

San José State University
Department of Political Science Political Science 15 (sec 15)
Fall 2021

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Garrick L. Percival
Office Location:	Clark Hall 471
Telephone:	(408) 924-5553
Email:	garrick.percival@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Tuesday 11am-12; Wednesday 12-1pm (via Zoom) and by appt.
Class Days/Time:	Tuesday and Thursday 12:30-1:45
Classroom:	HGH 116

GE/SJSU Studies Category: US2, US3, Area D

Course Format

This is a course with in-person instruction. Class will meet in-person twice a week at the designated class time. Readings and assignments, however, will be posted on the course Canvas page unless directed. Although Students must have access to a computer and reliable internet connection to be successful in this course.

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas Learning Management System (login at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>). You are responsible for regularly checking with the Canvas messaging system to learn of any updates (also automatically forwards to your email – make sure your preferred email is listed on MySJSU at <http://my.sjsu.edu>).

Course Description

From the SJSU Catalog: Treatment of essentials of U.S. and California government. Satisfies the American institutions requirements in U.S. Constitution (US2) and California government (US3), and the Core GE requirement in Social Sciences: Social Issues (D3).

General Education Learning Outcomes (GELOs)

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. **(assessed by quizzes, analytical assignments, discussion posts, paper assignment, and final exam)**

GELO 2 (US3): Identify the tools of political action and collective decision making at the local, state, national, and global level, and articulate the values and assumptions that inform their civic engagement. **(assessed by quizzes, analytical assignments, and final exam)**

GELO 3 (D3): Place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts. **(assessed by analytical assignments; discussion posts; midterm and final exam)**

GELO 4 (D3): Identify the dynamics of ethnic, cultural, gender/sexual, age-based, class, regional, national, transnational, and global identities and the similarities, differences, linkages, and interactions between them. **(assessed by quizzes, analytical assignments, discussion posts; paper assignment; final exam)**

GELO 5 (D3): Evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues. **(assessed by analytical assignments, paper assignment, political debate assignment)**

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

Required Texts/Readings

There are two textbooks for this course.

1. David Paletz. Diana Marie Owen. Timothy E. Cook. *American Government and Politics in the Information Age*.

This is an online textbook, which is free, on the Open Textbook Library. The link to the textbook is here. <https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/64>.

Please noted you can read the textbook in a variety of different formats including online, pdf, ebook etc. More information can be found on the book's website.

2. Larry Gerston, Mary Currin-Percival, Garrick Percival, and Terry Christensen. 2021. *California Politics and Government: A Practical Approach*. 15th ed. Cengage Press.

The e-version of this book can be purchased from Cengage Press through our Canvas page. The cost is \$34.99.

Additional Readings

Nikole Hannah-Jones, "The Idea of America" (on Canvas)

Jamelle Bouie, "Undemocratic Democracy" (on Canvas)

Ta-Nehisi Coates, "Fear of a Black President" (on Canvas)

Aaron Blake, “4 Ideas for Supreme Court Reform” (on Canvas)
“Japanese Internment” (Canvas)

Other technology requirements /equipment

You will need a computer or tablet and reliable access to the internet to complete readings, complete and upload assignments, access the syllabus, class announcements, and course updates on Canvas. Computer access is available in the campus library and in Clark Hall 102, and laptops may be checked out at no cost from Student Computing Services (<https://library.sjsu.edu/scs>).

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.

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 practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

Quizzes

A total of five quizzes (32 points each for a total of 160 points) will be taken over the course of the term. Quizzes are designed to test your knowledge and understanding of the course material and assigned readings as we go through the semester. These quizzes, typically 16 multiple choice/true false questions each, **will be taken on Canvas** and will be due by 11:55pm on selected days (Please see the course schedule below for the exact due dates). ****Students who fail to submit a quiz on time will be afforded 1 make-up quiz during the semester for half credit. Beyond that, missed or late quizzes will not earn credit unless covered under the university make-up policy.****

Analytical Activities

A total of 4 analytical assignments (30 points each for a total of 120 points) will be required. **These will be in-class small group assignments** (see the course schedule for assignment posting and due dates). The nature of these assignments will vary, but they will ask you critically analyze a short article, news story, a short video, or survey (often before class) and then answer related assignment questions or complete a small project during class.

Paper Assignment

There will be a 1,000 word paper on political socialization and what factors have influenced your political socialization and ideology due on **October 14**. This assignment is worth 160 points. Details for the paper assignment will be posted on our Canvas page shortly after the start of the term.

