

**Federal Government 2305  
Mid-Winter 2019  
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, 2014. 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 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. You will have 1 discussion board post per section for a total of 3. **You will have a couple of days to write/complete your discussion board post/quiz but each quiz will be due the day BEFORE THE EXAM BECOMES AVAILABLE.** For example, our first exam will be on Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>; therefore you must complete the discussion board post/quiz for Section 1 BY MONDAY, January 7<sup>th</sup> AT 11:55 p.m. At the end of the semester I will drop your *lowest quiz grade*. 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>	
Thursday, January 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Introduction to Course and Political Culture (Ch. 1) & The Constitution (Ch. 2)
Friday, January 4 <sup>th</sup>	Federalism (Ch. 3) & Civil Liberties (Ch. 4)
Monday, January 7 <sup>th</sup>	Civil Rights (Ch. 5) & *Section 1 discussion board post due today by 11:55 p.m.
<b>Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Exam 1 (covering section 1—chapters 1-5)</b> * <i>After</i> you complete your exam, begin reading Chapter 6 in your textbook (Public Opinion) for Section 2
<b>SECTION 2</b>	
Wednesday, January 9 <sup>th</sup>	The Media (Ch. 7) & Participation and Voting (Ch. 8)
Thursday, January 10 <sup>th</sup>	Political Parties (Ch. 9) & Campaigns and Elections (Ch. 10)
Friday, January 11 <sup>th</sup>	Interest Groups (Ch. 11) *Section 2 discussion board post due today by 11:55 p.m.
<b>Monday, January 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Exam 2 (covering section 2—chapters 6-11)</b> * <i>After</i> you complete your exam, begin reading Chapter 12 in your textbook (Congress) for Section 3
<b>SECTION 3</b>	
Tuesday, January 15 <sup>th</sup>	The Presidency (Ch. 13) & The Bureaucracy (Ch. 14) & The Courts (Ch. 15)
Wednesday, January 16 <sup>th</sup>	Economic Policy (Ch. 16) & Social Policy (Ch. 17) & Foreign Policy (Ch. 18) *Section 3 discussion board post due today by 11:55 p.m.
<b>Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Exam 3 (covering section 3—chapters 12-18)</b> <b>Your Final Exam is this third exam</b>

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