



## Sul Ross State University

### PS 2305 – Federal Government – Syllabus Fall 2016

**Adjunct Professor: Michael Sandoval**

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**Class Meeting Times: Mon-Wed-Fri 1300 to 1400**

**Meeting Location: Room M-2**

#### **Course Description**

Origin and development of the U.S. Constitution, the structure and powers of the national government including the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, federalism, political participation, the national election process, public policy, civil liberties and civil rights. PS 2305 Federal Government is a required course in United States government. (3 semester credit hours)

#### **Dual Credit Courses**

Dual Credit academic courses are transferable to all Texas public colleges and universities. Many private and out-of-state institutions also accept this course. Students planning to transfer to a private or out-of-state college or university should check with the receiving school to confirm transferability of PS 2305 credits from Sul Ross State University.

#### **Course Textbooks**

Lenz, Timothy O. and Mirya Holman. 2013. *American Government* this is a free, open-source book that will be provided to students via SRSU Blackboard.

#### **Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course students should be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of significant theoretical approaches of political science through written work and oral communication (*TEXAS Domain III Competency 19*) this goal will be met by the Readings and Activities on the first day of each Units 1-6. The assessment for achieving this goal will be measured by Exams 1 and 2; Quizzes 1-6
- Demonstrate the ability to analyze domestic and international political processes in written work (*TEXAS Domain III Competency 19*) this goal will be met by the Readings and Activities for Units 3-6. The assessment for achieving this goal will be measured by Exam 2, Quizzes 3-6, and In-Class Labs
- 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*) this goal will be met by the Readings and Activities for Units 2 and 5, and the In-Class Labs.

#### **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

The graduating student will 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

**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.

## Course Policies

### Required Readings

All required readings are posted on our course Blackboard page <http://www.sulross.edu/bb> as PDFs or links also in the **Course Schedule**, you should check both. You are expected to complete the assigned readings **before** the first class day for which they are assigned.

### Attendance

Is mandatory and extremely important for this course. Class meetings will supplement, **not repeat**, the readings and assignments for this class. If you miss class it is **your responsibility** to get the notes from another student in the class; so make friends. It is not my responsibility to provide notes for those who miss class for whatever reason. In addition, a significant portion of exam material will be taken from the in-class lectures and discussions, so it will be very difficult to pass this course if you do not attend regularly or **miss six** or more classes and do not have the notes from which to study.

An absence is defined as non-attendance in fifty minutes of class; for example, non-attendance in a one and one-half hour class will constitute one and one-half absences and non-attendance in a three-hour class will constitute three absences. An absence due to participation in an official activity is considered to be an authorized absence. Instructors may at their discretion, drop a student from a course when the student has a total of nine absences. A student who is dropped from a course for excessive absences will be notified in writing by the Center for Enrollment Services after the drop has been approved by the Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs. Any student dropped for excessive absences will receive either an "F" or a "W" depending up on the faculty member's discretion.

You are expected to have completed the assignments by the beginning of the class for which they are assigned and be in class, on time, prepared and to participate when called upon. Furthermore, if you are not prepared to participate when called upon, I reserve the right to treat your lack of participation/preparation as the equivalent of an absence.

### Student Expectations

I expect you to act as responsible adults in your in class conduct. If you infringe on my ability to conduct class, you will be asked to leave. Common courtesies expected in class are:

- Arriving to class on-time
- Disabling the ringer on cell phones
- Refraining from talking, sleeping, reading or doing non-related class activities during class
- Have respect and tolerance for fellow students regarding their political views
- Avoid disruptive behaviors

### Late Work and Missed Assignments

Late assignments will only be allowed in the case of an emergency. Any student absent from classes for a school excused absence (game, tournament, or scholastic event) should make arrangements for missing class *prior* to the absence.

### Students with Special Needs

A 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.

### **Religious Observance**

Any student who is absent from class 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.

### **Student Conduct and Discipline**

Each student is expected to be fully acquainted and comply with all published policies, rules, and regulations of the Sul Ross State University Student Handbook which shall be available to each student on-line at:

[http://www.sulross.edu/sites/default/files//sites/default/files/users/docs/stulife/handbook\\_2014-2015\\_0.pdf](http://www.sulross.edu/sites/default/files//sites/default/files/users/docs/stulife/handbook_2014-2015_0.pdf)

Students are also expected to comply with all federal and state laws.

### **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 published 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 SRSU faculty considers academic dishonesty to be a serious matter and will act accordingly. Students caught cheating will receive no credit for assignment/quiz/exam and more severe penalties may be pursued.

Cheating is defined in the Student Code of Conduct as:

- 1) Use of any unauthorized aid, sources, and assistance and assisting others in taking a course, quiz, test, or examination, writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out assignments;
- 2) The acquisition without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the University community;
- 3) Alteration of grade records;
- 4) Bribing or attempting to bribe a member of the University community or any other individual to alter a grade.

Plagiarism is defined as: Offering the work of another as one's own, without proper acknowledgement. Any student, who fails to give credit for quotations or essentially identical expression of material taken from books, encyclopedias, magazines, the Internet, and other reference works, or from the themes, reports, or other writings of a fellow student, is guilty of plagiarism.

Plagiarism includes:

- 1) Deliberate copying or use of another's work without citing the source.
- 2) Cutting and pasting of information off of the Internet without citing the source.
- 3) The use of an exact sentence from a source (book, Internet, etc.) without quotes.

