

Spring 2021
GOVT 2305: Federal Government
Department of Social Sciences
South Plains College

Instructor: Timothy Holland
Course Time: Internet N/A
Location: Internet N/A
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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 learners 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.

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 access to a reliable internet connection 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 activities.

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 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 FCAs

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.
 - a. 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, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making by:
 - a. Reading, understanding, and affirming agreement and acceptance of principles, guidelines, and requirement 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

SPC COVID-19 Policy: It is the policy of South Plains College for the Spring 2021 semester that a condition of on-campus enrollment, all students are required to engage in safe behaviors to avoid the spread of COVID-19 in the SPC community. Such behaviors specifically include the requirement that all students properly wear CDC-compliant face coverings while in SPC buildings including classrooms, labs, hallways, and restrooms. Failure to comply with this policy may result in dismissal from the current class session. If the student refuses to leave the

classroom or lab after being dismissed, the student may be referred to the Dean of Students on the Levelland campus or the Dean/Director of external centers for Student Code of Conduct violations.

COVID-19 Class and Office Policy: You must wear a mask and practice social distancing if you meet with me in person. You are not allowed to meet with me in person if you are feeling ill or if you are quarantining. I thank you for your cooperation

Office Hours: Please email me if you need to discuss your grade or the course content. Since this is an online course most of our communication will likely occur through email but please feel free to attend my schedule office hours in person if you prefer.

Office: AD 119	Time
Monday	By appointment only
Tuesday	11:00am-12:00pm; 2:30pm-4:30pm; or by appointment
Wednesday	By appointment only
Thursday	11:00am-12:00pm; 2:30pm-4:30pm; or by appointment
Friday	9:30am-11:30am or by appointment
Email	tholland@southplainscollege.edu

Textbook: We are using a free online textbook available through Openstax a link to this textbook may be found in Blackboard

American Government 2e by Glen Krutz and Sylvie Waskiewicz
Paperback ISBN: 978-1-59399-576-8
Digital ISBN: 978-1-947172-66-1

Link to our free online textbook:

<https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-2e>

Grading Scale:

Grade	Percent
A	90% or greater
B	80% to 89.99%
C	70% to 79.99%
D	60% to 69.99%
F	Less than 60%

Grade Distribution:

Assessment	Percent
Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	15%
Final Exam	15%

Syllabus Quiz	1%
Quiz 1	2%
Quiz 2	2%
Quiz 3	2%
Quiz 4	2%
Quiz 5	2%
Quiz 6	2%
Quiz 7	2%
Quiz 8	2%
Quiz 9	2%
Quiz 10	2%
Quiz 11	2%
Quiz 12	2%
Discussion Post 1	5%
Discussion Post 2	5%
Discussion Post 3	5%
Discussion Post 4	5%
Essay	10%
TOTAL	100%

Gradebook: You will be able to view your graded assignments, quizzes, and exams in the Gradebook link.

Exams: There will be three exams in this course. Each exam will consist of multiple choice questions, true/false questions, and possibly a few short answer questions. The final exam is not cumulative. You will have one attempt to complete each exam.

- Exam 1: Introduction to American Politics, Federalism, Constitutionalism, Civil Liberties, and Civil Rights
- Exam 2: Congress, the Presidency, the Bureaucracy, and the Judiciary
- Exam 3 (Final Exam): Interest Groups, Public Opinion, Parties, Elections, and Policy

Quizzes: You will complete one quiz every week over the topic of the week. You will have one attempt to complete each quiz.

Exam and Quiz Issues: If you experience a technical issue with the exam or quiz, the power goes out, you lose internet, the exam or quiz auto-submitted, then you may re-take the quiz or exam. You must email me immediately when this happens to be eligible to complete the quiz or exam.

Discussion Posts: You will complete four discussion post assignments this semester. The discussion post assignment will cover the topic of a particular week where you will publicly discuss the topic and interact with other students by responding to their posts about the topic.

You will be required to submit one discussion post and respond to at least two other discussion posts. More information about this assignment may be found in Blackboard.

Essay: You will complete one essay in a selected week to discuss a topic chosen by the instructor. More information about this assignment may be found in Blackboard.

Plagiarism and Cheating: Plagiarism and cheating in any form will not be tolerated in this course. South Plains College provides for a wide range of punishments for cheating including failing the assignment, quiz, exam, or course. I will be vigilant against cheating and you will at a minimum fail the assignment, quiz, or exam in which cheating or plagiarism has occurred.

Late Work: You must complete all assessments before their due date. Late work will not be accepted unless you have missed the quiz, exam, or other assignment for a valid reason. A valid reason will be determined under the sole discretion of the instructor.

Extra Credit: Do not ask for extra credit. If extra credit becomes available I will make it available to everyone.

Attendance Policy: Since this is an online course I will not take daily attendance. However, you are expected to complete your work on time in accordance with the course calendar. You may be dropped from the course if you miss two or more consecutive weeks of activities. Please email me if you are sick or have another valid reason for a prolonged absence.

Classroom Discussions: Given the nature of this course students may express political views contrary to your own and while no one is required to agree with another's political views you are required to be respectful. I encourage you to honestly express your views in this class but you must be respectful in both your tone and delivery. You will have several opportunities to interact with your fellow students and I expect everyone to be respectful in all discourse.

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 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 the 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 formal 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.

Emails: Every email must include your name, course, day and section number. I am teaching multiple courses and sections and most of your other professors are as well. Therefore, it is imperative that you always include this information so we know which class you are in so that we know where you are coming from and can quickly respond to your concerns.

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

Class Schedule: All assessments must be completed before 11:59AM on their due date.

Week	Begin Date	End Date	Topic	Assessment
1	January 19	January 26	Introduction to American Politics	Syllabus Quiz and Quiz 1
2	January 27	February 2	Federalism	Quiz 2
3	February 3	February 9	Constitutionalism	Quiz 3
4	February 10	February 16	Civil Rights and Civil Liberties	Quiz 4 and Discussion Post 1
5	February 17	February 23	Exam 1	Exam 1
6	February 24	March 2	Congress	Quiz 5 and Essay 1
7	March 3	March 9	Presidency	Quiz 6
8	March 10	March 23	Bureaucracy	Quiz 7
9	March 24	March 30	Judicial Branch	Quiz 8 and Discussion Post 2
10	March 31	April 6	Exam 2	Exam 2

11	April 7	April 13	Interest Groups and Public Opinion	Quiz 9
12	April 14	April 20	Parties	Quiz 10 and Discussion Post 3
13	April 21	April 27	Elections	Quiz 11 and Discussion Post 4
14	April 28	May 4	Domestic and Foreign Policy	Quiz 12
15	May 5	May 11	Final Exam	Final Exam

Syllabus Agreement: By continuing to complete the course you agree to the terms of this Syllabus. If you do not agree to the terms of the Syllabus you must drop the course.

The professor reserves the right to change the terms of the syllabus as circumstances require.