

San José State University
College of Social Sciences / Political Science Department
15B, US History and Government, Section 9 & 10, Fall,
2016

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Al Schendan
Office Location: Clark 404 K
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Email: albert.schendan@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: M/W 1:20 - 2:20
Class Days/Time: M/W 9 - 10:15
Classroom: WSQ 207

GE/SJSU Studies Category: US2, US3 & D3

Course Format

This course will be taught using a traditional lecture based format with extensive use of the chalk or whiteboard. However, students must have access to a computer to access assignments and receive scores through Canvas. In addition, I may use Canvas to make announcements.

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).

From the SJSU GE Guidelines (S14-5): 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 their interactions, including cooperation and conflict, as these many and varied peoples have dealt with social, economic, and political issues.

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

Course and GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

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

1. **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 multiple-choice questions on three exams and the Canvas activities.**
2. **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 multiple-choice questions on three exams and the Canvas activities.**
3. **GELO 3 (D3):** Place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts. **Assessed by the 1200-word policy paper assignment.**
4. **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 the 1200-word policy paper assignment.**
5. **GELO 5 (D3):** Evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues. **Assessed by the 1200-word Policy Paper assignment.**
6. **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 the 1200-word policy paper assignment.**

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Kenneth Janda, Jeffrey M. Berry, Jerry Goldman, Deborah Schildkraut, *The Challenge of Democracy*, 2014, 12th Edition. Wadsworth Cengage Learning, ISBN-13: 978-1-133-60233-0

Study Websites: <http://uspolitics.org/student/student.html>

http://college.cengage.com/polisci/janda/chall_dem/10e/student_home.html

The textbook is available for purchase at the Spartan Bookstore.

Other Readings

Metaphor, Morality, and Politics, Or,
Why Conservatives Have Left Liberals In the Dust

<http://www.wvcd.org/issues/Lakoff.html>

Library Liaison (Optional)

Paul Kauppila is the Political Science library liaison. You may contact him for questions about Political Science research and library holdings. His email is Paul.Kauppila@sjsu.edu and his phone number is (408) 808-2042. You can also find a research guide for Political Science here: <http://libguides.sjsu.edu/politicalscienceCourseRequirementsandAssignments>

Course Requirements and Assignments

You may bring to all exams one 8.5 x 11 page of back-to-back handwritten notes.

EXAM #1 (100 points): Exam #1 will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions. It will cover the assigned chapters in the textbook, Canvas readings and activities for the material before the first exam. **It will assess GELOs 1-2.**

EXAM #2 (100 points): Exam #2 will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions. It will cover the assigned chapters in the textbook, Canvas readings and activities for the material after the first exam. **It will assess GELOs 1-2.**

EXAM #3 (200 points): Exam #3 will consist of 100 multiple-choice questions. 60 to 75 questions will cover the assigned chapters in the textbook, Canvas readings and activities/videos for the material after the second exam. 25 to 40 questions will cover material prior to the second exam. **It will assess GELOs 1-2.**

POLICY PAPER (100 points): For this assignment, you should choose a policy issue that interests you. This can be a domestic policy issue, such as education, immigration, or health care, an international policy issue such as fighting terrorism, or a California state policy issue such as education funding. You will research this issue, describe and critically evaluate both the current policy and any proposed policy changes. Finally, you will describe your own position on this issue and at least one action you could take as a citizen in support of your policy preference. More details and the rubric for this assignment are available in Canvas. The Policy Paper is due on 12-12-16 at 11:59 pm and must be submitted to Canvas. Papers that are late, incomplete, or merely outlines will not be

accepted and will receive a zero on the assignment. It will assess GELOs 3-6.

CANVAS ACTIVITIES AND VIDEOS (80 points): There are several assignments that will be posted on canvas or watched during the class period that require handwritten responses. Each Canvas activity will include the assignment and requirements for submission. All assignments, except the Policy Paper, should also be completed and turned in on the day of the corresponding exam and not to Canvas. It will assess GELOs 1-2

Final Examination or Evaluation

Exam #3 is the final exam and will consist of 100 multiple-choice questions. Sixty to seventy-five questions will cover the assigned chapters in the textbook, the Canvas readings and activities/videos for the material covered after the second exam. Twenty to forty questions will be culled from material covered before exam two for a total of 100 questions. Please bring **two** 882 Scantrons to the final exam. You may bring a one page back-to-back handwritten sheet to the final exam, which is schedule for 7:15 am on December 15th, 2016.

Grading Policy

Your course grade will be determined by the points you earn on Exam #1, Exam #2, Exam #3, the Policy Paper, and the Canvas Activities and videos. In addition, all exams include extra credit questions and other opportunities might be provided and announced in class or via Canvas.

EXAMS & ASSIGNMENTS GELOs ASSESSED	POINTS POSSIBLE	WEIGHT
EXAM #1 GELOs 1-2	100 POINTS	17.24 %
EXAM #2 GELOs 1-2	100 POINTS	17.24%
EXAM #3 GELOs 1-2	200 POINTS	34.48%
POLICY PAPER GELOs 3-6	100 POINTS	17.24%
CANVAS ACTIVITIES & VIDEOS GELOs 1-2	80 POINTS	13.79%
<i>580 TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE</i>		

A+ 534-580 POINTS 511 POINTS	A 512-533 POINTS	A- 495-
B+ 479-494 POINTS 456 POINTS	B 457-478 POINTS	B- 440-
C+ 424-439 POINTS 401 POINTS	C 402-423 POINTS	C- 385-
D+ 369-384 POINTS 357 POINTS	D 358-368 POINTS	D- 330-
F 329 POINTS OR BELOW		

NOTE that [University policy F69-24](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf> states that “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading.”

