay presentation grading rubric:

The presentation will be graded for identifying the reading concept and explaining how the concept connects to the issue

- 25 maximum points for identifying and briefly explaining the key concept from the current class topic and where it is found in the reading or video lecture
- 25 maximum points for briefly telling us the news issue and the name of the source you used
- 50 maximum points for briefly applying the concept to the news issue, explaining why it illustrates the key concept, and being prepared to discuss your concept and topic

How to sign up for the short essay presentation day and time slots

Sign up for two presentation day and time slots. You may change your day and time slots if any are available and if it is done before the beginning of the class you signed up to present. You will receive a zero if you have not presented on a day and time slot you signed up for. That zero will be replaced and a late penalty will be assessed for each week that you are late completing the presentation when you change your day and time slot to another during which you present. I am not able to change your day and time slot for you. You may not present during a class when all the time slots have been filled and used.

Presentations will begin after a few minutes of announcements. We will present in order rather than the exact times listed on the calendar so be sure to attend class on time so you do not miss your presentation. If you arrive late after your time slot be sure to let me know at the end of the presentations so you can go before class ends.

To sign up please follow these directions:

- Click on the Calendar tab on the left of the Canvas screen in the blue column
- Under Calendars on the right be sure to click this class. All the class meeting should be populated in the calendar grid.
- On the right side of the calendar screen click “Find appointments.” In the “Select Course” pop up window select this course and click “Submit.” You will see the available time slots every Tuesday as you click through the months. Sign up for one slot on two days you are available by going to the day you wish to sign up and clicking on one of the available time slots to reserve your day and time slot.
- If you no longer plan to present or need to change it for any reason please remove your name ASAP before the class begins to allow another student to take your place.
- To change your time slot you must first remove yourself from one of the two time slots you have reserved. To remove yourself unclick the reserved day and time slot and repeat the steps above on a day when there are available times. If you have trouble with this please contact Canvas Help on the left side of the Canvas screen.
- Be sure to write down what days and time slots you have reserved in case you need to change them later
- You will receive a 0 if you miss your presentation time slot.

Short Essay Presentation Notes

Students must turn in notes for at least 10 Short Essay Presentation Notes that will be done during Tuesday class meetings.

How to write your Short Essay Presentation Exercise Notes and how they will be graded

- Write your name and the date clearly on the paper provided
- Write your notes in short phrases. Complete sentences and paragraphs are not needed.
- Only Notes turned in during class will be accepted. Missed Notes cannot be made up. If you have a demonstrable excuse the missed Notes will not be counted.
- Notes will be graded as Credit/No Credit in Canvas. These will be converted into a number grade at the end of the semester.

Grammar and Proofreading

You will be graded for grammar, punctuation and style to the extent that it reduces your ability to express your research and analysis clearly. While grammar, punctuation, and style are not the most significant part of the grade you will receive, it does affect your ability to communicate your ideas and analysis clearly and effectively. If you have any issues concerning your language skills you wish to discuss with me please visit me during office hours.

Where to Get Help with Your Writing

Although I do not proofread student papers before they are turned in I am happy to help you with specific selections of text. For help I encourage you to **first** go to the campus writing center for help with your writing and the campus reference librarians for help with research and citations.

I strongly encourage you to use the SJSU Writing Center's Homegrown Handouts on many aspects of the writing process here: <https://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/handouts/>

The Writing Center, <https://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/>, also offers up to two 45 minutes sessions per week by emailing them a request at writingcenter@sjsu.edu. It is also partnered with MLK Library to offer live chat services for students who have quick writing-related questions that can be addressed in 10-15 minutes. Live chat is available during select hours and no appointment is necessary.

