

Federal Government 2305 – Spring 2016
Sul Ross State University
SYLLABUS

Section(s): 001; 002

Instructor: Dr. Tiffany Vincent

Office Location: Lawrence Hall 211

Telephone: (432) 837-8162

Office Hours: M/W 10 a.m.-noon & 3:30-4 p.m.

T/R 10 a.m.-noon; 1:30-2 p.m.

Email: tiffany.vincent@sulross.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Government 2305 is the study of the organization, function, and interaction of the several branches (judicial, executive, legislative) of the Federal Government. I hope you find this course both useful for the ways in which you think about and participate in politics.

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

1. Explain and identify the structure, roles, and functions of each branch of government.
Method of Assessment: Quizzes, participation and exams
2. Analyze the roles and functions of the bureaucracy and its role in the policy formulation and implementation process.
Method of Assessment: Quizzes, participation and exams
3. Describe the role of ideology and political parties and the related role of interest groups and individual political participation.
Method of Assessment: Quizzes, participation, and exams
4. Describe the role of the media as it relates to voter awareness and political polarization.
Method of Assessment: Quizzes, participation, and exams

Program Learning Outcomes (Political Science):

The graduating student will:

- Demonstrate knowledge of significant theoretical approaches of political science through written work and oral communication.
- Demonstrate the ability to analyze domestic and international political processes in written work.
- Demonstrate the ability to develop arguments about global equity and equality issues in politics through written work and oral communication.

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

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

AMERICANS with DISABILITIES ACT STATEMENT:

In order to receive accommodations on exams or assignments, proper documentation must first be provided to the Office of Counseling and Accessibility Services. Contact Mary Schwartz (Office: 112 Ferguson Hall) to set up an accommodations meeting, or call (432) 837-8203. Students must then present this documentation to the instructor as soon as possible so that accommodations may be arranged.

CLASSROOM POLICIES:

Each class meeting builds the foundation for subsequent class meetings. Without full participation and regular class attendance, students shall find themselves at a severe disadvantage for achieving success in higher education. You are expected to attend and be on time for each lecture. Showing up to lecture late or leaving early, without prior permission from me, may result in a 10-20 point deduction on an upcoming exam. I do not provide notes for those individuals who arrive late, leave early, or miss class.

Sul Ross State University does **not** tolerate cheating, plagiarism, or collusion. Procedures for dealing with these acts are outlined in the Scholastic Dishonesty Policy.

CIVILITY STATEMENT:

In the classroom environment I hold each of you accountable for both your actions and words. Therefore, you should commit yourself to behave in a manner that recognizes personal respect and demonstrates concern for the personal dignity, rights, and freedoms of every individual in the classroom, including respect for University property and the physical and intellectual property of others.

If a student is asked to leave the classroom because of uncivil behavior, the student may not return to that class until he or she arranges a conference with the instructor, it is the student's responsibility to arrange for this conference.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

All the functions of all personal electronic devices designed for communication and/or entertainment (cell phones, pagers, beepers, iPods, and similar devices) must be turned off and kept out of sight in the classroom. Any noncompliance with this policy will result in expulsion from class. ***To prevent student distraction in the learning environment, laptops are not allowed in this classroom.**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

EXAMS- Each student will complete 4 examinations (including the final exam). *ALL* exams will cover material from the in class lectures and assigned readings. Each exam is 50 questions and consists of a variety of Multiple Choice and True-False formats. Additionally, each exam covers material only for that section (see class schedule below). The final exam is comprehensive which means that it covers *ALL* material covered throughout the entire semester (the format for the final exam will be 100 questions, Multiple Choice). **Missed exams will result in a grade of zero. Exam deadlines are inflexible and absolute – no excuses.**

QUIZZES- The student will also complete several in class pop-quizzes and/or take-home assignments over material covered from the lectures and assigned readings. These quizzes consist of a variety of multiple choice, true-false, fill in the bank, and essay formats.

GRADING SCALE:

- 65% Exams (3 exams worth 15% each)
 - Final Exam (20%)
- 35% Quizzes

*There is NO EXTRA CREDIT for this course, so please do not ask.

This course follows the traditional percentage based grading system below.

- A: 100-90
- B: 89-80
- C: 79-70
- D: 69-60
- F: 59 & below.

Course Content/Class Schedule:

Day	Topics Covered
SECTION 1	
Wednesday, January 20 th	Introduction to Course and Political Culture
Monday, January 25 th	Constitution and Federalism
Wednesday, January 27 th	Constitution and Federalism Cont.
Monday, February 1 st	Civil Rights
Wednesday, February 3 rd	Civil Liberties
Monday, February 8th	Exam 1 (covering section 1)
SECTION 2	
Wednesday, February 10 th	Exam 1 Results/ Public Opinion & the Media
Monday, February 15 th	Public Opinion & the Media
Wednesday, February 17 th	Participation and Campaigns
Monday, February 22 nd	Participation and Campaigns Cont.
Wednesday, February 24 th	In-Class Activity (directions to be given during class)
Monday, February 29 th	Political Parties and Interest Groups
Wednesday, March 2 nd	Political Parties and Interest Groups Cont.
Monday, March 7th	Exam 2 (covering section 2)
SECTION 3	
Wednesday, March 9 th	Exam 2 Results & Congress
Spring Break!	No Assignments
Monday, March 21 st	Congress Cont.
Wednesday, March 23 rd	The Presidency
Monday, March 28 th	The Presidency Cont.
Wednesday, March 30 th	The Bureaucracy
Monday, April 4 th	The Courts
Wednesday, April 6 th	The Courts
Monday, April 11 th	Economic Policy
Wednesday, April 13 th	Social Policy
Monday, April 18 th	Foreign Policy
Wednesday, April 20 th	Foreign Policy Cont.
Monday, April 25th	Exam 3 (covering section 3)
Wednesday, April 27 th	Exam 3 Results
Monday, May 2 nd	In-Class Review
COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM	
Regular Class Time	Final Exam Time
001 M/W 12:30-1:45 p.m.	Wednesday, May 11 th @ 12:30-2:30 p.m.
002 M/W 2:00-3:15 p.m.	Wednesday, May 11 th @ 3-5 p.m.

*NOTE: This schedule is tentative and therefore subject to change at my discretion.