

PS 2305, Section 003: Federal Government
9:30-10:45 a.m., Tuesday and Thursday, MAB 302
Sul Ross State University
Fall 2016
SYLLABUS

Instructor: *Corina Ramirez*
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Office Hours: *By arrangement. Please email to schedule appointment.*
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Federal 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 useful for the ways in which you think about and participate in politics.

Student Learning Outcomes

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, in-class activities and exams.
2. Analyze the established historical foundations of government.
Method of Assessment: Quizzes, in-class activities and exams.
3. Describe the various roles of political parties and political interest groups.
Method of Assessment: Quizzes, in-class activities and exams.
4. Identify channels of media and the purpose of media in politics.
Method of Assessment: Quizzes, in-class activities and exams.
5. Evaluate levels of political participation and differentiate between levels of participation and government trust.
Method of Assessment: Quizzes, in-class activities and exams.
6. Identify and analyze social and foreign policy.
Method of Assessment: Quizzes, in-class activities and exams.

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 II 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.*

TEXTBOOK (Required):

Ginsberg, Benjamin, et al. *We The People*, 10th Edition. W.W. Norton, 2015. ISBN: 978-0-393-93703-9

AMERICANS with DISABILITIES ACT STATEMENT:

In order to receive accommodations on exams or assignment, 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 can 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.

For familiarity purposes, Chapter Readings are encouraged to be read before the next class, as per the Class Schedule. Chapter Readings will also be done in class targeting main points of chapter.

You are expected to attend and be on time for each class. Showing up to class 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.

Classroom Respect:

In the classroom environment I hold each of you accountable for both your actions and words. 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. This includes having 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, 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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

EXAMS

Each student will complete 4 examinations, plus the Final Exam. ALL exams will cover material from the textbook, lectures, and in-class activities. Each exam will be 50 questions, and will be Multiple Choice and True/False format. Each exam will cover material only for that section (see Class Schedule).

The Final Exam will be comprehensive which means it will cover ALL material covered throughout the entire semester. Final Exam format will be 100 Multiple Choice questions.

Missed exams will result in a grade of zero.

QUIZZES

The student will also complete 10 quizzes over material covered in textbook and from lectures. Quizzes will consist of a variety of multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank and essay formats.

IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES

The student will participate in several In-Class Activities that will pertain to the material in textbook and from lecture. The In-Class Activities will be a fun, learning experience!

GRADING SCALE

10 In-Class Activities (5 pts each)	50 points
10 Quizzes (10 points each)	100 points
4 Exams (100 points each)	400 points
Final Exam	250

COURSE GRADES

700-800 Points	A
600-699 Points	B
500-599 Points	C
400-499 Points	D
300-399 Points	F

CLASS SCHEDULE

DAY	TOPICS COVERED
Tuesday, August 23	Introduction to Course <i>In Class Activity #1</i>
Thursday, August 25	Chapter 1 American Political Culture Chapter 2 The Founding & the Constitution Quiz #1
Tuesday, August 30	Chapter 2 The Founding & the Constitution, cont. Chapter 3 Federalism Quiz #2
Thursday, September 1	Chapter 3 Federalism, cont. <i>In Class Activity #2</i>
Tuesday, September 6	Chapter 4 Civil Liberties
Thursday, September 8	Chapter 5 Civil Rights <i>In Class Activity #3</i>
Tuesday, September 13	EXAM 1 (covering Chapters 1-5)
Thursday, September 15	EXAM 1 Results Chapter 6 Public Opinion <i>In Class Activity #4</i>
Tuesday, September 20	Chapter 6 Public Opinion, cont. Chapter 7 The Media Quiz #3
Thursday, September 22	Chapter 8 Political Participation & Voting <i>In Class Activity #5</i>
Tuesday, September 27	Chapter 8 Political Participation & Voting, cont. Quiz #4
Thursday, September 29	Chapter 9 Political Parties Quiz #5
Tuesday, October 4	Chapter 10 Campaigns & Elections Quiz #6
Thursday, October 6	Chapter 10 Campaigns & Elections, cont. Chapter 11 Groups & Interests <i>In Class Activity #6</i>
Tuesday, October 11	EXAM 2 (covering Chapters 6-11)
Thursday, October 13	Exam 2 Results Chapter 12 Congress
Tuesday, October 18	Chapter 12 Congress, cont. Quiz #7
Thursday, October 20	Chapter 13 Presidency <i>In Class Activity #7</i>
Tuesday, October 25	Chapter 14 Bureaucracy in a Democracy Quiz #8
Thursday, October 27	Chapter 15 Federal Courts <i>In Class Activity #8</i>

Tuesday, November 1	EXAM 3 (covering Chapters 12-15)
Thursday, November 3	Exam 3 Results Chapter 16 Government & the Economy
Tuesday, November 8	Chapter 16, Government & the Economy, cont. Quiz #9
Thursday, November 10	Chapter 17 Social Policy <i>In Class Activity #9</i>
Tuesday, November 15	Chapter 18 Foreign Policy Quiz #10
Thursday, November 17	Chapter 18 Foreign Policy, cont. <i>In Class Activity #10</i>
Tuesday, November 22	EXAM 4 (covering Chapters 16-18)
Thursday, November 24	THANKSGIVING
Tuesday, November 29	<i>Review for Final Exam</i>
Thursday, December 1	DEAD DAY
Monday, December 5	FINAL EXAM 8:00 a.m.