

Sulross State University  
Political Science, State Government 2306-003  
Tue- Thr 2:00pm-3:15pm  
Lawrence Hall 309  
Spring 2016

***Contact Information***

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Office Hours: Can be arranged by appointment.

**Course Description:**

This is an introductory course covering the historical development of Texas politics, the state's economy, and the people of Texas. In this course, you will also be introduced to the different stages of policy making which will allow you to better understand and evaluate public policies. It is my hope that the information you learn in this class will increase your interest in politics and history as well as make you a better-informed citizen.

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.

**TEexas 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.

**Course Goals:**

1. Describe the essential elements of public policy (To be evaluated on Exam III, and the Final Exam).
2. Explain how Texas political institutions affect the development and implementation of public policy (To be evaluated on Exams I, II, III, and the Final Exam).
3. Analyze the impact of constitutional law on public policy (To be evaluated with Exam II, and the Final Exam).
4. Analyze key public policy issues facing the Texas today (To be evaluated on Exam III, and the Final Exam).
5. Analyze National, State, and Local government interaction to implement policy (To be evaluated on Exam I, Exam II, Exam III, and the Final Exam).

**Course Expectations:**

Regular and punctual attendance is expected, punctual means you are in class at 2:00 and not wandering in 15 minutes late. Punctuality also means not leaving early. If you miss a lecture, you will be responsible for getting the notes on your own. It is not my responsibility to provide notes for someone who has missed the class.

I expect you to act as responsible adults in your classroom conduct. Failure to do so will result in expulsion from class.

Cellphones will not be tolerated, texting will result in your expulsion from the class and receiving the grade of an F in the course.

Books

There is no required book for this course. For your support, there is a website we will utilize that has the equivalent of a textbook for Texas Politics that I will link you

to so that you can follow along with the various topics we cover. I will also use supplemental links/power points that will be provided to emphasize particular concepts we cover in class. For supplemental information, please see <http://texaspolitics.utexas.edu/textbook>

### **Course Requirement:**

You will be required to take four exams in this course. The final exam will count as the fourth exam. I do not give makeup exams. However, I do drop your lowest exam grade and if you miss an exam, then that will be the exam that we will drop from your final average. If at the end of the semester, you have taken all three of the first three exams, and your grade average is an A, then you will be exempt from the fourth and final exam.

The grade scale is as: 90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; 0-59=F.

Each exam will consist of multiple choice and short answers.

### **The American With Disabilities Act:**

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the American with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Grace Duffy in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-171, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. The telephone number is 432-837-8203.

### **Class Outline:**

01/19/16 Course Intro and Overview

01/21/16 Government, Politics and Political Culture

01/26/16 Texas society and economy

01/28/16 Texas History I: Guest Speaker  
02/02/16 Texas History II  
02/04/16 Federalism and the Constitution  
02/09/16 Texas Constitutions  
02/11/16 Review for Exam 1  
02/16/16 Exam 1  
02/18/16 Texas Governor  
02/23/16 Texas Legislature  
02/25/16 Local Government  
03/01/16 Interest Groups  
03/08/16 Political Parties  
03/10/16 review for exam 2  
Spring Break  
03/22/16 Exam 2  
03/24/16 Texas Judiciary System  
03/29/16 Bureaucracy  
03/31/16 Public Policy  
04/05/16 Education Policy  
04/07/16 Immigration Policy  
04/12/16 Crime and Drug Policies  
04/14/16 review for Exam 3  
04/19/16 exam 3  
04/21/16 Environmental Policy  
04/26/16 Welfare Policy  
04/28/16 Media & Public Opinion  
05/03/16 Review for Final  
05/10/16 final Exam