



## Syllabus

<b>COURSE AND CONTACT INFORMATION</b>
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Course Prefix, Number & Name:	21577 PS 2305:001 Federal Government
Semester:	Spring 2020
Credit Hours:	3.000 Credit Hours 3.000 Lecture Hours
Class Meeting Day & Time:	M-W-F LH 309 11:00 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.
Mode of Delivery:	Face to Face
Instructor Name:	John J. Smietana, Jr.
Office Location:	LH 202
Office Telephone Number:	432-837-8464
Campus Email Address:	jsmi3241@sulross.edu
Alternative Contact Information:	By Appointment

### Office Hours

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
930a-1030a and 1200p – 100p		930a – 1030a and 1200p -100p		930a-1030a 1200p-100p

### Course Description

The federal government: the branches of government, how the institutions of the federal government have developed, and their effect on public policy. We look at the Constitution, American adversarial political culture and the commitment to freedom and limited government.

### Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Identify and explain the three branches of the federal government..
2. Discuss the Constitution and how it establishes government and limits power.
3. Explain and discuss the concepts of federalism.
4. Explain the impact of American Political Culture on the government.
5. Explain and discuss Civil Liberties and how they relate to the Constitution.
6. Discuss the issue of civil rights.

## **Program Learning Outcomes (Political Science)**

The graduating student will:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of significant theoretical approaches of political science through written work and oral communication.
2. Demonstrate the ability to analyze domestic and international political processes in written work.
3. Demonstrate the ability to develop arguments about global equity and equality issues in politics through written work and oral communication.

## **Marketable Skills**

- Students can effectively communicate ideas and information verbally, visually, and in writing
- Students can distinguish between credible/relevant information and information lacking credibility/relevance
- Students can identify critical and common institutions of political decision-making and policy-making across different nation-state settings
- Students can engage with social and political problems and use critical thinking to develop logical solutions

## **Core Competencies**

1. Personal Responsibility: Students will develop principles of personal responsibility for living in a diverse world; to include intercultural competency, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities.
2. Social Responsibility: Students will develop principles of social responsibility for living in a diverse world, to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

## **Required Course Materials**

### **Required Textbook or Textbooks**

Textbook Title: American Government: Institutions and Policies

Textbook Author: Wilson, Dilulio, Jr., Bose, and Levendusky

Textbook Publisher: Cengage Learning

Textbook Edition/Year: 16<sup>th</sup> Edition

Textbook ISBN#: 978-1-337-56843-2

### **Required Publisher Resources**

None

### **Other Required Materials**

None

## **Communications**

This is a face to face class and I encourage you to speak with me in class. I am also available by email at [jsmi3241@sulross.edu](mailto:jsmi3241@sulross.edu). Office telephone, 837-8464

Students should expect a timely response to email questions and prompt grading and posting of assignments. Unless an announcement is posted indicating my lack of availability, you should receive a response to your email within 24-36 hours. If you haven't received a response within 36 hours, please email again just in case I overlooked it.

You can visit me at my office located at LH202. My office hours are posted above or by appointment.

## **Grading Policy/Course Measurements**

Face-to-face classes meet for three hours a week, and that amount of time does not include the time devoted to outside assignments. You should expect to spend six or more hours per week on reading and working on assignments for this course.

### **Assignments/TESTS will be posted in Blackboard and submitted in Blackboard.**

You will have from Thursday at 4p until Monday at 11:30p of the next week to complete most assignments. That is four days! Do not wait until the last minute to submit your assignments!!! Sometimes Blackboard is down due to regular maintenance and other issues, which means it may not be available during the time you want it to be. In addition, your computer or internet connection may not be working when you need them to be. Give yourself plenty of time to submit your assignments. You are required to print out and bring a copy of your work to the next class after the submission date.

Testing and grading will be based on the following:

Six Learning Assignments/tests each worth 30 points.

Mid-term exam – The mid-term is worth 150 points.

Final exam – The final is worth 150 points.

Class Participation – Participation is worth 70 points.

Extra Credit: None

Your assignments/test will be graded on completeness, content, grammar, spelling, the use of page numbers (citations) and the following of instructions.

**Grading Scale:**

GRADE	PERCENTAGE	POINTS
A	90% - 100%	495 - 550
B	80% - 89%	440 - 494
C	70% - 79%	385 - 439
D	60% - 69%	330 - 384
F	Below 60%	≤329

**Course Measurements:**

Assignments/Tests	180 points (6 Assignments/test at 30points)	Submitted in Blackboard
Mid-term Exam	150 points (1 Exam 150 points)	In Class
Final Exam	150 points (1Exam 150 points)	In Class
Participation	70 points (attendance and class participation 70 points)	

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Total 550 points

**Mid-Term Exam will be Wednesday 03/04/2020 in class at normal class time.**

**Final exams scheduled during finals week.**

**Late Work**

Assignments are due when they are due. Assignment due dates will be clearly stated in the Course Schedule. To receive full credit for an assignment, you must turn it in when it is due. However, you will be allowed a grace period of 24 hours from the time of an assignment due date if you advise me in advance of any delay. If you submit an assignment during this grace period and have not received approval from me (generally until we review the material in the next class), you will receive credit for the assignment, but thirty percent will be deducted from your assignment grade.

