

SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY

Federal Government

Fall, 2020

Political Science 2305.W02

Federal Government

Instructor: Jim Case
Telephone: 432-837-8468
Office: Lawrence Hall 210

Office Hours: 2-3:00 p.m. M-Th
and by appointment
E-mail: jcase@sulross.edu

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.

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.

Course evaluation.

- Unit Examinations. There will be three 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 lectures. The lowest of the three unit exams will be dropped from the exam average;
- Make-up Exams will be given the last day of class;
- There will be a comprehensive final examination given at the end of the semester during Final Exam week. The final exam will be given to students who wish to raise their course averages;
- 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—or Course Progress.

I recommend logging in every week to stay current with the course.

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.

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).

Distance 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

Calendar for Course			
Date	Topic of the week	Assignment	Comments
August 24	Course overview	Essay on Why Government [What do you expect of government?]	Introduction to the course; The essay assignment is due on August 31.
August 31	The Déjà vu of Political Philosophy	Essay on the Noble Lie	I want us to relate your political thought to the political thought of a few of history's significant political philosophers; The Essay on the Noble Lie is due Monday, September 14.
September 7	Labor Day Also, Conceptualizing "Politics" and Political Culture	Read: Chapter 1, Politics: Who gets What, and How? And Chapter 2, American Citizens and Political Culture	
September 14	The Vox Populi: Public Opinion, Interest Groups and the Media	Chapter 11, Public Opinion Chapter 15, The Media Chapter 13, Interest Groups Also, View clips of prominent U. S. News Commentators	
September 21	The Vox Populi: Political Parties and Elections	Chapter 12, Political Parties Chapter 14, Voting, Campaigns, and Elections Also, visit political party websites; Essay on Voter Suppression	The Essay on Voter Suppression is due Monday, September 28.

September 28	Exam I		The Exam is due Monday, October 5
October 5	The U. S. Constitution	Chapter 3, Politics of the American Founding Chapter 4, Federalism and the U. S. Constitution Also, Exploring the Constitution Assignment; Also, Essay on the Mayflower Compact	Exploring the U. S. Constitution Assignment is due Monday, October 12; Essay on the Mayflower Compact is due, Monday, October 12.
October 12	The U. S. Constitution	Chapter 16, State and Local Politics in a Federal Setting; Also, Forgotten Governments: Native American Tribal and Territorial governments.	
October 19	The U. S. Constitution	Chapter 5, Fundamental American Liberties Also, Essay on the Supreme Court Case, Korematsu v. United States, 1944 Case Chapter 6, The Struggle for Equal Rights	Essay on the Korematsu Case is due Monday, October 26.
October 26	Exam II		The Exam is due November 2
November 2	Branches of Government: Congress	Chapter 7, Congress	
November 9	Branches of Government: The Executive	Chapter 8, The Presidency Chapter 9, The Bureaucracy Also, Essay on the Electoral College	Essay on the Electoral College is due Monday, November 16.
November 16	Branches of Government: The Executive	Chapter 19: Foreign Policy	
November 23	Branches of Government: The Judiciary	Chapter 10, The American Legal System and the Courts	
November 30	Exam III		The Exam is due December 7
December 3	Dead Day		
December 7	Final		
December 11	Graduation	7:00 p.m.	