

South Plains College
GOVT 2305.156: Federal Government (ONLINE)
Spring 2017

Instructor: Timothy Holland
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Department of Social Sciences
Discipline: Government
Course Title: Federal Government (Federal Constitution and Topics)
Credit: 3 Lecture, 0 Lab
Satisfies a core curriculum requirement? Yes, Social Science and ALL Undergraduate Degrees
Prerequisites: TSI compliance in Reading
Available Formats: Conventional, INET, ITV
Campus: Levelland
Course Time & Location: Online
Email: tholland@southplainscollege.edu
Office Hours: By Appointment

Textbook: Keeping the Republic: Power and Citizenship in American Politics. 7th Edition.
Christine Barbour and Gerald Wright. ISBN: 9781483352749

Course Description: This course is a survey of fundamental principles of political science, including the American system of government and the origins and development of the constitutions of the United States. This course satisfies the Legislative requirements for teacher certification.

Course Purpose: Government 2305, as taught at South Plains College, is a reading intensive course designed to acquaint the learner with the origin and development of the US Constitution, structure and powers of the national government including the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, federalism, political participation, the national election process, public policy, civil liberties and civil rights. This course meets the statutory requirements as set forth by the State of Texas.

Approval Number: 45.1002.51 25

Course Requirements: To maximize a student's potential to complete this course, he/she should attend all class meetings, complete all homework assignments and examinations in a timely manner, and complete all other projects or papers as assigned in the instructor's specific instructions.

Course Evaluation: See the instructor's course information sheet for specific items used in evaluating student performance.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):

Students who have completed this course will:

1. Explain the origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of our federal system.
3. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government.
5. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties.
6. Analyze the election process.
7. Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
8. Analyze issues and policies in U.S. Politics.

Fundamental Component Areas (FCA):

Students will be expected to perform satisfactorily in four FCA.

1. Critical Thinking Skills – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information by:
 - a. Generating and communicating ideas by combining, changing, or reapplying existing information,
 - b. Gathering and assessing information relevant to a question,
 - c. Analyzing, evaluating, and synthesizing information.
2. Communication – to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral or visual communication by:
Developing, interpreting, and expressing ideas through written, oral, or visual communication.
3. Social Responsibility Skills – to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities by:
 - a. Demonstrating intercultural competence,
 - b. Identifying civic responsibility,
 - c. Engaging in regional, national, and global communities.
4. Personal Responsibility – to include the ability to connect choices, action, and consequences to ethical decision-making by:
 - a. Reading, understanding and affirming agreement and acceptance of principles, guidelines and requirements set forth in the “Statement of Personal Responsibility of Students” (Attached)
 - b. Evaluating choices and actions and relating consequences to personal decision-making
 - c. Accepting personal responsibility for decisions and actions taken or not taken

Internet Access

This course is an online course and you must have reliable access to a computer and the internet. If you do not own a computer or do not have reliable internet access then I would recommend using the computer lab, library or other appropriate alternative. You must have access to a computer and the internet to complete this course. Failure to have access to either a computer or the internet is not a valid excuse for missing assignments, quizzes, exams or other course content. Please make sure that you have a reliable internet connection when beginning exams and quizzes as you will only have one opportunity to complete those assessments.

Class Schedule

For each week there are readings, lecture slides and an assessment that must be completed. You will have until 11:59PM on the End Date to complete the week's assessment. It is your responsibility to follow the schedule and complete assessments by their end date.

Week	Topic	Begin Date	End Date	Assessment
1	Introduction to Politics	June 5 th	Sunday, June 11 th	Quiz 1
	Federal Constitution			
	Federalism			
2	Parties	June 12 th	Sunday, June 18 th	Quiz 2
	Public Opinion			
	Elections			Discussion Post 1
	Civil Liberties	June 19 th	Friday, June 23 rd	Quiz 3
	Civil Rights			
4	Congress	June 25 th	Sunday, July 2 nd	Quiz 4
	Presidency			Discussion Post 2
5	Bureaucracy	July 3 rd	Sunday, July 9 th	Quiz 5
	Judiciary			
	Foreign and Domestic Policy			

Midterm Exam: June 25th

Final Exam: July 11th

Grades

Grade Distribution	Points	Grade Scale	Points
Midterm Exam	300	A	900 to 1000
Final Exam	300	B	800 to 899
Discussion Post 1	100	C	700 to 799
Discussion Post 2	100	D	600 to 699
Quizzes	200 (in total)	F	599 or fewer

Exams

There will be two exams a midterm and final exam. Each exam will be multiple choice.

Discussion Posts

On two occasions you will be asked to write a short essay to address a question pertaining to the subject of the week. Your discussion post will be on a thread with your classmates and you will be required to read and respond to at least one other student's discussion post. A full explanation of the requirements will be provided on blackboard.

Quizzes

There will be one quiz every week which will cover the topics discussed in that week. Each quiz will contain a few multiple choice questions. Reading the textbook, lecture slides and other course material on the topics of the week is sufficient to complete each quiz.

Plagiarism and Cheating

Plagiarism and cheating in any form will not be tolerated in this course. South Plains College policies allow a wide range of punishment for cheating including failing the assignment, quiz, exam or the course. I will be vigilant against cheating and we will discuss how to avoid plagiarism in class.

Extra Credit

There will be no extra credit opportunities in this course.

Office Hours

If you need to discuss your grade or the course content please feel free to attend any of my scheduled office hours. My office is located in the Administration Building in room 119. If you cannot attend my scheduled office hours please email me at tholland@southplainscollege.edu or set up an appointment with me to meet at another time.

Textbook

Keeping the Republic: Power and Citizenship in American Politics. 7th Edition. Christine Barbour and Gerald Wright. ISBN: 9781483352749

Attendance Policy

Since this is an online course we won't be taking attendance. However, there is material that must be read and assessments that must be completed every week in this course. If you fail to complete the assessments from two weeks you will be dropped from the course.

Internet

You must have reliable internet access to complete this course. If you do not have access to a reliable internet connection, you will not be able to complete this course.

Classroom Discussions

Although this class is primarily lecture-based, you will be encouraged to contribute to class discussion on the topic of the day or other relevant political topics. Given the nature of this course students may express political views contrary to your own and while you are not required to agree with those views you are required to be respectful. I encourage you to

express your own views but you must be respectful in both tone and the delivery of your viewpoint.

Diversity Statement

In this class, I will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world, and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

Students with disabilities

Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland Student Health & Wellness Center 806-716-2577, Reese Center (also covers ATC) Building 8: 806-716-4675, Plainview Center Main Office: 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611, or the Health and Wellness main number at 806-716-2529.

SPC Policy regarding “standard English”

All written assignments should be presented using the conventions of Standard Written English. South Plains College requires all students to become proficient in "academic English," a form of English that is typically used in academic, professional, and business contexts. While slang, regional idioms, and informal kinds of self-expression are appropriate in some contexts, they are out of place in academic writing. Writing instructors and professors in courses across the campus expect all students to demonstrate proficiency in using the conventions of academic English in their written work, whether it is in-class exams or take-home essays.

Email Policy

All emails should include your name, course and section number. I am teaching multiple courses and most of your other professors are also teaching multiple courses therefore it is imperative that you include this basic information so that I can (and your other professors can) address your question or concern.

Do not use the blackboard email function. If you need to contact me please use my SPC email address tholland@southplainscollege.edu.