

RECENT POLITICAL THEORY
Pols160C – Fall 2021
San José State University

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Lawrence Quill

LECTURE TIMES: 12-1:15PM

LECTURE LOCATION: DMH 149A

COURSE WEBSITE: CANVAS

OFFICE HOURS: T/TH 1:30PM-2:30PM.

OFFICE LOCATION: CLARK HALL 455

EMAIL: lawrence.quill@sjsu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will examine some of the major intellectual movements from the eighteenth century to the present day and consider the challenges posed by changing economic, social, and political conditions.

Course Format

This is an In-Person 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.

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)

PREREQUISITES

This course is not designed exclusively for political science students. Students from many other majors have proven that they can do as well in this course as Political Science majors. All students, however, need some background in the critical reading of original texts. Students should be aware that this is a reading (and writing) intensive course. Political Science 3 is the suggested prerequisite, but philosophy, literature, and history courses frequently can provide sufficient practice in reading original sources.

REQUIRED TEXTS – AVAILABLE AS E-BOOKS FROM THE SJSU SPARTAN BOOKSTORE.

***Kant, Political Writings ('What is Enlightenment?' 'The Metaphysics of Morals.' 'Perpetual Peace.'*)**

Malthus, An Essay on Population

Freud, Civilization and Its Discontents

Fanon, Black Skin, White Masks

Marcuse, Essay on Liberation
Arendt, The Origins of Totalitarianism

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The B.A. in Political Science requires majors to take a minimum of one upper division course in political thought. This course fulfills that requirement, as well as counting towards the normal total of upper division courses.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Essay (40%) – 1000 words; Literature Review (500 words); Thesis and Outline (500 words)

Midterm (15%) Final (15%)

Weekly Quizzes (30%)

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	77 to 79
C	73 to 76
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

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES (CLOS)

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

CLO1: PRESENT IN WRITING THEORETICALLY/HISTORICALLY INFORMED OPINIONS CONCERNING THE APPLICABILITY OF DIFFERENT THEORETICAL SYSTEMS TO SELECTED PUBLIC POLICY AREAS

CLO2: PRESENT IN WRITING SOME ACCOUNT OF THE WAY POLITICAL SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES EMPLOY THE APPLICATION OF COMPETING THEORETICAL APPROACHES IN MATTERS OF PUBLIC POLICY AND NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

CLO3: RECOGNIZE SOME WIDELY EMPLOYED THEORETICAL PRINCIPLES WITHIN THE POLITICAL HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES AND BEYOND, ACROSS THE POLITICAL CULTURE MORE BROADLY, UNDERSTANDING THEIR LOGIC AND THEIR SCOPE OF APPLICATION

CLO	ASSIGNMENT	%	DUE DATE
CLO 1,2,3	ESSAY (INCLUDES LITERATURE REVIEW, THESIS AND OUTLINE, DRAFT 1 AND 2)	40	TBD
CLO 3	MIDTERM	15	TBD
CLO3	FINAL EXAM	15	TBD
CLO 3	WEEKLY QUIZZES	30	WEEKLY

CALENDAR – PLEASE SEE CANVAS FOR DETAILS

Course Requirements

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of four-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 nine 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.

For this class, students will complete two examinations, and one full-length research essay, which requires detailed review of the primary source material and the application of at least two outside scholarly sources relevant to the research topic.

Assignments

Weekly Quizzes (30%) The weekly quizzes are based on the reading assigned for the week and will follow a multiple choice format.

Examinations (2 X 15%) You are required to take two exams that will test readings and lectures in a short answer response format. There are no "excused" absences from exams except in dire emergencies with official documentation. Makeup exams will only be scheduled for those who can provide adequate documentation of a valid emergency.

Essay (Literature Review; Thesis and Outline; Final Draft) (40%) The essay will be 1000 words in length. There will also be a literature review (500 words), thesis and outline (500 words), and several drafts of the essay before final submission. Students should consult with the professor at least once prior to beginning the essay in order to discuss their outline, thesis, and secondary source materials.

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

Students should be able to apply a variety of techniques to identify, understand, and analyze domestic and international political issues and organizations.

PSPLO3: Disciplinary methods

Student should be able to formulate research questions, engage in systematic literature searches using primary and secondary sources, have competence in systematic data gathering using library sources, government documents, and data available through electronic sources, should be able to evaluate research studies, and should be able to critically analyze and interpret influential political texts.

PSPLO4: 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.

PSPLO5: 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.

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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.

For assistance, please visit the SJSU Writing Center staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists. Writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. It is your responsibility to arrange a time to meet with the instructors. Consult with your professor in advance to determine whether you need assistance with your writing.

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 or lectures, ask me. I am here to help.