

San José State University
Department of Political Science
Pols 108, Political Participation
Fall 2022

Instructor(s): Mary Currin-Percival
Office Location: Clark 447
Telephone: (408) 924-5569 (messages not regularly checked)
Email: mary.currinpercival@sjsu.edu (best way to contact me)
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30-2:30pm, Thursdays 4:30-5:30pm, and by appointment
Class Days/Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 3pm-4:15pm
Location: Dudley Moorhead Hall 149A

Course Description

From the SJSU Catalog:

Explores various forms of political participation including voting, community engagement, and social change. Includes consideration of the roles that socialization, media, campaigns and elections, and other social and technological factors play in shaping citizen participation.

In this course we will explore the nature of political participation in America. We will examine the roles of societal influences, the media, political campaigns, and individual voter psychology in shaping patterns of political participation, and how the Internet may be changing this process in important ways. We will also participate in several “hands on” political activities as part of the SJSU Votes! project. It is a voter registration, mobilization, and education project created in fall 2018. Now, more than ever, citizens rely on trusted sources for reliable, timely, and accurate information about voting. We will be one of the sources. We will also participate in the creation of a television/Internet GOTV advertisement.

In the time period before the election, this class will be research and time-intensive. You will be required to put in the required 12 hours per week as required for a 4-unit course (please see “*Course Workload Expectations: Succeeding in a Four-Unit Course*” section later in this syllabus). Because this is a four-unit course, you can expect to spend a minimum of nine hours per week outside of class, in addition to time spent in class, on scheduled tutorials, assignments, or activities. You will come away from this class with a deeper understanding of what political participation means, from both a societal and a personal point of view.

Course Format: In-person lecture/discussion with substantial active-learning projects.

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as the syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the on Canvas Learning Management System course login website at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. Regularly check the messaging system through [One.SJSU](#) to learn of any updates. By enrolling in this course, you consent to all course requirements listed in this syllabus, published on our Canvas site, and announced in class. Be certain that SJSU has your current email address. Please contact me within the

first week if you cannot access the Canvas website, download and read .pdf files, link to other websites, or send or receive email.

Program Information--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 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.

PSPLO3: 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.

PSPLO4: 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.

Course Learning Outcomes—Pols 108

CLO1. Demonstrate an understanding of political science scholarship on political participation and voting, including theories of voter turnout, vote choice, and civic engagement. (Assessed by midterm exam, SJSU Votes! project, election policy research paper.)

CLO2. Demonstrate an applied understanding of civic and political engagement through hands-on exercises in practical politics. (Assessed by SJSU Votes! project, GOTV reflection paper, GOTV advertisement project.)

CLO3. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the various influences on political participation including political socialization and learning, social characteristics, the media, technology, campaigns and elections. (Assessed by midterm exam, SJSU Votes! project, GOTV advertisement project, election policy research paper, Canvas discussions.)

CLO4. Demonstrate an understanding of the effect of campaign advertising on voting turnout. (Assessed by GOTV advertisement project and midterm exam).

Required Texts/Readings

I have opted to not require you to purchase or rent textbooks for this course. Links to other required readings (peer-reviewed and other research) will be provided on Canvas. The reading for this course, as for any 4-unit upper-division social sciences course, is substantial. You should complete the reading listed for a class before you come to class. All readings are required and free for SJSU students to access. Please note that you may have to access a reading though the SJSU library. There may be required videos posted on Canvas that are associated with the day's topic. If you are not able to access a reading or video, please let me know asap.

Other technology requirements / equipment / material

The GOTV Advertisement project (described later in this syllabus) will require use of technology such

as iMovie. This software is available for free from SJSU. More information about this project is provided in the syllabus and in a prompt.

[Associated Students Print & Technology Center](#) offers a computer lab for students in Diaz Compean Student Union, 2nd Floor, Suite 2600.

[Martin Luther King, Jr. Library at SJSU](#). SJSU students, faculty, and staff can borrow laptops, iPads, hotspots, and more at no charge from Student Computing Services, located on the 4th floor of the King Library.

[SJSU IRC](#). Laptops and other technology may be checked out at no cost from the IRC.

