



Syllabus

COURSE AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Course Prefix, Number & Name:	PS 2305:001 Federal Government CRN 11749, 11750, 11751
Semester:	Fall 2020
Credit Hours:	3.000 Credit Hours 3.000 Lecture Hours
Class Meeting Day & Time:	M-W-F Morelock Academic 205 11:00a-11:50a
Mode of Delivery:	Face to Face/Video
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

Teamwork: Students will develop teamwork skills to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.

Communication: Students will develop communication skills to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.

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: 16th Edition

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

Required Publisher Resources

None

Other Required Materials

None

Communications

This is a face to face/live video class and I encourage you to speak with me in class. I am also available by email at 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)	
Participation	70 points (attendance and class participation 70 points)	

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 2nd 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

SRSU Disability Services:

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973.

It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Rebecca Greathouse Wren, LPC-S, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203 (please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can during working hours), or email rebecca.wren@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

SRSU Library Services

The Sul Ross Library offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu. Off-campus access requires your LoboID and password. Check out materials using your photo ID. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or phone (432-837-8123).

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 08/24 – 08/29	The Study of American Government	Read Chapter 1	Introductions and expectations	
Week 2 08/30 – 09/05	The Constitution	Read Chapters 2	Assignment/Test 1 opens 09/03	
Week 3 09/06 – 09/12	Federalism	Read Chapter 3	Assignment/Test 1 Due 09/07	09/07
Week 4 09/13 – 09/19	American Political Culture	Read Chapter 4	Assignment/Test 2 opens 09/17	
Week 5 09/20 – 09/26	Civil Liberties/Civil Rights	Read Chapter 5&6	Assignment/Test 2 Due 09/21	09/21
Week 6 09/27 – 10/03	Public Opinion	Read Chapter 7	Assignment/Test 3 Opens 10/01	
Week 7 10/04 – 10/10	Political Participation	Read Chapter 8	Assignment/Test 3 Due 10/05	10/05
Week 8 10/11 – 10/17	Political Parties	Read Chapter 9	Midterm Exam	
Week 9 10/18 – 10/24	Elections and campaigns	Read Chapter 10	Assignment/Test 4 Opens 10/22	
Week 10 10/25 – 10/31	Interest Groups/The Media	Read Chapters 11/12	Assignment Test 4 Due 10/26	10/26
Week 11 11/01 – 11/07	Congress	Read Chapter 13	Assignment/Test 5 Opens 11/05	
Week 12 11/08 – 11/14	The Presidency	Read Chapter 14	Assignment Test 5 Due 11/09	11/09
Week 13 11/15 – 11/21	The Bureaucracy	Read Chapter 15	Assignment/Test 6 Opens 11/19	
Week 14 11/22 – 11/28			Thanksgiving Break	
Week 15 11/29 – 12/05	The Judiciary	Read Chapters 16	Assignment/Test 6 Due 11/30	11/30
Week 16 12/06 – 12/09	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.