

SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY

Federal Government

Spring 2021

Political Science 2305.W01

Federal Government

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

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

Required texts: No text required. If you do want to have a text as a reference, I recommend Christine Barbour's and Gerald C. Wright's, *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

- Develop communication skills to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual 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 003 (Geography & Culture):
The teacher understands and applies knowledge of geographic relationships involving people, place, and environments in Texas, the United States, and the world: the teacher also understands and applies knowledge of cultural development, adaptation, diversity, and interactions among science, technology, and society.
- Texas Domain III Competency 004 (Economics):
The teacher understands and applies knowledge of economic systems and how people organize economic systems to produce, distribute, and consume goods and services.
- Texas Domain III Competency 005 (Government & Citizenship):
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.

Students who are considering teacher certification in Early Childhood-6th Grade will create a portfolio of the three unit exams, including essays and narrative analysis of topics, to present to the SRSU Teacher Certification Officer to verify academic mastery of competencies.

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 of equal weight. There will be a series of narrative assignments for the student to submit which are incorporated into the unit exams.

Attendance—or Course Progress.

- Refer to university policy.

Distance Education Statement.

- Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as Smarthinking, library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires 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.

Blackboard Technical Support.

- SRSU 24/7 Blackboard Technical Support Online Support Desk Contact Info: Toll Free: 888.837.6055. Email: blackboardsupport@sulross.edu

Disabilities Accommodation.

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. Students with qualifying disabilities who seek accommodations must initiate a request for a meeting for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Rebecca Greathouse Wren, M.Ed., LPC-S, Counseling & Accessibility Services, Telephone: 432-837-8203, or E-mail: rebecca.wren@sulross.edu.

For more information see: <https://www.sulross.edu/page/1384/accessibility-services>

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).

Calendar for Course PS 2305.W01 Federal Government Spring 2021			
Date	Topic of the week	Assignment	Comments
January 11	Course overview	Essay on Why Government [What do you expect of government?]	Introduction to the course; The essay assignment is due on January 19.
January 18	Martin Luther King Day. Also, The Déjà vu of Political Philosophy	Response to questions about the documentary <i>Eyes on the Prize</i> . The price of standing against racism.	I want you to view episode one of the documentary series, <i>Eyes on the Prize</i> , as our way of remembering the sacrifices of Dr. King and all those who have taken a stand against cruelty and injustice. I then want you to answer the questions I have posted about the documentary. This essay is due Monday, February 1.

		Also, Essay on the Noble Lie	Also, 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, January 25.
January 25	Conceptualizing "Politics" and Political Culture	Chapter 1, Politics: Who gets What, and How? And Chapter 2, American Citizens and Political Culture	
February 1	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	
February 8	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, February 15.
February 15	Exam I		The Exam is due Monday, February 22
February 22	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, March 1; Essay on the Mayflower Compact is due, Monday, March 1.
March 1	The U. S. Constitution	Chapter 16, State and Local Politics in a Federal Setting; Also, Forgotten Governments: Native American Tribal and Territorial governments.	
March 8-12	Spring Break		

March 15	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, March 22.
March 22	Exam II		The Exam is due Monday, March 29
March 29	Branches of Government: Congress	Chapter 7, Congress	
April 5	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, April 12
April 12	Branches of Government: The Executive	Chapter 19: Foreign Policy	
April 19	Branches of Government: The Judiciary	Chapter 10, The American Legal System and the Courts	
April 26	Exam III		The Exam is due Monday, May 3
April 29	Dead Day		
May 3	Exam III due		
May 7	Graduation		