Course Workload Expectations: Succeeding in a Four-Unit Course

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 3 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus. Because this is a four-unit course, you can expect to spend a minimum of 9 hours per week, in addition to the time spent in class, on readings, assignments, and other course activities. Careful time management will help you keep up with readings and assignments and enable you to be successful in all of your courses. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](#).

Course Assignments

Plagiarism Tutorial (5 points)

9/6 8pm

You must pass all of the modules of this tutorial with a score of at least 75%. If you complete the quiz on time and earn at least 75%, you will receive 5 points for the plagiarism quiz. Please note the following:

- To complete this assignment, first, log in [here](#). **Add your email address, not mine**, so you will receive a copy of your results.
- Next, pass the tutorial/quiz with at least a 75% overall score. **Then, forward to me the email that the library sends to you. Do not send a screenshot or a PDF. Forward the actual email.** That way, we both have a copy of it. The day you forward to me the email from the library is the day you have submitted this assignment to me. Be sure to do this by September 6, by 8pm to avoid the 2 points/day late penalty, which begins on September 6 at 8:01pm.
- **If you have completed this quiz within the last two years for another class, you may forward your previous results to me. You do not have to complete this quiz again (unless you earned lower than 75%).** I encourage you to do so if you are unsure about what constitutes plagiarism though. A quick refresher can't hurt.

Midterm Exam (100 points)

10/25 8pm

The midterm exam will cover the material learned in just over the first half of the course and will consist of a short answer (2 questions 5-6 sentences each) section worth 30 points and an essay section worth 70 points. You will have 72 hours to complete it. There is no study guide as it is a take-home exam. The exam will be submitted via Canvas. Late midterm exams will be penalized 5 points per day late. **No midterm exams will be accepted after Nov 1 at 8pm.**

GOTV Event Reflection Paper (25 points)

11/15 8pm

Choose one GOTV (registration, mobilization, or education) event we organized for this course and answer the questions I pose in prompt posted on Canvas. It your opportunity to reflect upon the active

learning opportunities presented in this course. **You must incorporate at least two reputable news sources in your paper.** Your paper should be about 750-1000 words and is due no later than November 15 at 8pm (via Canvas submission), though you are free to submit it earlier. Late reflection papers will be graded; however, these will be penalized 5 points for each day they are late. The late period begins at 8:01pm on 11/15. **Late reflection papers will NOT be accepted after 8pm 11/19.**

SJSU Votes! Project (100 points)

multiple assignment dates

As part of this class, you will engage in a nonpartisan voter registration, mobilization, and education project called SJSU Votes! We will be working closely with the SJSU Community and Government Relations, the Department of Political Science Institute of Public Affairs and Civic Engagement, and other excellent organizations. Some activities have already been planned (due to the election calendar). You will assist in finalizing these events and organizing additional events. There are multiple assignments associated with the SJSU Votes! project and a detailed prompt will be reviewed in class in week 2. We will also have a team drive on which project components will be posted. **Since the election is November 8th, the first half of the semester will be focused on the SJSU Votes! project. Many class meeting dates will involve planning for events. You might also meet on zoom or in person outside of class in smaller planning groups. Please note the reduced reading during these days/weeks.** This is a rewarding experience which you may choose to include in your résumé. SJSU Votes! project events and planning days can be completed or submitted late only in the event of a documented serious medical illness or emergency, family emergency, religious holiday, pre-approved university-sanctioned event, or military orders).

***GOTV Advertisement Assignment (50 points).
by 8pm on 10/13***

multiple assignment dates; final ad link due

Using iMovie or other comparable software, readily available and free to SJSU students, small ad teams will produce original “Get Out the Vote” advertisements for a target audience of SJSU students. The ads will be posted on SJSU social media, and on the SJSU Political Science Department and SJSU Votes! websites. They may also be posted on other university and community websites. I will review a detailed prompt for this assignment in class in Week 2. Note: this project, while related to the SJSU Votes! Project, is a separate project.

All scripts graphics, and music must be original or public domain. You may cite statistics and research in your ads (and list sources) however. Any actors appearing in the ad must sign a release or your grade will be lowered and your ad will not be aired.

