

**San José State University**  
**College of Social Sciences / Political Science Department**  
**POLS 1, American Government, Section 3, Fall, 2016**

**Course and Contact Information**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Al Schendan
<b>Office Location:</b>	Clark 404 K
<b>Telephone:</b>	(510) 382 - 9117 (Please call between 10 - 5, M - F)
<b>Email:</b>	albert.schendan@sjsu.edu
<b>Office Hours:</b>	M/W 1:20 - 2:20
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	M/W 12 - 1:15
<b>Classroom:</b>	HGH 116

**GE/SJSU Studies Category:** US2 & US3

**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).

**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 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 three exams and the Canvas activities.**

### 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](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.wwcd.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](mailto: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

**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 or an in-class essay. If I choose to assess your performance using a written exam you will receive three questions prior the exam. 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. Sixty to seventy-five questions will cover the assigned chapters in the textbook, Canvas readings and activities/videos for the material after the second exam. Twenty-five to forty questions will cover material prior to the second exam. **It will assess GELOs 1-2.**

**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. All assignments 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 9:45 am on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

### Grading Policy

Your course grade will be determined by the points you earn on Exam #1, Exam #2, Exam #3, and the Canvas Activities. 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	20.83 %
EXAM #2 GELOs 1-2	100 POINTS	20.83%
EXAM #3 GELOs 1-2	200 POINTS	41.66%
CANVAS ACTIVITIES & VIDEOS GELOs 1-2	80 POINTS	16.66%
<i>480 TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE</i>		

A+	446-480 POINTS	A	432-445 POINTS	A-	414-431 POINTS
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B+	400-413 POINTS	B	386-399 POINTS	B-	368-385 POINTS
C+	354-367 POINTS	C	340-353 POINTS	C-	322-339 POINTS
D+	308-321 POINTS	D	294-307 POINTS	D-	276-293 POINTS
F 275 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

### GE Course Fulfillment

This meets the **US Constitution & California Government (US 2-3)** GE Requirements.

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

### 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 1-3 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	<b>COURSE INTRODUCTION</b> <b>POLITICS &amp; POWER</b> Read: Course Syllabus
	8/29	<b>ORIGINS OF GOVERNMENT AND DEMOCRACY</b> Read: Ch. 1 & Ch. 2 <b>FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT</b> Read: Ch. 3 Read: Appendix A1: Declaration of Independence
	8/31	<b>FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT</b> Read: Ch. 3
	9/5	<b>No Class – Labor Day!</b>
	9/7	<b>THE CONSTITUTION</b> Read: Ch. 3 <i>Canvas Activity: Constitution Outline</i>
	9/12	<b>THE CONSTITUTION</b> Read: Ch. 3 <i>Canvas Activity video: Empire of Reason</i> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GV1G8_CzJhs">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GV1G8_CzJhs</a>
	9/14	<b>FEDERALISM</b> Read: Ch. 4
	9/19	<b>FEDERALISM</b> Read: Ch. 4 <i>Canvas Activity video: A More Perfect Union</i> <a href="http://video.pbs.org/video/2365006249/">http://video.pbs.org/video/2365006249/</a>
	9/21	<b><u>EXAM # 1</u></b> 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> <a href="http://www.people-press.org/quiz/political-typology/">http://www.people-press.org/quiz/political-typology/</a> <b>POLITICAL IDEOLOGY</b> Read: <a href="http://www.wvcd.org/issues/Lakoff.html">http://www.wvcd.org/issues/Lakoff.html</a>
	9/28	<b>METAPHOR, MORALITY, AND POLITICS</b> Read: <a href="http://www.wvcd.org/issues/Lakoff.html">http://www.wvcd.org/issues/Lakoff.html</a>
	10/3	<b>METAPHOR, MORALITY, AND POLITICS</b> Read: <a href="http://www.wvcd.org/issues/Lakoff.html">http://www.wvcd.org/issues/Lakoff.html</a>
	10/5	<b>METAPHOR, MORALITY, AND POLITICS</b> Read: <a href="http://www.wvcd.org/issues/Lakoff.html">http://www.wvcd.org/issues/Lakoff.html</a>
	10/10	<b>INTEREST GROUPS</b> Read: Ch. 10
	10/12	<b>POLITICAL PARTIES</b> Read: Ch. 8
	10/17	<b>ELECTIONS</b> Read: Ch. 9
	10/19	<b>ELECTORAL COLLEGE</b> Read: Ch. 9
0	10/24	<b>ELECTORAL COLLEGE</b> Read: Ch. 9 Interactive Map: <a href="http://www.270towin.com/">http://www.270towin.com/</a> * You may receive questions for an essay exam today
0	10/26	<b>ELECTORAL COLLEGE</b> Read: Ch. 9
1	10/31	<b>EXAM #2</b> Covers all readings, lectures, and videos from Ideology through Electoral College. If we have an essay exam you will be provided the exam and no back-to-back notes will be allowed. However, if you take a multiple-choice exam please bring an 882 Scantron and your one page of back-to-back handwritten notes. Please bring your Canvas activity.
1	11/2	<b>THE LEGISLATURE</b> Read: Ch. 11

2	11/7	<b>THE LEGISLATURE</b> Read: Ch. 11
2	11/9	<b>THE LEGISLATURE</b> Read: Ch. 11
3	11/14	<b>THE EXECUTIVE</b> Read: Ch. 12 <i>Canvas Activity Video : Obama's Deal</i> <a href="http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/obamasdeal/">http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/obamasdeal/</a>
3	11/16	<b>THE EXECUTIVE</b> Read: Ch. 12 <i>Canvas Activity Video: A look at Obama's first term</i> <a href="http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/inside-obamas-presidency/">http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/inside-obamas-presidency/</a>
4	11/21	<b>THE COURTS</b> Read: Ch. 14
4	11/23	<b>No Class – Thanksgiving Break</b>
5	11/28	<b>THE COURTS</b> Read: Ch. 14
5	11/30	<b>CIVIL LIBERTIES</b> Read: Ch. 15
6	12/5	<b>CIVIL LIBERTIES &amp; RIGHTS</b> Read: Ch. 16
6	12/7	<b>CIVIL RIGHTS</b> Read: Ch. 16
7	12/12 & 12/16	<b>CALIFORNIA POLITICS: INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM, &amp; RECALL</b> <b>Lecture</b>  12/16/16 - Final Exam 9:45-12 noon in HGH 116. 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: <b>two</b> 882 Scantrons , your handwritten back-to-back exam help sheet, and your stapled handwritten Canvas activities.

**12/16/16 - Final Exam 9:45-12 noon in HGH 116.** 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: **two** 882 Scantrons , your handwritten back-to-back exam help sheet, and your stapled handwritten Canvas activities.