If there are extenuating circumstances (car accident, death in the family, bear attack, etc.) that prevent you from submitting an assignment on time, please let me know at least two hours before the assignment is due via email. Understand that since most assignments are due by 11:30p on Monday night, I may not respond immediately to your email. You might not receive a response until the following day.

**Extra Credit**

No extra assignments will be given at any time during the semester to “bring up your grade!” Work diligently from the beginning and complete every assignment as if *it* is worth extra points that will raise your grade!

## COURSE POLICIES

### **Academic Integrity**

Faculty expects students to demonstrate integrity in their academic work. Sul Ross State University does not tolerate cheating, plagiarism, or collusion. Procedures for dealing with these acts are outlined in the Scholastic Dishonesty Policy. We will use SafeAssign plagiarism software for your submission in Blackboard.

I expect you to do your own work. If you are caught cheating or fail to credit others with work you will be given a 0 grade on the topic for the first offense. A 2<sup>nd</sup> offense is a failure in the course.

### **Attendance Policy**

You are required to attend class. You may be dropped from the class for 9 unexcused absences. Your attendance and how you participate in class are recorded in the participation part of your grade.

### **Classroom Policies**

No cell phone, smart phone or on line activity is allowed during class. Students are required to silence and store devices. No devices are to be present during mid-term or final. If I see one you get a 0 on the exam. Classes will be conducted in an orderly and civil manner. Students will conduct themselves accordingly and will treat each other and instructor with respect. Outbursts and disruptions will result in the deduction of 25 points from the final grade on the first offense and a failing grade in the class for any additional violation.

### **Netiquette**

Netiquette, or internet etiquette, are guidelines for maintaining civil and professional communication in an online environment, which includes participation in coursework and email exchanges. Written communication will be conducted using appropriate netiquette and using standard business English.

Here are a few basic guidelines:

- Be polite and respectful
- Do not use ALL CAPS in the online environment as this is considered “shouting.”
- Keep comments and questions relevant to the discussion. Do not reply to comments or questions that are inappropriate or off topic.
- Model the same manners online as you would when speaking to someone in person

**Failure to follow these rules will result in a grade of 0 for the particular week that the incident occurs.**

## SUPPORT SERVICES

### Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a Federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the ADA Coordinator.

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 seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartz in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-171, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832, Telephone Number 432-837-8203.

## TECHNOLOGY

### Course Technology Requirements

Some assignments may require access to the online learning management system (Blackboard). You are responsible for having access to a computer and to a reliable Internet source.

Assignment/Tests will use Microsoft word. If you do not have this program please contact Sul Ross IT for assistance in obtaining a copy. **You are required to use Microsoft word. Failure to do so may result in a 0.**

## COURSE CALENDAR

### COURSE SCHEDULE\*

#### Course Level Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Identify and explain the three branches of the federal government.
2. Discuss the Constitution and how it establishes government and limits power.
3. Explain and discuss the concepts of federalism.
4. Explain the impact of American Political Culture on the government.
5. Explain and Discuss Civil Liberties and how they relate to the Constitution.
6. Discuss the issue of civil rights.

### COURSE SCHEDULE\*

DATE	TOPICS COVERED	CLASS PREPARATION	ASSIGNMENT	DATE DUE
Week 1 01/12 – 01/18	The Study of American Government	Read Chapter 1	Introductions and expectations	
Week 2 01/19 – 01/25	The Constitution	Read Chapters 2	Assignment/Test 1 opens 01/23	
Week 3 01/26 – 02/01	Federalism	Read Chapter 3	<b>Assignment/Test 1 Due 01/27</b>	<b>01/27</b>
Week 4 02/02 – 02/08	American Political Culture	Read Chapter 4	Assignment/Test 2 opens 02/06	
Week 5 02/09 – 02/15	Civil Liberties/Civil Rights	Read Chapter 5&6	<b>Assignment/Test 2 Due 02/10</b>	<b>02/10</b>
Week 6 02/16 – 02/22	Public Opinion	Read Chapter 7	Assignment/Test 3 Opens 02/20	
Week 7 02/23 – 02/29	Political Participation	Read Chapter 8	<b>Assignment/Test 3 Due 02/24</b>	<b>02/24</b>
Week 8 03/01 – 03/07	Political Parties	Read Chapter 9	Midterm Exam 03/04 in class	
Week 9 03/08 – 03/14	SPRING BREAK		SPRING BREAK	
Week 10 03/15 – 03/21	Elections and Campaigns	Read Chapter 10	Assignment/Test 4 Opens 03/19	
Week 11 03/22 – 03/28	Interest Groups/The Media	Read Chapters 11/12	<b>Assignment/Test 4 Due 03/23</b>	<b>03/23</b>
Week 12 03/29 – 04/04	Congress	Read Chapters 13	Assignment/Test 5 Opens 04/02	
Week 13 04/05 – 04/11	The Presidency	Read Chapter 14	<b>Assignment/Test 5 Due 04/06</b>	<b>04/06</b>
Week 14 04/12 – 04/18	The Bureaucracy	Read Chapter 15	Assignment/Test 6 Opens 04/16	
Week 15 04/19 – 04/25	The Judiciary	Read Chapters 16	<b>Assignment/Test 6 Due 04/20</b>	<b>04/20</b>
Week 16 04/26 – 05/02	Review	Review	Final	
FINALS WEEK				

\*The instructor reserves the right to alter this calendar in any way during the semester with full disclosure to the student.