Missed Exams and Missed Work

If you miss an exam and have a valid documented excuse, I will allow you to make up the exam on December 13th at 2 pm in Clark 404K. Your Canvas activities must be turned in at that time.

Extra credit

All exams include at least 2 extra credit questions. In addition, I will announce other opportunities in class and/or via Canvas.

Classroom Protocol

This course requires you to attend regularly and participate actively through discussions and questions. You should arrive on time, and remain seated at your desk for the full length of the period. In addition, cell phones should be turned off.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs’ [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

POLS 15B - 9/10 Essentials of U.S. and California Government, Fall 2016, Course Schedule

Complete each reading assignment before coming to class.

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice that will be announced in class and/or via Canvas.

Week	Date	Lecture Topics and Reading Assignments
	8/24	COURSE INTRODUCTION POLITICS & POWER Read: Course Syllabus
	8/29	ORIGINS OF GOVERNMENT AND DEMOCRACY Read: Ch. 1 & Ch. 2 FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT Read: Ch. 3 Read: Appendix A1: Declaration of Independence
	8/31	FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT Read: Ch. 3
	9/5	No Class – Labor Day!
	9/7	THE CONSTITUTION Read: Ch. 3 <i>Canvas Activity: Constitution Outline</i>
	9/12	THE CONSTITUTION Read: Ch. 3 <i>Canvas Activity video: Empire of Reason</i> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GV1G8_CzJhs
	9/14	FEDERALISM Read: Ch. 4
	9/19	FEDERALISM Read: Ch. 4 <i>Canvas Activity video: A More Perfect Union</i> http://video.pbs.org/video/2365006249/
	9/21	<u>EXAM # 1</u>

		Covers all readings, lectures, and videos from chapters 1-4. Please be sure to bring the following: an 882 Scantron, your handwritten back-to-back exam help sheet, and your stapled handwritten Canvas activities.
	9/26	<i>Canvas Activity: What's your ideology?</i> http://www.people-press.org/quiz/political-typology/ POLITICAL IDEOLOGY Read: http://www.wgcd.org/issues/Lakoff.html
	9/28	METAPHOR, MORALITY, AND POLITICS Read: http://www.wgcd.org/issues/Lakoff.html
	10/3	METAPHOR, MORALITY, AND POLITICS Read: http://www.wgcd.org/issues/Lakoff.html
	10/5	METAPHOR, MORALITY, AND POLITICS Read: http://www.wgcd.org/issues/Lakoff.html
	10/10	INTEREST GROUPS Read: Ch. 10
	10/12	POLITICAL PARTIES Read: Ch. 8
	10/17	ELECTIONS Read: Ch. 9
	10/19	ELECTORAL COLLEGE Read: Ch. 9
0	10/24	ELECTORAL COLLEGE Read: Ch. 9 Interactive Map: http://www.270towin.com/
0	10/26	ELECTORAL COLLEGE Read: Ch. 9
1	10/31	EXAM #2 Covers all readings, lectures, and videos from Ideology through Electoral College. Please be sure to bring the following: an 882 Scantron, your handwritten back-to-back exam help sheet, and your stapled handwritten Canvas activity.
1	11/2	THE LEGISLATURE Read: Ch. 11
2	11/7	THE LEGISLATURE

		Read: Ch. 11
2	11/9	THE LEGISLATURE Read: Ch. 11
3	11/14	THE EXECUTIVE Read: Ch. 12 <i>Canvas Activity Video : Obama's Deal</i> http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/obamasdeal/
3	11/16	THE EXECUTIVE Read: Ch. 12 <i>Canvas Activity Video: A look at Obama's first term</i> http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/inside-obamas-presidency/
4	11/21	THE COURTS Read: Ch. 14
4	11/23	No Class – Thanksgiving Break
5	11/28	THE COURTS Read: Ch. 14
5	11/30	CIVIL LIBERTIES Read: Ch. 15
6	12/5	CIVIL LIBERTIES & RIGHTS Read: Ch. 16
6	12/7	CIVIL RIGHTS Read: Ch. 16
7	12/12 & 12/15	CALIFORNIA POLITICS: INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM, & RECALL Lecture Policy Paper is due 12/12/16 at 11:59 pm – Late Papers will not be accepted. 12/15/16 - Final Exam 7:15-9:30 am in WSQ 207. Exam #3 - the Final exam, will consist of 100 multiple-choice questions. 60 to 75 questions will cover the assigned chapters in the textbook, the Canvas readings and activities/videos for the material after the second exam. 25 to 40 questions will cover material prior to the second exam. Please be sure to arrive on time and bring the following: <u>two</u> 882 Scantrons , your handwritten back-to-back exam help sheet, and your stapled handwritten Canvas activities.