

**Federal Government 2305 – Summer 1**  
**Sul Ross State University**  
**SYLLABUS**

**Section:** W01

**Professor:** Dr. Tiffany Vincent

**Office Hours:** Available via email.

**Email:** tiffany.vincent@sulross.edu

***Attention!*** Please be aware that this is an **INTERNET** course. Students are required to participate and complete the online requirements of this course. Keep in mind that your computer problems are **NOT** an excuse for any lack of completion of course material. **YOU** will need to maintain access to a reliable internet connection. Keep in mind that there are computers available for your use on the Sul Ross Campus.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

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 both 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, 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

**TEXTBOOK (Required):**

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

**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 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 may be arranged.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS & IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

As an internet course, this class is available to you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (including weekends and holidays). As such, there are **NO EXCUSES** for any lack of completion of course material. Again, **YOU are responsible for maintaining a reliable internet connection**. Keep in mind there are computers available for your use on the Sul Ross Campus. I am not responsible for any technological glitches that may occur in the online environment. If you encounter difficulty or have questions regarding these types of issues please contact the technical support office at (432.837.8888) or go online to <http://www.sulross.edu/ltac>

**\*The material that you will be tested on in this course will come from the required textbook.**

Sul Ross State University does **not** tolerate cheating, plagiarism, or collusion. Procedures for dealing with these acts are outlined in the Scholastic Dishonesty Policy.

**CIVILITY STATEMENT:**

In the classroom environment I hold each of you accountable for both your actions and words. Therefore, you should 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, including 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.

**Note:** This does apply to this internet class.

**GRADING CRITERIA:**

**EXAMS-** The student will complete 3 examinations. *ALL exams* will cover material from the textbook. Each exam is 50 questions multiple choice. Additionally, each exam covers material only for that section. For example, Exam 1 covers the material listed below under 'Section 1' which will include chapters 1-5. Exam 2 covers material in 'Section 2' which includes chapters 6-11. Exam 3 covers material in 'Section 3' which includes chapters 12-18 (see course schedule on the next page). **Each exam has a time limit of 1 hr. 20 minutes. Exams will be due at 11:55 p.m. on the day in which they are assigned (exams are not available for you to take until the day they are assigned/due--see course schedule next page). This means that you will have 1 day (24 hrs.) to log in and take the exam. Missed exams will result in a grade of zero. Exam deadlines are inflexible and absolute – no excuses.**

**DISCUSSION BOARD POSTS/QUIZZES-** The student will also complete several discussion board posts, which will count as quizzes over the material covered from the textbook. These quizzes will consist of a short answer/essay format. I will post a discussion question at the beginning of each section, and you will have several days to think about and construct your answers. You will have 1 discussion board post per section for a total of 3. **You will have several days to write/complete your discussion board post/quiz but each quiz will be due the day BEFORE THE EXAM BECOMES AVAILABLE.** For example, I will post the discussion question for Section 1 on Day 1 (Wednesday, May 31<sup>st</sup>)--- the question will most likely encompass several concepts for section 1, so you may not want to answer it right away until you have completed the required readings for Section 1. For example, our first exam will be on Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>; therefore you must complete the discussion board post/quiz for Section 1 BY TUESDAY, JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup> AT 11:55 p.m. All important announcements and reminders will be posted in the 'Course Announcements' section of the class home page in Blackboard.

**\*NOTE:** There are no study guides for this course, however, though not required—I *strongly* encourage you to complete the 'study guide' at the end of each chapter to ensure that you have grasped the major terms and concepts of the material. This will be helpful in your preparation for both exams AND quizzes.

**GRADING SCALE:**

- 60% Exams (3 exams worth 20% each)
- 40% Quizzes
- \*There is NO EXTRA CREDIT for this course, so please do not ask.

This course follows the traditional percentage based grading system below.

- A: 100-90
- B: 89-80
- C: 79-70
- D: 69-60
- F: 59 & below.

**Course Content/Class Schedule:**

DAY	TOPICS COVERED
<b>SECTION 1</b>	
Wednesday, May 31 <sup>st</sup>	Introduction to Course and Political Culture (Ch. 1)
Thursday, June 1 <sup>st</sup>	Constitution (Ch. 2)
Friday, June 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Federalism (Ch. 3)
Monday, June 5 <sup>th</sup>	Civil Liberties (Ch. 4)
Tuesday, June 6 <sup>th</sup>	Civil Rights (Ch. 5) *Section 1 discussion board post due today by 11:55 p.m.
<b>Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Exam 1 (covering section 1)</b>
<b>SECTION 2</b>	
Thursday, June 8 <sup>th</sup>	Public Opinion (Ch. 6)
Friday, June 9 <sup>th</sup>	The Media (Ch. 7)
Monday, June 12 <sup>th</sup>	Participation and Voting (Ch. 8)
Tuesday, June 13 <sup>th</sup>	Political Parties (Ch. 9)
Wednesday, June 14 <sup>th</sup>	Campaigns and Elections (Ch. 10)
Thursday, June 15 <sup>th</sup>	Interest Groups (Ch. 11) *Section 2 discussion board post due today by 11:55 p.m.
<b>Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Exam 2 (covering section 2)</b>
<b>SECTION 3</b>	
Monday, June 19 <sup>th</sup>	Congress (Ch. 12)
Tuesday, June 20 <sup>th</sup>	Congress Cont.
Wednesday, June 21 <sup>st</sup>	The Presidency (Ch. 13)
Thursday, June 22 <sup>nd</sup>	The Bureaucracy (Ch. 14)
Friday, June 23 <sup>rd</sup>	The Courts (Ch. 15)
Monday, June 26 <sup>th</sup>	The Courts Cont.
Tuesday, June 27 <sup>th</sup>	Economic Policy (Ch. 16)
Wednesday, June 28 <sup>th</sup>	Social Policy (Ch. 17)
Thursday, June 29 <sup>th</sup>	Foreign Policy (Ch. 18)
<b>Friday, June 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Exam 3 (covering section 3)</b> <b>Your Final Exam is this third exam</b> *Section 3 discussion board post also due today by 11:55 p.m.

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