

SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY
TEXAS STATE GOVERNMENT
POLITICAL SCIENCE 2306 DC
MARBLE FALLS HIGH SCHOOL RM 210
7:00 – 8:30 A.M. M-W AND T-TH
SPRING 2017

Contact Information:

Bob McCall

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. MTW and by appointment

Contact Phone: Cell – 432-770-3224 and 830-265-6659

Email: bobmccall1@gmail.com

Note: When leaving a message or texting begin the conversation with: “This is (student name) and I am in your (class meeting days) then leave the message. In leaving a voice message, talk slowly and speak clearly. I will get back to you.

Course Description:

This is an introductory course in Texas State Politics and Texas Public Policy. This class will introduce the student to the most salient and contentious policy debates in current Texas Politics. It will also provide the tools and knowledge necessary for the student to evaluate policy. The successful student will be able to begin to form a personal political philosophy independent of the views of this instructor. This instructor seeks to stimulate student interest and involvement in the political arena at the local, state and national level.

Program Learning Outcomes (Political Science)

The successful student will:

- Demonstrate knowledge of significant theoretical approaches of political science through written 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 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.
- ❖ 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 Goals

1. Describe the essential elements of public policy.
2. Explain how Texas political institutions affect the development and implementation of public policy.
3. Analyze the impact of Texas and National Constitutional Law on public policy.
4. Analyze key public policy issues facing Texas today.
5. Analyze how National, State and Local Governments interact to implement policy.
6. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the form and function of State and Local Governments.
7. Compare and Contrast the Constitutional Development of the State of Texas and the National Government.
8. Comment appropriately on current political developments in Texas and on the National Level when those developments affect Texas Politics.

Local Government Awareness Project

SRSU is committed to assessment of the effectiveness of the Core Curriculum. The instructor will create an assignment early in the semester and repeat it near the end of the semester to allow observation and evaluation of improvement in communication. The assignment for PS2306 will be the Local Government Awareness Project. By February 15 each student will attend a local government meeting and report (written and oral) on the experience. The second report will be submitted before April 15. In addition to the value added assessment of Core Curriculum Communication, the students' reports will form 20% of the grade for the course.

Expectations

The instructor for Texas Government 2306 will be prepared and on time for all class meetings. Students are expected to be on time and prepared (Preparedness for a college class assumes the student will have previously read material relevant to the scheduled discussion and will be able to comment appropriately on the subject matter.).

Attendance is encouraged but not mandatory. A student will have difficulty achieving a passing grade in the course without regular attendance. A student with excessive absences will be referred to the Counselor's Office and asked to consider dropping the course. Regular attendance and class participation will assist in determining up to 10% of the student's final grade for the course.

If a student misses a class, it is the student's responsibility to get notes and assignments from other students. It is not the instructor's responsibility to provide students with notes from missed classes.

Students are expected to make prior arrangements if a major examination is missed. No make-up work for daily assignments is permitted and no late work will be accepted (unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor).

Students will conduct themselves responsibly in the classroom. If a student interferes with the instructor's ability to conduct the class, the student will be asked to leave. Re-admittance will be at the discretion of the instructor.

Class Conduct:

1. Class begins at 7:00 a.m. Arrive before 7:00.
2. Disable the ringer on all cell phones. Phones may be placed face down on the desk.
3. Refrain from talking, sleeping, and reading outside material during class.
4. Laptops may be used for note taking only. Do not access the internet during class.
5. Views of fellow students on controversial political and social issues will be respected.
6. Students who exhibit disrespect for the views of others will be asked to leave the class.

Required Texts

There are no required texts for this class. However, since many students have acquired **Texas Politics; Newell, Prindle, and Riddlesperger**, the instructor will provide crosswalks between assigned readings and this text.

Students who have not acquired the above text may read assigned material from the following website: <http://www.soomolearning.com/catalog/texas-politics/overview>

Course Requirements:

Semester Grades will be determined by performance on three exams, two project grades (Local Government Awareness Project, a cumulative final examination and attendance/participation. Grades will be reported to Sul Ross State University as a letter grade (A,B,C, D, or F). A number grade will be reported to the Counselors' Office for Dual Credit Students as an aid to determining High School Class Rank.

Final Grades will be based on the following:

Exam I	January 30 -31	15%
Exam II	February 16 - 17	15%
Exam III	March 20 -21	15%
Exam IV (Final)	May 6-7	25%
Project (2 Parts)		
Part I	February 18-19	
Part II	March 25-26	20%
Attendance/Participation		10%

Grade Scale: A: 100 – 89 B: 88 – 79 C: 78 -69 D: 68 – 59 F: 58 - 0

Exams: The Exams will cover material from assigned readings, lectures and discussions. Exams will consist of Multiple Choice and True and False items. The Final Exam will be cumulative but emphasis will be on items covered after Exam III.

Local Government Awareness Project: This assignment is in two parts and one grade worth 20% of the final grade will be determined by averaging the two parts. Students must complete both parts (Instructions on supplemental handout) to receive an acceptable grade.

Makeup Examinations: The instructor's expectation is that student's will take the exams on the days scheduled. If a student must miss an exam, the instructor must be contacted in advance. Absences on Exam Day require written documentation (doctor's note, verification of a family emergency). The instructor will make the decision about whether a makeup exam will be given.

ADA: Disability Policy: It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities. If a student requests an accommodation because of a physical, mental, or learning disability, the instructor must be provided with a 504 Form from the Marble Falls High School Counselor's Office.

Religious Holiday: Students wishing to miss a class in observation of a religious holy day will make the instructor aware of the absence in advance. A student who misses a class in observance of a religious holiday will be allowed to take a makeup examination or complete an assignment scheduled for the class day missed within a reasonable time (as determined by the instructor).

Academic Honesty: Students will be expected to adhere to the University Honor Code for all assignments. Any student cheating or plagiarizing will be punished by automatically receiving a zero on the assignment and may be subject to further disciplinary action by the University.

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 the internet without citing the source.
3. The use of an exact sentence from a source without quotes.

Drop/Withdrawal Policy: Drop/Withdrawal policy will be followed through discussion with the Marble Falls Counselor's Office, the Instructor and Sul Ross State University.

Schedule of Classes: (Subject to Change at the Instructor's Discretion)

Week of January 12:	Course Introduction and overview
Week of January 19:	Texas Geology, Geography, and History
Week of January 26:	Texas History, Political Culture
Week of February 2:	Economic Development and Federalism
Week of February 9:	The Texas Constitutions (Comparison to the U.S. and other State Constitutions)
Week of February 16:	Review and 1st Exam <u>Part I of Project Due</u>
Week of February 23:	The Texas Governor and the Legislature
Week of March 2:	SPRING BREAK
Week of March 9:	The Plural Executive, Boards, Commissions, and Interest Groups, Political Parties and Elections
Week of March 16:	Review and 2nd Exam
Week of March 23:	The Judicial Branch, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
Week of March 30:	Texas Government Policy related to Healthcare, Education, Drugs and Crime <u>Part II of Project Due</u>

Week of April 6: Texas Government Policy related to Environment,
Agriculture and Immigration

Week of April 13: Review and 3rd Exam

Week of April 20: Texas vs. The National Government in the Supreme
Court / Public Opinion and the Media

Week of April 27: The Current Legislative Session: Issues and Action

Week of May 4: Review and Final Examination

FINAL EXAMINATION: 7:00 A.M. MAY 6 AND 7