

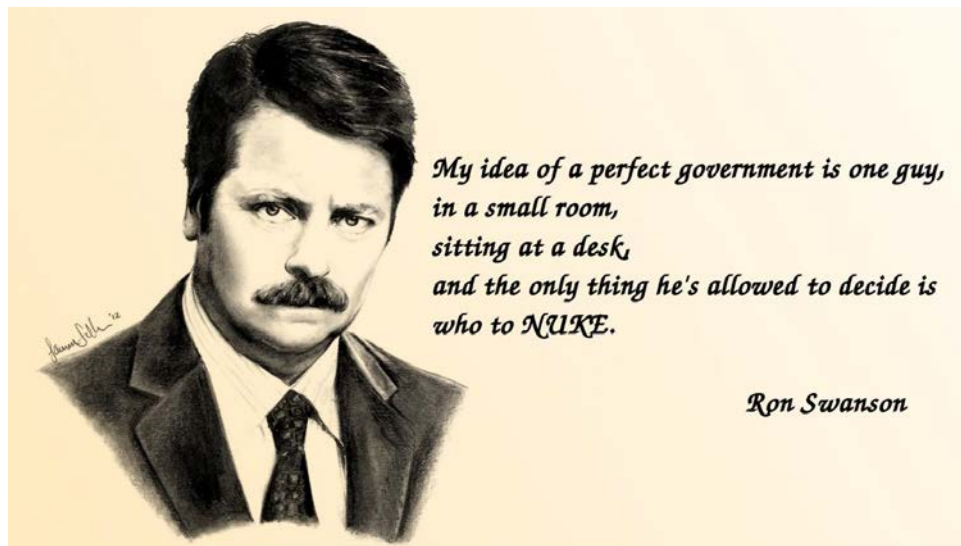


PS 2305: Federal Government

Tuesday and Thursday, Lawrence Hall Room 303

Professor: Lorenzo G. Barcena, J.D.

E-Mail: lbarcena@outlook.com



Course Purpose:

The purpose of this course is to answer the following questions: What should be the theoretical role of the Federal Government? What is the current role of the Federal Government? How have American political institutions developed over time? How democratic is American federal government? Are we a Republic or a Democracy?

Additionally, it is my hope that the course will also help students develop critical thinking skills, which will empower them to actively participate in our Republic.

TextBook: <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00016298/00001>

Program and Course Learning Outcomes and Assessments:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of significant theoretical approaches of political science through written work and oral communication.

TEexas Domain III Competency 19: The teacher understands and

applies social science knowledge and skills to plan, organize, and implement instruction and assess learning.

***How will we meet this goal?** Readings and Activities on First Day of Each Unit 1-6

***How will we assess whether this goal is achieved?** Exams 1-3; Homework Assignments 1-6

2. Demonstrate the ability to analyze domestic and international optical processes in written work

TEexas Domain III Competency 19: The teacher understands and applies social science knowledge and skills to plan, organize, and implement instruction and assess learning.

***How will we meet this goal?** Reading and Activities for Units 3-6

***How will we assess whether this goal is achieved?** Exams 2 and 3; Homework Assignments 3-6

3. Demonstrate the ability to develop arguments about global equity and equality issues in politics through written work and oral communication.

TEexas Domain III Competency 23: The teacher understand and applies knowledge of the concepts of government, democracy, and citizenship, including ways that individuals and groups achieve their goals through political systems.

***How will we meet this goal?** Reading and Activities for Units 2 and 5

***How will we assess whether this goal is achieved?** Homework Assignments 2 and 5, Quizzes

Course Policies:

1. Attendance & Class Preparation

Attendance is mandatory for this course. The class meetings will supplement, not repeat, the readings and assignments for this class. In addition, a significant portion of exam material will be taken from in-class discussion, so it will be very difficult to pass this course if you miss more than 6 classes.

Students are expected to have completed the assigned readings by the beginning of the first class day for which they are assigned. Furthermore, students are expected to be in class, on time, prepared, and, at a minimum, to participate when called upon.

