



**SUL ROSS UNIVERSITY, ALPINE, TEXAS**  
**SPRING 2017**  
**January 16-May 12, 2017**

PS 2305/W01.

Instructor: Ibrahim. H. Alsaeed, Ph.D.

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**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**

**Alan R. Gitelson, et. al., *American Government: Myths and Realities*. New York, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016. ISBN: 978-0-19-937422-9.**

**LEARNING OUTCOME**

This is an introductory course covering national government and politics. The purpose of this course includes introducing students to the most salient and contentious policy debates in national politics, its theories and institutions. as well as providing the tools and knowledge necessary for students to critically and intelligently evaluate national public policy. Of special significance, this course intends to stimulate the students' interest in national politics, which will make us all informed citizens.

Lectures, students' weekly online discussions, along and their examinations papers, will emphasize critical thinking and analysis of the development of social, economic, political, and constitutional issues in American politics. The students are strongly encouraged to evaluate these topics through critical thinking. They are also expected to outline their own vision of the best set of values and system that emphasize stability, moral cohesion, and individual natural rights in American politics.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME and PROGRAM LEARNING  
OUTCOME**

*Student learning objectives:*

*By the end of the semester students will*

*Methods of Assessment*

1. Identify the main components  
of American politics.

Assessed via weekly online discussions and  
examinations.



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| 2. Describe the American constitutional foundation  | Assessed via weekly online discussions and examinations. |
| 3. Understand federalism and intergovernmental relations                                    | Assessed via weekly online discussions and examinations. |
| 4. Understand civil liberties   | Assessed via weekly online discussions and examinations. |
| 5. Understand civil rights  | Assessed via weekly online discussions and examinations  |
| 6. Understand the relationship Between Public opinion and political participation.          | Assessed via online online discussions and examinations. |
| 7. Understand the functions of political parties.   | Assessed via online online discussions and examinations. |
| 8. Examine U.S campaigns and elections.   | Assessed via weekly online discussions and examinations. |
| 9. Evaluate the role interest groups play in national politics.                             | Assessed via weekly online discussions and examinations. |
| 10. examine the connection between the media and politics.                                  | Assessed via weekly online discussion and examinations.  |
| 11. Understand the Congress   | Assessed via online weekly discussions and examinations. |
| 12. Understand the Presidency.  | Assessed via online discussions and examinations.        |
| 13. Examine the relationship among the federal bureaucracy, the Congress and the President. | Assessed via weekly online discussions and examinations. |
| 14. Evaluate the federal judiciary  | Assessed via weekly online discussions and examinations. |
| 15. Evaluate domestic policy and The policymaking process..                                 | Assessed via online discussions and examinations.        |
| 16. Understand U.S foreign and defense policy.  | Assessed via online discussions and examination.         |



## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Textbook:** Your textbook is an important tool to scoring very well in your weekly online discussions and your written examinations. Without reading the textbook chapters on a weekly basis, you will face serious problems in comprehending this political science course.
2. You are required to submit to this course blackboard your **weekly discussion**. Always type the FULL question(s) with **bold** type and type your DETAILED discussion under the question. In writing your weekly discussions, you're required to use the textbook, but you may use other sources, if you wish. You're also required to cite your discussion sources. Each discussion is worth 15/20 points. Your detailed comment to one of your colleagues' discussions is worth 5/20 points. Total points are 20/20. 20 points x 16 weeks= 320 points. The students cannot directly copy from the textbook or from other sources.
3. **Four Examinations:** Each examination is composed of (an) essay question(s), and will be posted in weeks 3, 6, 9, and 12. In writing their exam essays, the students are required to use the textbook ONLY. They are also required to write the full citation of the source pages in the end of their essays. **Copying from the textbook is unacceptable.** Each exam is worth 170 points x 4 exams =680 points.
4. **Class Attendance:** Submitting your weekly discussion is your class attendance. The students' decline to submit their weekly discussions is considered absence from the class. The instructor is required to report the students' excessive absence to the university system.

**PS:** The students are encouraged to contact the course instructor by phone or e-mail for help in order to improve their performance.

### CODE OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY (INCLUDING PLAIGARISM)

Academic integrity is the expression of intellectual virtue in human beings. It represents the convergence of the best of the human spirit and God's spirit, which requires personal, private and community virtue. Sul Ross University affirms that integrity begins in our much created being and is lived in our academic work.

In order for the code to be effective, the community must maintain its health and vitality. This requires a genuine sense of community, responsibility, and sensitivity in the part of every member. In particular, each member of the student body is expected to pursue his or her academic work with honesty and integrity.



Unfortunately, students do, on occasion, violate academic integrity, and this provides a need for the discipline and an opportunity for restoration.

## **DISABILITY SERVICES**

Sul Ross University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartz, M. Ed., and L.P.C., in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hill, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8691. E-mail: [mschwartz@sulross.edu](mailto:mschwartz@sulross.edu)

## **DISTANCE EDUCATION STATEMENT**

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as Smarthinking, library resources, such as online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU websites. Students should use Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information.

The procedures of filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

## **WEEKLY COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **Week 1: 1/16**

- Chapter 1: "Making Sense of American Politics."
  - Blackboard (BB) Discussion. 20 points
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### **Week 2: 1/23**

- Chapter 2: "Constitutional Foundations."
  - BB Discussion. 20 points
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### **Week 3: 1/30**

- Chapter 3: "Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations."
  - BB Discussion. 20 point
  - EXAM 1: Chapters 1-3. 170 points.
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**Week 4: 2/6**

- Chapter 4: "The Legislative Process."
  - BB Discussion. 20 points
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**Week 5: 2/13**

- Chapter 5: "Civil Liberties."
  - BB Discussion. 20 points.
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**Week 6: 2/20**

- Chapter 6: "Civil Rights."
  - BB Discussion. 20 points
  - EXAM 2: Chapters 4-6 170 points
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**Week 7: 2/27**

- Chapter 7: "Public Opinion and Political Participation."
  - BB Discussion. 20 points.
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**Week 8: 3/6**

- Chapter 8: "Campaigns and Elections."
  - BB Discussion. 20 points.
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**Week 9: 3/13**

- Chapter 9: "Interest Groups."
  - BB Discussion. 20 points.
  - EXAM 3: Chapters 7-9. 170 points
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**Week 10: 3/20**

- Chapter 10: "Media and Politics"
  - BB Discussion. 20 points.
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**Week 11: 3/27**

- Chapter 11: "Congress."
  - BB Discussion. 20 points.
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**Week 12: 4/3**

- Chapter 12: "The Presidency."
  - BB Discussion. 20 points
  - EXAM 4: chapters 10-12. 170 points.
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**Week 13: 4/10**

- Chapter 13: “Bureaucracy.”
  - BB Discussion 20 points.
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**Week 14: 4/17**

- Chapter 14: “Courts, Judges, and the Law.”
  - BB Discussion 20 points.
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**Week 15: 4/24**

- Chapter 15: “Domestic Policy and Policymaking.”
  - BB Discussion. 20 points.
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**Week 16: 5/1**

- Chapter 16: “Foreign and Defense Policy.”
  - BB Discussion. 20 points.
  - **SATURDAY, MAY 13 AT 12:00 MID-NIGHT IS THE LAST DAY AND TIME TO RECEIVE THE STUDENTS’ ASSIGNMENTS BEFORE SUBMITTING THEIR FINAL GRADES TO THE UNIVERSITY ON SUNDAY, MAY 14 , 2017.**
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**GRADING SCALE**

900- 1,000= A  
800-899 = B  
700-799 = C  
600-699 = D  
Below 600= F

