

SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY

Federal Government

Fall, 2019

Political Science 2305

Federal Government

Lawrence Hall 309

6:00 p.m.-8:50 p.m.

Tuesdays

Instructor: Jim Case
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Office Hours: 2-3:00 p.m. M-Th
and by appointment
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Required texts: Christine Barbour and Gerald C. Wright, *Keeping the Republic: Power and Citizenship in American Politics* (CQ Press, 7th edition, 2015). ISBN—13:9781483352725.

Course description: Political Science 2305, Federal Government, is an introduction to the governmental institutions and governmental/political processes of the United States of America. The course will begin with an introduction to political theory. Political Science 2305 is required to meet core curriculum requirements.

Student learning outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Demonstrate a basic understanding of selected concepts of selected political philosophers;
- Demonstrate an understanding of the major institutions of U. S. government and the processes associated with the institutions;
- Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between governmental institutions and politically relevant non-governmental groups, e.g., political parties, the media, interest groups;
- Demonstrate an understanding of selected policy challenges facing the United States government.

Core Curriculum Objectives:

- To develop and promote an awareness of the importance of social responsibility, personal responsibility, critical thinking, and communication.

Program learning outcomes:

- 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 and oral communication;
- Demonstrate the ability to develop arguments about global equity and equality issues in politics through written work and oral communication.

Teacher certification requirements.

Political Science 2305 addresses the following competencies for teacher certification:

- Texas Domain III, Competency 19: The teacher understands and applies social science knowledge and skills to plan, organize, and implement learning 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 evaluation.

- Unit Examinations. There will be four unit examinations. The examinations will be comprised of a multiple choice section that will be administered in-class and an essay portion that will be an out-of-class assignment. Due dates for the essays will be announced at the time of the examination. The material covered on the exams will be from the text and from the class discussions (60%);
- There will be a comprehensive final examination given at the end of the semester during Final Exam week (30%);
- There will be a series of very brief paragraph assignments in which the student will be asked to bring information to help develop the class period. Examples are “Why Government,” “Authoritarian Leaders,” and “News Commentators” (10%).

Attendance.

Be here. Because much of the information I discuss in class is not directly from the textbook, you will miss out on the information if you are not in class which will make it more difficult to do well.

Disabilities Accommodation.

It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities. If you would like to request such accommodation because of a physical, mental, or learning disability, please contact Accessibilities Services Coordinator, in Ferguson 112 or at (432) 837-8203.

Calendar for Course			
Date	Topic of the day	Assignment	Comments
August 27	Course overview	Paragraph on Why Government [What do you expect of government?]	Introduction to the course
	Why government?		

September 3	Politics and Political Culture	Chapter 1, Politics: Who gets What, and How? Chapter 2, American Citizens and Political Culture	
	Creating the Union	Chapter 3, Politics of the American Founding	
September 10	The U. S. Constitution	Chapter 4, Federalism and the U. S. Constitution	

	The U. S. Constitution	Chapter 16, State and Local Politics in a Federal Setting	This chapter deals with federalism as well, so to save a little time, we are integrating Chapters 4 and 16.
September 17	The U. S. Constitution	Chapter 5, Fundamental American Liberties	
	The U. S. Constitution	Chapter 6, The Struggle for Equal Rights	
September 24	Exam I		The essay portion of the exam will be done outside of class.
	Branches of Government: Congress	Chapter 7, Congress	
October 1	Branches of Government: Congress	Chapter 7, Congress	
	Branches of Government: The Executive	Chapter 8, The Presidency	
October 8	Branches of Government: The Executive	Chapter 8, The Presidency	
	Branches of Government: The Executive	Chapter 9, The Bureaucracy	

October 15	Branches of Government: The Judiciary	Chapter 10, The American Legal System and the Courts	
October 22	Exam II		The essay portion of the exam will be done outside of class.
	Public Opinion	Chapter 11, Public Opinion	
October 29	Political Parties	Chapter 12, Political Parties	
	Elections	Chapter 14, Voting, Campaigns, and Elections	I want to integrate the chapter on elections with the chapter on political parties.
November 5	Interest Groups	Chapter 13, Interest Groups	
	The Media	Chapter 15, The Media	
November 12	Exam III		The essay portion of the exam will be done outside of class.
	Policy: Social and Environmental Policy	Chapter 17, Social and Environmental Policy	
November 19	Policy: Economic Policy	Chapter 18, Economic Policy	
	Policy: Foreign Policy	Chapter 19: Foreign Policy	
November 26	Foreign Policy: Case Study		
November 28	Thanksgiving Holiday		
December 3	Exam IV		The essay portion of the exam will be done outside of class.
Monday, December 10, 6:00 p.m.	Final Exam		
December 13, 7:00 p.m.	Graduation		