Online Discussion Posts

Four times over the term students will be required to participate in an online discussion posted on Canvas. On selected Tuesdays Prof. Percival will post a question on the Canvas discussion page related to that week's readings or recent political news events. Students are required to answer the question (or provide comment) by that Friday at 11:55pm. Students will also have to post a response to at least one other student's answers/comments by 11:55pm Sunday for a chance to earn full credit (20 points) for that week's discussion. Students' answers/comments to Prof. Percival's original question and their response to a student colleague should each be 4-5 sentences in length and will be graded based upon their timely completion, relevance, and how your discussion connects with our readings and other course material. Students who fail to submit a discussion post on time will be afforded 1 make-up post during the semester for half credit. Beyond that, missed or late posts will not earn credit unless covered under the university make-up policy.**

** On some of these topics students may have strong opinions. It is vital that all online discussions and comments remain civil and respectful towards others in the class. If you disagree with a comment you see, find a way respectful and professional way to express your own view. It is fine to disagree with someone about a political or social issue but it is NOT ok to negatively target (e.g. name calling, bullying, belittling) an individual in the class.

Final Exam

University Policy S06-4 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S06-4.pdf>) states that "There shall be an appropriate final examination or evaluation at the scheduled time in every course, unless specifically exempted by the college dean who has curricular responsibility for the course." The final exam (200 points), covers material and assigned readings over the course of the semester. Students will not be allowed to take the final exam early for any reason. The exam, scheduled for **December 10, 2021 12:15-2:30** will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions in addition to one essay question. A study guide will be posted on Canvas 10 days before the final exam to help students focus their study`.

Grading Information:

Students' grades will be calculated using the following assignments (with corresponding points and percentages)

Assignment	Points
Online Quizzes (5 @ 32 points each)	160
Analytical Activities (4 @ 30 points each)	120
Paper Assignment: Political Socialization and Ideology	160
Political Debate (Institutional Reform)	80
Online Discussion Board Posts 4 @ 20 points	80

Final Exam (Cumulative, all units)	200
Total	800

Your final grade will be calculated by dividing your total points by 800. For example, consider the following: Total points = 710; so $710/800 = .887 = 88\%$. Using the scale below, this individual would be assigned an B+. Final letter grades for the course will be assigned based on the following scale.

Course Letter Grades will be assigned using 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

Classroom Protocol and Policies

Late Work and Make Up Policy

This is unique semester insofar as campus is reopening to in-person classes like this one for the first time in 17 months due to the Covid-19 pandemic. With that said, however, make ups for missed assignments, quizzes, or the final exam are only given in cases of medical or family emergencies, in accordance with

the university's policy on excused absences. Proper documentation must be provided. A student who misses graded assignments because they become sick from Covid-19 would fall under the university excused absence policy. But again, documentation must be provided. A student who misses class/assignments due to illness or a family health emergency should contact Prof. Percival immediately to develop a plan to stay updated with course material and to submit late assignments.

As noted above, students can submit one late discussion post and quiz assignment for half credit during the semester with no excuse. Other missed quizzes or discussion posts will be recorded as a zero unless that absence falls under the approved university excused absence policy. **Late papers will be accepted but will be penalized 10% for every 24 hours past the original due date.** For example, a later paper and/or online analytical assignment turned in 10 minutes past the scheduled time due date and time will be penalized 10%. For every 24 hours after that, a paper will be penalized an additional 10%. After 5 days, however, the paper will receive a zero.

Proper Use of Technology

At times, we will be using our tablets, smartphones, and laptops to work on assignments and group projects in class. *Aside from those times, your phones and computers (including tablets) need to be turned off and put away.* In the classroom environment, texting, social networking, web searching—or any of the myriad things we all can do with our phones—hurts our ability to listen and communicate as effectively as possible. If you absolutely must use your phone, please leave the classroom. Students who violate this policy more than once will be asked to leave.

Email Communication

The easiest way to contact me is via email. Please be aware though that I check and respond to email once in the morning and once in the late afternoon. Please give me at least 24 hours to respond before sending me a follow up. If you need assistance on a particularly urgent matter I suggest calling the main political science department number (408-924-5552).

Intellectual Property

All instructor-provided materials (e.g., paper prompts, syllabus) remain my intellectual property. They are to be used for private, study purposes only, and cannot be shared publicly or uploaded without my explicit written approval, in advance.

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.**”

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.

Additional Class Notes

As this is an in-person class, students will be required to follow the SJSU Face Covering/Mask Policy at all times. Detailed instructions on the face covering policy will be posted by the university on our Canvas page. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the requirements before the first day of class. For the health and safety of everyone, these rules will be strictly enforced in class.