You may also use the Lib Guide cited above and the short guides to writing research papers at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/sitemap/>

Pols 15 Course Outline

Notes:

- The schedule is subject to change with fair notice by email or on Canvas.
- Class meets every Tuesday for the Short Essay Presentations
- See “Current Class Topics Covered by the Short Essays” above
- Complete the readings before the assigned class meetings

| Week | Dates | Topic | Katznelson Book | Field Book | Other Readings & Videos in Canvas Modules |
|--------|------------|---|-----------------|------------|---|
| Week 1 | Thurs 8/19 | First day of the course | | | |
| Week 2 | Tues 8/24 | First class meeting to review syllabus & discuss Short Essays; begin Democracy | ch. 1, 2 & 5 | | |
| Week 3 | Tues 8/31 | Class meeting; Democracy Short Essay in class presentations | | | |
| Week 4 | Tues 9/7 | Class meeting; Declaration of Independence Short Essay in class presentations ; Democracy & Declaration of Independence Short Essay due on-line by 11:59 pm | | | Declaration of Independence |
| Week 4 | Thurs 9/9 | Democracy & Declaration of Independence Quiz due on-line by 11:59 pm | | | |
| Week 5 | Tues 9/14 | Class meeting; US & CA Constitution Short Essay in class presentations | | ch. 1 & 2 | 1. Madison , “Federalist Paper #10” 2. US Constitution |
| Week 6 | Tues 9/21 | Class meeting; Federalism in class presentations ; US & CA Constitution & Federalism Short Essay due on-line by 11:59 pm | ch. 3 | | Federal-State Relations , 4/27/2018: Is partisanship putting governance at risk? by Alan Greenblatt in the CQ Researcher library database |
| Week 6 | Thurs 9/23 | US & CA Constitution & Federalism Quiz due on-line by 11:59 pm | | | |
| Week 7 | Tues 9/28 | Class meeting; Congress Short Essay in class presentations | ch. 7, 9 & 10 | | ProPublica/Washington Post , “How Congress Stopped Working,” https://www.propublica.org/article/how-congress-stopped-working?utm_source=pardot&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter |

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| Week 8 | Tues 10/5 | Class meeting; Congress Short Essay in class presentations | | | |
| Week 9 | Tues 10/12 | Class meeting; CA Legislative Branch Short Essay in class presentations ; Congress & CA Legislative Branch Short Essay due on-line by 11:59 pm | | ch. 8 & 13 | Watch “ The First Angry Man ” in the library Kanopy database at https://sjsu.kanopy.com/ (access through the library webpage) |
| Week 9 | Thurs 10/14 | Congress & CA Legislative Branch Quiz due on-line by 11:59 pm | | | |
| Week 10 | Tues 10/19 | Class meeting; US Executive Branch in class presentations | ch. 6 & 11 | | |
| Week 11 | Tues 10/26 | Class meeting; CA Executive Branch in class presentations ; US & CA Executive Branch Short Essay due by 11:59 pm | | ch. 9 | |
| Week 11 | Thurs 10/28 | US & CA Executive Branch Quiz due on-line by 11:59 pm | | | |
| Week 12 | Tues 11/2 | Class meeting; US Judicial Branch in class presentations | ch. 8 | | 1. Brennan , “Judicial Interpretation” 2. Watch “ Soul of Justice ” in the library Kanopy database at https://sjsu.kanopy.com/ (access through the library webpage) |
| Week 13 | Tues 11/9 | Class meeting; CA Judicial Branch in class presentations ; US & CA Judicial Branch Short Essay due on-line by 11:59 pm | | ch. 11 | |
| Week 14 | Tues 11/16 | Class meeting; US & CA Judicial Branch Quiz due on-line by 11:59 pm | | | |
| Week 15 | Tues 11/23 | Class meeting; Elections & Money in Politics in class presentations | ch. 4 | ch. 5 | Watch “ Money is Speech: A Musical History of Campaign Finance ,” at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3d-bYU2cZ48 |
| Week 15 | Thurs 11/25 | Thanksgiving, no class | | | |
| Week 16 | Tues 11/30 | Class meeting; Elections & Money in Politics in class presentations ; Elections & Money in Politics Short Essay due by 11:59 pm | | | |

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|-------------|------------|--|--|--|--|
| Week 16 | Thurs 12/2 | Last day of the semester; Elections & Money in Politics Quiz due on-line by 11:59 pm | | | |
| Finals Week | Tues 12/7 | Constitutional Amendment Paper due by 11:59 pm | | | |
| Finals Week | Thurs 12/9 | Final exam , (comprehensive, complete by 11:59 pm); the <u>last day</u> that late Short Essays & Constitutional Amendment Paper may be turned in late by 11:59 pm | | | |