A link to your ad (on YouTube) must be emailed to me no later than 8pm October 13. You will also present your ads in class, along with a short presentation on the theories and techniques your team used. You will do most of the work for this project out of class in your GOTV Ad teams. The GOTV Ad Project can be submitted late only in the event of a documented serious medical illness or emergency, family emergency, religious holiday, pre-approved university-sanctioned event, or military orders).

Online Discussion Board (15 points each; 30 points total)

various dates; see course schedule

Twice during the session I will post a question about a relevant political topic. Post an original response to my question. The following guidelines must be met.

- One reputable news source must be cited in your response to my question. **Failure to cite a reputable NEWS source will result in a 5-point penalty.**

- Responses must be original. Do not reiterate what a classmate wrote. Your response to my question should be about 75-100 words.
- Responses are due by 8pm on the due day (see course schedule). **Late responses will be graded with a 5-point per day late penalty (beginning at 8:01pm on the due date).**

Final Evaluation Election Policy Research Paper (100 points)

due 12/09 by 5pm

There is no in-class final exam in this course. The final evaluation is an 8-10-page research paper on an election policy of your choice. In the paper, you will describe and critically evaluate an election policy, either a current or proposed law (e.g., same-day registration, online voting, voter ID, permanent felon disenfranchisement). I will provide a detailed prompt for the research paper assignment on Canvas. In your paper, **you will be required to cite at least 6-8 academic peer-reviewed sources, cite 2-3 reputable news sources, and use APA formatting for the citations and References.** The research paper is due at **5pm on December 9, 2022.** (The end of the final exam period for this course). The final evaluation (Election Policy Research Paper) can be submitted late with a 5-point penalty per day, beginning at 8:01pm on December 9. **No late papers will be accepted after December 13th.**

Extra credit

There may be occasional extra credit opportunities offered in class, usually consisting of attending other department and university civic engagement events and doing a short response paper. No extra credit opportunities will be offered unless they are offered to the entire class.

Determination of Grades

Your grade will be calculated as follows. You may keep track of your grade in the class on the CANVAS course website.

Assignment	Points
Plagiarism Tutorial	5
Midterm Exam	100
GOTV Reflection Paper	25
SJSU Votes! GOTV Project	100
GOTV Ad Project	50
Canvas Online Discussions (15 points each)	30
Election Policy Research Paper	100
Total	

Make-up/Late Policy—Please pay close attention to the different assignments.

The GOTV Ad Project can be submitted or completed late only in the event of a documented serious medical illness or emergency, family emergency, religious holiday, pre-approved university-sanctioned event, or military orders). Missed SJSU Votes! project planning days and project days can only be made up in the event of a documented serious medical illness or emergency, family emergency, religious holiday, pre-approved university-sanctioned event, or military orders). Documentation must be provided to me within 72 hours of the emergency.

The midterm, plagiarism quiz, Canvas discussions, GOTV Reflection paper, and final evaluation (Election Policy Research paper) can be submitted late with a penalty applied for each 24-hour period late. See individual assignments for late penalty.

Final Grade Calculation

Your final grade will be calculated by dividing your total points by 410. For example, consider the following: Total points = 390. $390/410 = 95.1 = 95\%$. Using the scale below, this individual would be assigned an A. Final letter grades for the course will be assigned based on 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

This is an electronics-free classroom, except during assignments and projects where laptops and other devices may be authorized. To avoid distraction, please keep laptops, tablets, phones, and other devices in your backpack. Keep cell phones on vibrate. In accordance with university policy, face-masks must be worn over the mouth and nose in class.

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.”

Important: You may not record images, lectures, discussion, online discussions, or any other material from this class without the explicit permission of every person in this class. You may not share Canvas notes, papers, online activities, discussion board assignments or responses, paper prompts, exam questions or answers, PDFs, PowerPoints, material from readings, or other materials from this course with any person, entity, or institution without my explicit consent. Violation of these policies will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. I will not be recoding this class. I am happy to meet with you to review material after you obtain class notes from a colleague. Notetaking services can be obtained for students with disabilities. Please contact the AEC for additional information. [Please email by Friday of Week 1 if you are eligible for academic accommodations.](#)

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/>.