I highly recommend that you take your own notes from the readings as well. Old fashion paper and pen are best. As one of my former professors once said, “If You Ink It You Think It!” and there’s lots of research on human learning and recall to back up this claim. Writing down major concepts or examples will help organize the information in your head and will assist in information recall as well. All course assignments and class announcements will be posted on Canvas page. Be sure to check Canvas regularly. Also be sure you have Canvas set so that announcements arrive to your primary email address. Finally, I am more than happy to help answer any questions you have about the course at any time during the semester. Work hard and good luck!

Political Science 15 (sec 15) (Fall 2021) Essentials in U.S. and California Government

**Schedule is subject to change with fair notice and will be announced via Canvas announcement.*

Week	Date	Topic, Readings, Assignments, and Deadlines
1	Thursday 8/19	Course Introduction and Overview <u>Readings and Assignments</u> American is Exceptional in its Political Divide (Canvas)
2		America’s Founding Ideals and the U.S. Constitution

	Tuesday 8/24 & Thursday 8/26	<u>Readings and Assignments</u> American Politics and Government in the Information Age (hereafter “AG Textbook”) Chapter 2 Declaration of Independence (Canvas) Review first three articles of U.S. Constitution (Canvas) Video: Shay’s Rebellion
3	Tuesday 8/31 & Thursday 9/2	U.S. Constitution Continued & Federalism <u>Readings and Assignments</u> AG textbook Chapter 3 Nikole Hannah Jones, “The Idea of America” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #1 Posted: Due Friday 9/3 11:55pm • Online Discussion #1 Posted: First post due Friday 9/3 11:55pm; response to another student’s post due Sunday 9/5 11:55pm
4	Tuesday 9/7 & Thursday 9/9	Political Culture and Political Socialization <u>Readings and Assignments</u> AG Textbook Chapter 6 Video: “Were So Freaking Polarized” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analytical Activity #1: Due 9/9 11:55pm
5	Tuesday 9/14 & Thursday 9/16	The U.S. Congress <u>Readings and Assignments</u> AG Textbook Chapter 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analytical Activity #2: Due 9/16 • Quiz #2 Posted: Due Friday 9/17 • Online Discussion #2: First post due Friday 9/16 11:55pm; response to another student’s post due Sunday 9/19
6	Tuesday 9/21 & Thursday 9/23	The Presidency and the Bureaucracy <u>Readings and Assignments</u> AG Textbook Chapter 13 “The Fear of a Black President” AG Textbook Chapter 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #3 Posted: Due Friday 9/24
7		The Judiciary

	Tuesday 9/28 & Thursday 9/30	<u>Readings and Assignments</u> AG Textbook Chapter 15 “Four Ideas for Supreme Court Reform” Video: “Marbury vs. Madison: What Was the Case About?” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Discussion #3: First post due Friday 10/1 11:55pm; response to another student’s post due Sunday 10/3
8	Tuesday 10/5 & Thursday 10/7	Civil Liberties <u>Readings and Assignments</u> AG Textbook Chapter 4
9	Tuesday 10/12 & Thursday 10/14	Civil Rights <u>Readings and Assignments</u> AG Textbook Chapter 5 “Undemocratic Democracy” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #4 Posted: Due Friday 10/15 • Paper Assignment Due 10/14 11:55pm
10	Tuesday 10/19 & Thursday 10/21	Civil Rights continued . . . <u>Readings and Assignments</u> “Japanese Internment” Video: The Freedom Riders Video: Latino Americans Farmworkers Strike <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analytical Activity #3: Due 10/14
11	Tuesday 10/26 & Thursday 10/28	Introduction to California Government <u>Readings and Assignments</u> California Government and Politics Chapters 1-2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Discussion #4: First post due Friday 10/29 11:55pm; response to another student’s post due Sunday 10/31 • Debate #1 in class 10/28

12	Tuesday 11/2 & Thursday 11/4	Comparing U.S. with California Elections <u>Readings and Assignments</u> California Politics and Government Chapter 3 AG Textbook Chapter 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debate #2 in class 11/4
13	Tuesday 11/9 & Thursday 11/11	California Legislature and the Lawmaking Process <u>Readings and Assignments</u> California Politics and Government Chapter 5 No Class: November 11 (Veteran's Day)
14	Tuesday 11/16 & Thursday 11/18	California Executive and the Courts <u>Readings and Assignments</u> California Politics and Government Chapters 6 & 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debate #3 in class 11/18 • Quiz #5 Posted: Due Friday 11/19
15	Tuesday 11/23 & Thursday 11/25	California's Relationship with the Federal Government <u>Readings and Assignments</u> California Politics and Government Chapter 10 No Class: Thursday 11/25 (Thanksgiving)
16	Tuesday 11/30 & Thursday 12/2	Wrap Up <u>Readings and Assignments</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analytical Activity #4: Due 11/30 11:55pm
		Final Exam Wednesday December 8th 12:15-2:30PM