

PS 2305: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Tuesday & Thursday, 11am-12:15—Lawrence Hall 309

Course Syllabus

Assignments

- Blackboard Quizzes (6 quizzes; 5 points each)
- In-Class Labs (10 labs; 2 points each)
- Mid-Term Exam (20 points)
- Final Exam (30 points)

See page 2 for assignments.

Important Dates

- January 20 Class Begins
- March 10 Mid-Term Exam
- March 16-20 Spring Break
- April 10 Last Day to Drop
- May 5 Final Exam Review
- May 12 Final Exam

See page 4 for the schedule.

Readings

Lenz, Timothy O. and Mirya Holman. 2013. *American Government*. Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida.

This is a free, open-source book that can be downloaded from our Blackboard page.

All required readings are posted on our course Blackboard page, as PDFs or links to websites.

See page 5 for the reading list.



"A popular government without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy, or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance; and a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives."—James Madison, *Father of the U.S. Constitution*

Course Introduction

What is the role of the federal government in your life? How is the federal government structured? What can you do to influence the government? This course is designed to answer these questions by introducing you to the key political processes in contemporary American government.

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www.sulross.blackboard.com



Grading

Course Requirements

- Quiz 1: Worth 5 points
Due February 3
- Quiz 2: Worth 5 points
Due February 19
- Quiz 3: Worth 5 points
Due March 3
- **Mid-Term Exam:** Worth 20 points
On March 10
- Quiz 4: Worth 5 points
Due April 2
- Quiz 5: Worth 5 points
Due April 23
- Quiz 6: Worth 5 points
Due April 30
- **Final Exam:** Worth 30 points
On May 12
- Plus 10 in-class labs throughout the semester (Worth 2 points each)

Course Grading

- 90-100 points = A
- 80-89 points = B
- 70-79 points = C
- 60-69 points = D
- Less than 60 points = F

Course Assignments

Assignment	Description
<p>Blackboard Quizzes</p> <p>6 quizzes about current events or course readings and notes</p> <p>30% of total course grade</p>	<p>Due on Blackboard by 9:00am CST on due date</p> <p>Worth 5 points each</p>
<p>In-Class Labs</p> <p>10 in-class activities about class readings and notes</p> <p>20% of total course grade</p>	<p>Due by end of class each day</p> <p>Worth 2 points each</p>
<p>Mid-Term Exam</p> <p>Covers Units 1-3</p> <p>20% of total course grade</p>	<p>20 multiple choice, worth 10 points total</p> <p>5 short answer questions, worth 1 point each</p> <p>1 essay, worth 5 points</p>
<p>Final Exam</p> <p>Covers Units 1-6</p> <p>30% of total course grade</p>	<p>20 multiple choice, worth 10 points total</p> <p>5 short answer questions, worth 2 points each</p> <p>1 essay, worth 10 points</p>

You can find additional details about each assignment on our class Blackboard page.

Course and Program Learning Objectives

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 (*TEXAS Domain III Competency 19*)

- **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 1-2; Labs 1-6

2. Demonstrate the ability to analyze domestic and international political processes in written work (*TEXAS Domain III Competency 19*)

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

- **How will we assess whether this goal is achieved?** Exams 1-2; Quizzes 1-6

3. Demonstrate the ability to develop arguments about global equity and equality issues in politics through written work and oral communication (*TEXAS Domain III Competency 23*)

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

- **How will we assess whether this goal is achieved?** Labs 2 and 5, Quizzes, Exam 2

Course Policies

Required Readings

- You will be asked to read contemporary research by political scientists as well as primary sources and historical documents. Links to readings are posted to our course Blackboard page. You are expected to have completed the assigned readings by the beginning of the first class day for which they are assigned.

Attendance

- Attendance is extremely important and mandatory for this course. The class meetings will supplement, not repeat, the readings and assignments for this class, so it will be very difficult to pass this course if you do not attend regularly.

Disruptions and Classroom Respect

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

Late Work and Missed Assignments

- If you need to miss an assignment, please inform Dr. Moreland of the situation as soon as possible. Late assignments will only be allowed in the case of an emergency. 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.

Students with Special Needs

- Any student who because of a disability may require special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact the instructor 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 the Center for Counseling and Accessibility Services, at (432) 837-8363.

Religious Observance

- Any student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day will be allowed to make up assignments for that day. Arrangements for missing class due to religious observance must be made with the instructor prior to the absence.

Academic Integrity

- Any instance of academic misconduct, such as cheating and plagiarizing written assignments, collusion, or misrepresenting facts will be punished according to the university's disciplinary policy.

Communicating with the Professor:

- The best way to contact me is through email at amoreland@sulross.edu. I will try to respond as soon as possible. If you do not receive a reply within 24 hours, please resend your email or call my office at 432.837-8162.

Course Schedule

Unit	Dates	Readings	Assignments
Introduction	Tuesday, January 20	Syllabus	Visit course Blackboard page
Unit 1: What are the foundations of American federal government?	Thursday, January 22 Tuesday, January 27 Thursday, January 29 Tuesday, February 3	Read Chapter 2 by January 27 Read Chapter 6 by February 3	Quiz 1 Due on Blackboard at 9am on February 3
Unit 2: Which freedoms are protected by the Constitution?	Thursday, February 5 Tuesday, February 10 Thursday, February 12 Tuesday, February 17 Thursday, February 19	Read Chapter 18 by February 10	Quiz 2 Due on Blackboard at 9am on February 19
Unit 3: How are laws made?	Tuesday, February 24 Thursday, February 26 Tuesday, March 3 Thursday, March 5	Read Chapters 3-5 by February 24	Quiz 3 Due on Blackboard at 9am on March 3
Mid-Term Exam	Tuesday, March 10	In-Class Exam Covers Units 1-3	
Unit 4: How are lawmakers chosen?	Thursday, March 12 Tuesday, March 24 Thursday, March 26 Tuesday, March 31 Thursday, April 2	Read Chapters 3-5 by March 24	Quiz 4 Due on Blackboard at 9am on April 2
Unit 5: How can citizens participate in governing?	Tuesday, April 7 Thursday, April 9 Tuesday, April 14 Thursday, April 16 Tuesday, April 21 Thursday, April 23	Read Chapter 10 by April 7 Read Chapters 9 & 11 by April 16 Read Chapter 12 by April 21	Quiz 5 Due on Blackboard at 9am on April 23
Unit 6: How do Americans feel toward government?	Tuesday, April 28 Thursday, April 30	Read Chapter 8 by April 28	Quiz 6 Due on Blackboard at 9am on April 30
Final Exam Review	Tuesday, May 5	In-class review for final exam (Thursday, May 7th is University "Dead" Day)	

Final Exam on Tuesday, May 12 at 10:15am.