Library Liaison

The library liaison for Political Science is available to answer questions and provide one-on-one help using the library for research. Contact info: Essy Barosso-Ramirez (essy.barosso-ramirez@sjsu.edu; 408.808.2041).

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), 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](#) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>), which is hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Education. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

**Political Science 108-01: Political Participation
Fall 2022, Course Schedule**

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

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines Assignment deadlines are included here.	Hours in class, working on assignments, readings, and projects this week.
1	Aug 23	Introduction to course Review course Canvas website Read: Course Syllabus	3 hours in class 6 hours out of class 9 hours total
	Aug 25	American Elections and Representation; Review SJSU Votes! Project (intro) Read: Wayne, chs. 2-3	
2	Aug 30	SJSU Votes! co-sponsored project. See Canvas for details.	1.5 hours in class 7.5 hours out of class 9 hours total
	Sept 1	What if Everyone Voted? Review SJSU Votes! Project (detailed) Read: Green and Gerber, chs. 1 and 10 Assignment: In-class SJSU Votes! Planning Meeting #1	
3	Sept 6	GOTV Read: Green and Gerber, ch 12 Assignment: Plagiarism Quiz is due no later than at 8pm tonight. Assignment: In-class SJSU Votes! Planning Meeting #2	3 hours in class 8 hours out of class 11 hours total
	Sept 8	The Mobilization Effects of Political Ads Read: Huber, G. A., & Arceneaux, K. (2007). Identifying the persuasive effects of presidential advertising. <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> , 51(4), 957-977. The Mobilization Effects of Political Ads Read: Dunaway, J., Searles, K., Fowler, E., Ridout, T., & Napoli, P. (2019). The effects of political advertising: assessing the impact of changing technologies, strategies and tactics. <i>Mediated communication: Handbooks of communication science</i> , 7(2), 1-22 Assignment: GOTV Advertisement Project Overview (this is a separate project) and Group Planning Meeting #1	

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines Assignment deadlines are included here.	Hours in class, working on assignments, readings, and projects this week.
4	Sept 13	Meet in class with your GOTV groups Assignment: GOTV Advertisement Group Planning Meeting #2	3 hours in class 8 hours out of class 11 hours total
	Sept 15	In-class National Voter Registration Day Work Assignment: In-class SJSU Votes! Planning Meeting #3 Assignment: SJSU Votes! Projects this week	
5	Sept 20	National Voter Registration Day- SJSU Votes! active-learning project day. Work at SJSU Votes Festival. (No in-class meeting. Go to your designated SJSU Votes! activity location). Assignment: SJSU Votes! Projects this week	9 hours out of class 9 hours total
	Sept 22	Meet with your GOTV Ad Teams today. You may use our classroom. We will not meet as a class today. Assignment: GOTV Advertisement Group Planning Meeting #3	
6	Sept 27	The Voting Rights Act: Past and Present Read: The Voting Rights Act <i>Shelby County v. Holder</i> (opinions and dissent)	3 hours in class 8 hours out of class 11 hours total
	Sept 29	The Voting Rights Act: Past and Present Read: Mayya Komisarchik & Ariel White. “Throwing Away the Umbrella: Minority Voting after the Supreme Court’s Shelby Decision,” December 2021. Brennan Center for Justice. Voting Laws Roundup: May 2022. May 26, 2022 Assignment: In-class SJSU Votes! Planning Meeting #4 Assignment: SJSU Votes! Projects this week	