### **Communicating with the Professor**

The best way to contact me is through email at [michael.sandoval@sulross.edu](mailto:michael.sandoval@sulross.edu) this provides a paper record of your concern. If you do not receive a reply within twenty-four hours please contact me on campus anytime or before or after your next class.

## Course Grading

Grades are assigned on a point system. You can earn up to 336 points total in the course this semester.

To receive an **A**, you must earn 300 points or more.

To receive a **B**, you must earn at least 272 points or more.

To receive a **C**, you must earn at least 238 points or more.

To receive a **D**, you must earn at least 208 points or more.

Below 208 is an **F**

All grades will be posted in our class located in your Sul Ross Blackboard account.

## Grading Information related to Dual-Credit

Refer to Sul Ross Grade Point Conversion to Faith Academy Grade Points Table that was distributed to each student in class on August 22, 2016.

**Drop/Withdrawal Policy:** November 11th is the last day to drop a course with a “W”. Once the deadline to withdrawal has passed, the student receives an ‘F’ for the course if he/she still chooses to withdraw. Thus, it is imperative for students to be cognizant of these dates to avoid earning an ‘F’ for the course.

## Course Schedule

Instruction for the course will be presented through lecture, textbook assignments; multi-media presentations e.g., power points and film. Eleven (11) textbook chapters are covered during the semester class meetings and are listed below:

Class Days	PS 2305 – Fall 2016 – Federal Government – Dual Credit			
	Units	Class Dates	Readings	Assignments
1	<b>Start UNIT 1</b>  <i>The Foundations of our Federal Government</i>	Monday, August 22	Review Syllabus	Start Reading Ch. 2
2-5	Continue UNIT 1	Wednesday, August 24 Friday, August 26 Monday, August 29 Wednesday, August 31	Read Ch. 6 by September 2	Homework 1 assigned on August 24 DUE on September 7
5	<b>QUIZ 1</b>	<b>Friday, September 2</b>	<b>QUIZ 1</b>	<b>QUIZ 1</b>
6-10	<b>UNIT 2</b>  <i>Our Freedoms under the Constitution</i>	Monday, Sept. 5 HOLIDAY Wednesday, Sept. 7 Friday, Sept. 9 Monday, Sept. 12 Wednesday, Sept. 14 Friday, Sept. 16	Read Chapter 18 by September 19	Homework 1 assigned on August 24 DUE on Sept. 7  Homework 2 assigned on September 9 due on September 23
11	<b>QUIZ 2</b>	<b>Monday, September 19</b>	<b>QUIZ 2</b>	<b>QUIZ 2</b>
12-16	<b>UNIT 3</b>  <i>Our Laws and Our Judiciary</i>	Wednesday, Sept. 21 Friday, Sept. 23 Monday, Sept. 26 Wednesday, Sept. 28 Friday, Sept. 30	Read Chapters 3, 4 & 5 by September 28	Homework 2 assigned on Sept. 9 DUE on Sept. 23
(15)	<b>QUIZ 3</b>	<b>Wednesday, September 28</b>	<b>QUIZ 3</b>	<b>QUIZ 3</b>

17-24	<b>UNIT 4</b> <i>Choosing our Representatives to Congress</i>	Monday, October 3 Wednesday, October 5 Friday, October 7 Monday, October 10 Wednesday, October 12 Friday, October 14 Monday, October 17 Wednesday, October 19	Read Chapters 3,4,5 by October 19	Homework 3 assigned on Sept. 30 DUE on October 7  Homework 4 assigned on October 12 DUE on Monday, October 24
(24)	<b>MID-TERM EXAM</b>	<b>Wednesday, October 19</b>	<b>Mid-Term Exam will cover Units 1, 2 , 3 and 4</b>	
25	<b>QUIZ 4</b>	<b>Friday, October 21</b>	<b>QUIZ 4</b>	<b>QUIZ 4</b>
26-34	<b>UNIT 5</b> <i>Participation in our Government, is it Our Civic Duty</i>	Monday, October 24 Wednesday, October 26 Friday, October 28 Monday, October 31 Wednesday, November 2 Friday, November 4 Monday, November 7 Wednesday, November 9 Friday, November 11		Homework 4 assigned on October 12 DUE on October 24  Homework 5 assigned on November 2 DUE on Friday, November 11
(33)	<b>QUIZ 5</b>	<b>Wednesday, November 9</b>	<b>QUIZ 5</b>	<b>QUIZ 5</b>
35-37	<b>UNIT 6</b> <i>Our Government and Our Opinions</i>	Monday, November 14 Wednesday, November 16 Friday, November 18		Research Paper Topics Assigned Monday, November 14 DUE December 5
	<b>THANKSGIVING BREAK</b>	<b>NOVEMBER 21 - 25</b>	<b>THANKSGIVING BREAK</b>	<b>NOVEMBER 21 - 25</b>
38-40	<b>UNIT 6</b> <i>Our Government and Our Opinions</i> <b>CONTINUED</b>	Monday, November 28 Wednesday, Nov. 30 Friday, December 2		Homework 6 assigned on November 28 DUE on Monday, December 5
(40)	<b>QUIZ 6</b>	<b>Friday, December 2</b>	<b>QUIZ 6</b>	<b>QUIZ 6</b>
41-43	<b>Review Week</b>	Monday, December 5 Wednesday, December 7 Friday, December 9		Research Paper DUE Monday, December 5
44	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>Monday, December 12</b>	<b>The Final Exam is comprehensive</b>	

Syllabus distributed in class on 8-22-16 and posted in Blackboard

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