

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT 2305 – FALL 2016
DUAL CREDIT SYLLABUS
SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY
M-W and T-TH **MARBLE** FALLS HIGH SCHOOL

Sections: 001;002

Instructor: Bobby D. McCall

Telephone: 432-770-3224

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Note: When leaving a voice mail, email, or text, begin the conversation with: "This is (student name) and I am in your (class meeting dates)" then leave the message. Speak slowly and clearly. I will get back with you timely.

Office Hours: 6:30-7:00 a.m. MTW

Immediately following class MTWTH

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Government 2305 is the entry level political science course required for a Bachelor's Degree in Texas Colleges and Universities. It is the study of the U.S. Constitution and other documents forming the framework, form and function of the three branches (Legislative, Executive, and Judicial) of the Federal Government. The Course will survey political theory, history, and common practice as applied to the current political landscape in the United States.

TEXT: There is no required text for this course. Students may use a variety of reference texts including the free online text: www.thisnation.com. Students may also purchase a variety of texts relating to Federal Governments such as: The Enduring Democracy, Dautrich and Yalof. Reading assignments by the instructor define topics rather than pages or chapters of a particular text.

Students successfully completing this course will be able to:

1. Explain and identify the structure, roles, and functions of each branch of National Government.

Method of Assessment: Quizzes, Assignments, Participation and Major Exams

2. Analyze the roles and functions of the bureaucracy and its role in the policy formulation and implementation process.

Method of Assessment: Quizzes, Assignments, Participation and Major 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, Assignments, Participation and Major Exams

4. Describe the role of the media as it relates to voter awareness and political polarization.

Method of Assessment: Quizzes, Assignments, Participation and Major Exams

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLOs): 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 instructor understands and applies social science knowledge and skills to plan, organize, and implement instruction and assess learning.

Texas Domain III Competency 23: The instructor understands and applies knowledge of concepts of government, democracy, and citizenship, including ways 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 Ms. Janna Johnson in the MFHS Counselors' Office to set up an accommodations meeting. Students must then present this documentation to the instructor timely so accommodations can be arranged.

CLASSROOM POLICIES:

The Instructor will be prepared and on time for all class meetings. Students are expected to be on time and prepared. Preparation for a College Level Course assumes the student will have previously read material relevant to the scheduled discussion and will be able to comment appropriately on the subject matter.

Each class meeting builds the foundation for subsequent class meetings. Without full participation and regular class attendance, students will find themselves at a severe disadvantage for achieving success in this course and others in their higher education experience. Students are expected to attend punctually each lecture. The instructor will not provide notes for those students who arrive late, leave early or are absent from class.

The instructor and Sul Ross State University does not tolerate cheating, plagiarism, or collusion. Procedures for dealing with these acts are outlined in the Scholastic Dishonesty Policy. This policy may be found on line at: www.sulross.edu.

Students are expected to make prior arrangements if a major examination must be missed. There will be no makeup or extra credit work assigned. latework is not accepted by the Instructor.

Students will conduct themselves responsibly and with civility in the classroom. If a student interferes with the instructor's ability to conduct the class or shows disrespect for views expressed by fellow students, the offending student will be asked to leave and will be re-admitted only after a conference with the instructor.

CLASS CONDUCT:

1. Class begins at 7:00 a.m. Plan to arrive before 7:00.
2. Turn smart phones off or disable the ringer.
3. Electronic devices including laptops used for note taking and smartphones may not be used to access the internet during class.
4. Views of fellow students on controversial political and social issues will be respected.
5. Refrain from talking, sleeping, and reading outside materials during class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Course Grades will be determined by performance on 3 examinations, a cumulative final examination, a project, attendance/participation, written assignments and quizzes. Grades will be reported to Sul Ross State University as a letter grade (A, B, C, D, or F). A numerical grade will be reported to the Counselors' Office for Dual Credit Students as an aid to determining High School Class Rank. A tentative exam schedule is below:

Exam I	September 12 – 13	Political Culture and Theory
Exam II	October 10 – 11	Constitution and Federalism
Exam III (Mid-Term)	November 7 - 8	Civil Rights/liberties
Exam IV (Comprehensive Final Exam)	December 12 – 13	

Course Content/Class Schedule:

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

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