

Course Syllabus: Political Science 3302: WO1/ American Constitutional Law

Spring 2020-Sul Ross State University

Dr. Mark Saad Saka

Course Objectives

Welcome to Constitutional Law. This class will cover a wide range of topics in constitutional law, including our constitutional structure, the scope of federal powers, the separation of powers, the 14th Amendment's Due Process and Equal Protection clauses, individual liberty, federalism, the First Amendment speech and religion clauses, the Second Amendment, the Supreme Court, and many other topics.

This course is also an examination of the structures of government that emerge from the United States Constitution. Major themes of the course include federalism, separation of powers, the role of the courts, and Reconstruction. Topics of particular focus include judicial review, the executive and legislative powers, interstate commerce, state sovereign immunity, federal preemption, and the Fourteenth Amendment. We also will address certain individual constitutional rights

Learning Objectives and Outcomes

This course aims to ensure that you:

1. Deepen your understanding of American structures of government and how the United States Constitution divides governmental power;
2. Develop an understanding of key constitutional law concepts that speak to the structures of American government, including federalism, separation of powers, the role of the courts, and the Fourteenth Amendment;
3. Engage in legal analysis and reasoning needed for problem solving in the constitutional law arena; and Communicate effectively in writing and orally on constitutional law matters.

Course Requirements

There are a number of requirements for the successful completion of this course.

1. In the first week of class—or before---send me an email through the Sul Ross email server and let me know that you have read the syllabus and that you understand the requirements for the course and have obtained the books or are in the process of obtaining the book. You will also agree to maintain semi-regular contact with me, when I do not hear for a student in a number of weeks I cannot be expected to figure out what the problem is, it is up to you to maintain contact with me, I can only meet you half-way.
2. You are required to read the books, and write weekly summaries of the readings and submit those reviews through Blackboard. The reviews should be five pages per assignment, and provide a summary of the readings as well as an analysis of why it is important to American Constitutional Law.
3. Each assignment is worth 100 points; For each assignment; 90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; 0-59=F.

4. At the end of the course, you will have a potential of 1500 points; 1,350-1500 =A; 1,200-1499=B; 1,050-1,199=C; 900-1049=D; 0-1,899=F.
5. The reviews will be weekly reading assignment and written chapter and topical reviews due weekly. The date of the assignment is listed below. At the end of the course, you will write a 12 to 15 page research paper on a topic pertaining to the American presidency. ' The reviews must be double-spaced, and formatted according to APA, MLA, or Chicago style. Please see (https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html) for templates for each format ' The reviews must be written in a college/professional level tone and style. (It is strongly recommended that you make use of appropriate resources, including the writing center.)

Program Learning Outcomes (Political Science):

The graduating student will: • 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. Public Policy Fall 2019: PS 3303 PS 2306 | Fall 2019 | Velasco | Sul Ross State University 2 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

Required Reading

American Constitutional Law: Introductory Essays and Selected Cases, 16th edition. By Alpheus Thomas Mason and Donald Grier Stephenson, Jr. Pearson Press, ISBN # 978-0-205-108992.

The book is available through the Sul Ross Bookstore, make sure you get the 16th edition and not the 17th edition (which costs \$150.00 more)

Course Outline

January 13-- send me an email through the Sul Ross email server and let me know that you have read the syllabus-- and that you understand the requirements for the course and have obtained the books or are in the process of obtaining the book.

Jan. 20-Introduction and Chapter One due

Jan. 27-Chapter Two due

Feb. 03-Chapter Three due

Feb. 10-Chapter Four due

Feb. 17-Chapter Five due

Feb. 24-Chapter Six Due

Mar. 02-Chapter Seven due

Mar. 09-Chapter Eight due

Mar. 16-Chapter Nine due

Mar. 23-Chapter Ten due

Mar. 30-Chapter Eleven due

Apr. 06-Chapter Twelve due

Apr. 13-Chapter Thirteen due

Apr. 20-Chapter Fourteen due

Apr. 27-Chapter Fifteen due

ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act): Sul Ross State 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 who need accessibility services should contact Kathy Biddick at 830-279-3003. The address is 2623 Garner Field Road, Uvalde, TX 78801.

Marketable Skills—Undergraduate Political Science Majors

- Students can effectively communicate ideas and information verbally, visually, and in writing
 - Students can organize and execute verbal and written presentations of complex social issues.
- Students can distinguish between credible/relevant information and information lacking credibility/relevance (to a problem in question?)
- Students can identify critical and common institutions of political decision-making and policy-making across different nation-state settings
- Students engage with social and political problems and use critical thinking to develop logical solutions

DIS TANCE EDUCATION STATEMENT

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, library resources, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should submit online assignments through Blackboard or SRSU email, which require secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. The procedures for 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.