Lastly, repeated violations of any one or a combination of these rules will result in the lowering of your grade. I reserve the right to lower grades all the way to failing (F) for egregious violations of the rules on class attendance, punctuality, preparation, or participation. If there are specific reasons why application of these rules would be unduly harsh or unreasonable, e.g., a serious illness, you should discuss the situation with me at the earliest convenient time. Finally, if you are not prepared when called upon, I reserve to treat your lack of preparation as the equivalent of an unexcused absence.

2. Disruptions & Classroom Respect

Students are expected to openly engage in class discussions, ask questions, share ideas, and express your thoughts. Please be respectful of others by avoiding disruptive behaviors.

Students are expected to be civil to fellow members of the class during all class discussion. You may disagree, but in doing so you must not be disagreeable.

Unless it is truly necessary, please wait until the dismissal of class to exit the classroom.

Laptop computers may be used during class only for purposes associated with the course, e.g., taking notes. Furthermore only students who have submitted an agreement to only use their laptops for educational purposes will be permitted from using them. They are not to be used for playing computer games, instant messaging, “surfing” the web, etc. I reserve the right to deny a student the privilege of using a laptop in class if he or she violates this policy.

Lastly, absent extenuating circumstances, turn cell phones, smart phones, personal digital assistants, pagers and other electronic communication devices off

while in class. If there is a particular reason why you need to leave your cellphone on during a particular class, please let me know in advance.

3. Late Work & Make-Up Assignments

If you need to be out of class for an emergency or university excused absence, inform me of the situation as soon as possible. Late or make-up assignments will only be allowed in the case of an emergency or excused absence with appropriate documentation. Any student who is absent from classes for a university-excused absence (such as a game, tournament, or event) will be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day. However, arrangements for missing class due to an excused absence must be made with the instructor before the absence. It is your responsibility to speak with me about classes that you will miss.

4. Students with Special Needs

Any student who because of a disability may require special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact me as soon as possible to make any necessary accommodations. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities. If you would like to request such an accommodation, please contact Grace Petty, the coordinator for the Center for Counseling and Accessibility Services, at (432) 837-8363.

5. Religious Observance

Any student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day will be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day. Arrangements for missing class due to religious observance must be made with the instructor prior to the absence.

6. Academic Integrity

Any instance of academic misconduct such as turning in an identical written assignment for another course without approval, cheating and plagiarizing written assignments, collusion, or misrepresenting facts will be punished to the full extent of the university's disciplinary policy. You are responsible for reading the statement on Academic honesty in the Sul Ross State University Rules and

Regulations Supplement to the Student Handbook. The faculty considers academic dishonesty to be a serious matter and will act accordingly. Students caught cheating will receive no credit for assignment/test and more severe penalties may be pursued.

7. Communicating with the Professor:

The best way to contact me is through e-mail at lbarcena@outlook.com. I will try to respond as soon as possible. If you do not receive a reply within 24 hours, please resend your e-mail.

Course Grading

Grades are assigned based on a point system. **You can earn up to 100 points throughout the course.**

- To receive an **A**, you must earn at least **90 points**.
- To receive a **B**, you must earn at least **80 points**.
- To receive a **C**, you must earn at least **70 points**.
- To receive a **D**, you must earn at least **60 points**.

All course grades will be posted on Blackboard.

Late work will not be accepted without prior written permission from Professor Barcena. Extensions are only granted in cases of emergencies. Please make your best effort to submit assignments by due date.

Course Assignments

3 Homework Assignments

Complete monthly online assignments, based on class discussion and readings.

10 In-Class Labs 3 In-Class Exams

Participate in Exams 1 & 2 will have 5 short quizzes, activities, writing assignments, answer questions or discussions & 1 essay. Exam 3

during class each will have 10 multiple choice, 5 short-answer, and 1 essay

question.

Due on Blackboard by 11 a.m. on due date. Completed each day during class, due by end of class.

Worth 30 points

Worth 20 Points

Exam 1 = 10 pts.

Total

Total

Exam 2 = 10 pts.

(3 homework x 10
points each)

(10 labs x 2
points each)

Exam 3 = 30 pts

*****ASSIGNMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO BEING REVISED AS THE
SEMESTER PROGRESSES*****