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines Assignment deadlines are included here.	Hours in class, working on assignments, readings, and projects this week.
7	Oct 4 Oct 6	<p>National Voter Education Week October 3-7 Meet in class. Assignment: SJSU Votes! Projects this week Assignment: GOTV Advertisement Group Planning Meeting #4</p> <p>Work on projects today. You can use our classroom for ad group meetings or for SJSU Votes! planning meetings.</p>	1.5 hours in class 9 hours out of class 10.5 hours total
8	Oct 11 Oct 13	<p>The Nomination Process Read: Brennan Center for Justice. Rationalizing the Presidential Nomination Process. Oct. 28, 2021 Ballotpedia. Democratic Delegate Rules, 2020. Ballotpedia. Republican Delegate Rules, 2020. Currin-Percival, M., Percival, G. L., Bowler, S., & Johnson, M. (2010). Citizen Dissatisfaction with the US Presidential Primary System. <i>Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties</i>, 20(1), 3-30. Assignment: SJSU Votes! Projects this week Assignment: Canvas Discussion #1 due by 8pm tonight Assignment: GOTV Advertisement Group Planning Meeting #5 (maybe)</p> <p>Ad Day! Assignment: Present GOTV Advertisements in class. Assignment: SJSU Votes! Projects this week Assignment: GOTV ad link due by 8pm tonight</p>	3 hours in class 9 hours out of class 12 hours total
9	Oct 18 Oct 20	<p>Guest Speaker Assignment: SJSU Votes! Projects this week</p> <p>Early Voting Read: Vote.org. Find Early Voting Locations Near You. Clinton, J. D., Lapinski, J., Lentz, S., & Pettigrew, S. (2022). Trumped by Trump? Public Support for Mail Voting in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. <i>Election Law Journal: Rules, Politics, and Policy</i>, 21(1), 19-33. Assignment: SJSU Votes! Projects this week</p>	3 hours in class 9 hours out of class 12 hours total

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines Assignment deadlines are included here.	Hours in class, working on assignments, readings, and projects this week.
10	Oct 25 Oct 27	Assignment: Midterm Exam due by 8pm tonight! Vote Early Day is tomorrow! Assignment: In-class SJSU Votes! Planning Meeting #5 Assignment: SJSU Votes! Projects this week	1.5 hours in class 9.5 hours out of class 12 hours total
11	Nov 1 Nov 3	Meet in-class for project activities. Assignment: In-class SJSU Votes! Planning Meeting #6 Assignment: SJSU Votes! Projects this week Prep for Election Hero Day (Nov. 7) and Election Day (Nov. 8). Assignment: In-class SJSU Votes! Planning Meeting #7 Assignment: SJSU Votes! Projects this week	3 hours in class 9 hours out of class 12 hours total
12	Nov 8 Nov 10	Election Day. Mobilization activities near the Vote Center. We are not meeting in the classroom today. Assignment: Go to your designated SJSU Votes! activity location during class meeting time. SJSU Votes! Election Debriefing Meet in class. Assignment: Online Discussion Board #2 Posted on CANVAS due by at 8pm.	1.5 hours in class 9 hours out of class 10.5 hours total
13	Nov 15 Nov 17	Election Reform Meet in class for group research project Assignment: GOTV Reflection Paper Due at 8pm on Canvas Election Reform Meet in class for group research project	3 hours in class 6 hours out of class 9 hours total
14	Nov 22 Nov 24	Research Day-In-class paper meetings today. Thanksgiving—campus closed Non-instructional Day	Up to 1.5 hours in class 3 hours out of class Up to 4.5 hours total
15	Nov 29 Dec 1	Money and Elections Read: Wayne Ch. 4 Catch-up day	3 hours in class 6 hours out of class 9 hours total

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines Assignment deadlines are included here.	Hours in class, working on assignments, readings, and projects this week.
16	Dec 6	Other Political Participation: Protests, Social Media, Petitions Read: Jost, J. T., Barberá, P., Bonneau, R., Langer, M., Metzger, M., Nagler, J., ... & Tucker, J. A. (2018). How social media facilitates political protest: Information, motivation, and social networks. <i>Political Psychology</i> , 39, 85-118.	3 hours in class 9 hours out of class 12 hours total
	Dec 8	Other Political Participation: Protests, Social Media, Petitions Read: Holbein, J., Kawashima-Ginsberg, K., Wang, T. (2021) <i>Quantifying the Effects of Protests on Voter Registration and Turnout</i> (Study II of Protests, Politics, and Power: Exploring the Connections Between Youth Voting and Youth Movements). Medford, MA: CIRCLE, Tufts University.	
Final Exam	12/09/22	The election policy reform paper is due at 5pm on 12/09 via Canvas. This is the end of our final exam period.	3 hours total this week