

Spring 2020
GOVT 2305: Federal Government
Department of Social Sciences
South Plains College

Instructor: Timothy Holland

Course Times:

GOVT 2305-003: MW 11:00am-12:15pm

GOVT 2305-007: TR 11:00am-12:15pm

Location: Administrative Building 140

Instructor's Office: AD119

Email: tholland@southplainscollege.edu

Office Phone: (806) 716-2972

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 requirement for teacher certification.

Credit: 3 Lecture Hours

Prerequisites: TSI compliance in Reading

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 U.S. 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 Evaluations: See the instructor's course information sheet for specific items used in evaluating student performance.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):

1. Explain the origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the 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 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

Office Hours: If you need to discuss your grade, the course content or you need to speak with me for any reason, 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 office hours please email me at tholland@southplainscollege.edu to setup an appointment to meet at another time or we can discuss your issue through email if you prefer.

<i>Office</i>	<i>AD119</i>
Monday	1:00pm-3:00pm
Tuesday	1:00pm-3:00pm
Wednesday	None
Thursday	1:00pm-3:00pm
Friday	9:30am-11:30am

Textbook: American Government by Glent Kutz

Free copies of this textbook are available at www.openstax.org and for Kindles through Amazon. You may also purchase the textbook through iBooks or purchase a physical textbook.

ISBN: 978-1-947172-66-1

Grades			Grading Scale		
Assessments	Points	Percent	Grade	Points	Percent
Exam 1	250	25%	A	900 or greater	90% or greater
Exam 2	250	25%	B	800 to 899.9	80% to 89.9%
Final Exam	250	25%	C	700 to 799.9	70% to 79.9%
Essay	150	15%	D	600 to 699.9	60% to 69.9%
Attendance and Participation	100	10%	F	599.9 or less	59.9% or less
TOTAL	1000	100%		1000	100%

Exams: There will be three exams in this course. Exams will consist of multiple choice questions and possibly a few true/false or short answer questions. The Final Exam is not cumulative but only covers the course content discussed after Exam 2.

Essay: You will complete one essay over a topic assigned by the instructor. Information about the essay can be found on your courses blackboard homepage.

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.

Late Work: Late work will not be accepted.

Makeup Exams: If you miss Exam 1 or Exam 2 you will be permitted to take a make-up exam on the last class day. The make-up exam may be multiple-choice or in essay format at the instructor's discretion. No student may make-up more than one exam.

Extra Credit: There will likely be no extra credit opportunities in this course. The instructor may provide extra credit opportunities, but there are no guarantees.

Final Grades: I will round your final grade to the nearest whole number. Any number XX.5 or above will be rounded up to the next whole number but any number XX.4 or below will be rounded down.

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to regularly attend classes and I will keep record of your attendance. Attendance will account for 10 percent of your grade. Your attendance grade will be calculated by dividing the number of days you have attended class by the number of class days we meet during this semester. I will typically record attendance at the beginning of class, if you arrive after the attendance was recorded then you will not be considered present.

You will not be counted absent if you are attending a South Plains College-sponsored event, if you are sick and have a doctor's note or another reason approved by the instructor. If you miss four or more classes during the semester you may be dropped by the instructor, subject to his discretion.

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.

Classroom Expectations: The following activities are prohibited during class:

- Text messaging, emailing, meme-ing or other electronic correspondence
- Social media activity
- Answering (or initiating) a phone call
- Watching movies or other videos

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.

URL: <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/health/disabilityservices.php>

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.

Electronic Devices: Use of electronic devices for academic purposes is welcome in this class. You may use your laptop or tablet to take notes during class but for no other activities. Do not use your phone during class. No video or audio recording devices will be allowed in class unless part of a disability accommodation.

Tobacco Use: The use of tobacco products is prohibited in this class. Electronic cigarettes are also prohibited.

Emails: 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.

If you do not receive a response within 48 hours please re-send the email.

Class Schedule: Please remember that the class schedule is tentative and subject to changes.

Monday/Wednesday Class Schedule

Day	Date	Subject
Monday	13-Jan	Syllabus and Introduction
Wednesday	15-Jan	Introduction to American Politics
Monday	20-Jan	MLK Day
Wednesday	22-Jan	Constitutionalism
Monday	27-Jan	Constitutionalism
Wednesday	29-Jan	Federalism
Monday	3-Feb	Federalism
Wednesday	5-Feb	Civil Liberties
Monday	10-Feb	Civil Liberties
Wednesday	12-Feb	Civil Rights
Monday	17-Feb	Exam 1
Wednesday	19-Feb	Congress
Monday	24-Feb	Congress
Wednesday	26-Feb	Presidency
Monday	3-Mar	Presidency
Wednesday	5-Mar	Bureaucracy
Monday	10-Mar	Courts
Wednesday	12-Mar	In Class Essay
Monday	17-Mar	Spring Break
Wednesday	19-Mar	Spring Break
Monday	24-Mar	Courts
Wednesday	26-Mar	Exam 2
Monday	30-Mar	Public Opinion
Wednesday	1-Apr	Interest Groups
Monday	6-Apr	Parties
Wednesday	8-Apr	Parties
Monday	13-Apr	Easter Break
Wednesday	15-Apr	Elections
Monday	20-Apr	Elections
Wednesday	22-Apr	Domestic Policy
Monday	27-Apr	Foreign Policy
Wednesday	29-Apr	Final Exam Review

GOVT 2305-003 (MW 11:00): Final Exam on Monday, May 4th at 10:15AM

Tuesday/Thursday Class Schedule

Day	Date	Subject
Tuesday	14-Jan	Syllabus and Introduction
Thursday	16-Jan	Introduction to American Politics
Tuesday	21-Jan	Constitutionalism
Thursday	23-Jan	Constitutionalism
Tuesday	28-Jan	Federalism
Thursday	30-Jan	Federalism
Tuesday	4-Feb	Civil Liberties
Thursday	6-Feb	Civil Liberties
Tuesday	11-Feb	Civil Rights
Thursday	13-Feb	Exam 1
Tuesday	18-Feb	Congress
Thursday	20-Feb	Congress
Tuesday	25-Feb	Congress
Thursday	27-Feb	Presidency
Tuesday	4-Mar	Presidency
Thursday	6-Mar	Bureaucracy
Tuesday	11-Mar	Courts
Thursday	13-Mar	In Class Essay
Tuesday	18-Mar	Spring Break
Thursday	20-Mar	Spring Break
Tuesday	25-Mar	Courts
Thursday	27-Mar	Exam 2
Tuesday	31-Mar	Public Opinion
Thursday	2-Apr	Interest Groups
Tuesday	7-Apr	Parties
Thursday	9-Apr	Parties
Tuesday	14-Apr	Elections
Thursday	15-Apr	Elections
Tuesday	20-Apr	Domestic Policy
Thursday	22-Apr	Domestic Policy
Tuesday	28-Apr	Foreign Policy
Thursday	30-Apr	Final Exam Review

GOVT 2305.007 (TR 11:00): Final Exam on Tuesday, May 5th at 10:15AM