

SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY

Federal Government

Fall 2021

Political Science 2305.002

Federal Government

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Office Hours: 2-3:00 p.m. M-Th
10-11:00 a.m. Friday
and by appointment

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 critical thinking skills.

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 (if no answer, leave a message and your call will be returned as soon as possible during work hours), or E-mail: rebecca.wren@sulross.edu. Disability Services are located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112). The 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).

Academic Integrity.

Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. A scholar is expected to be punctual, prepared, and focused; meaningful and pertinent participation is appreciated. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to: Turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden.

Classroom Climate of Respect.

Importantly, this class will foster free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas. This means that all of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment, or personal attack. No one is entitled to harass, belittle, or discriminate against another on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. Still we will not be silenced by the difficulty of fruitfully discussing politically sensitive issues.

Diversity Statement.

University education at its best supports and encourages diversity of thoughts, perspectives and experiences, and values diverse identities (including race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability, socioeconomic class, age, and nationality). The diversity in this classroom is an asset in the study of politics.

**Calendar for Course
PS 2305.002
Federal Government
Fall 2021**

| Date | Topic of the week | Assignment | Comments |
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| August 23 | Course overview | Essay on Why Government [What do you expect of government?] | Introduction to the course; The essay assignment is due on Wednesday, August 25. |
| August 27 August 30 September 1 September 3 | 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 Wednesday, September 8. |
| September 6 | Labor Day | | |
| September 8 September 10 | Conceptualizing "Politics" and Political Culture | Chapter 1, Politics: Who gets What, and How? And Chapter 2, American Citizens and Political Culture | |
| September 13 September 15 September 17 | 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 20 September 22 September 24 | 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 27. |
| September 27 September 29 October 1 | Exam I | | The Exam is due Monday, October 4 |
| October 4 October 6 October 8 | The U. S. Constitution | Chapter 3, Politics of the American Founding Chapter 4, Federalism and the U. S. Constitution Also, Exploring the Constitution Assignment; | Exploring the U. S. Constitution Assignment is due Monday, October 11; Essay on the Mayflower Compact is due, Monday, October 11. |

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| | | Also, Essay on the Mayflower Compact | |
| October 11 October 13 October 15 | The U. S. Constitution | Chapter 16, State and Local Politics in a Federal Setting; Also, Forgotten Governments: Native American Tribal and Territorial governments. | |
| October 18 October 20 October 22 | 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 25. |
| October 25 October 27 October 29 | Exam II | | The Exam is due Monday, November 1 |
| November 1 November 3 November 5 | Branches of Government: Congress | Chapter 7, Congress | November 1 will be Blackboard instruction rather than in-class. |
| November 8 November 10 November 12 | 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 15 |
| November 15 November 17 November 19 | Branches of Government: The Executive | Chapter 19: Foreign Policy | |
| November 22 | Branches of Government: The Judiciary | Chapter 10, The American Legal System and the Courts | |
| November 24-26 | Thanksgiving Break | | |
| November 29 December 1 | Exam III | | The Exam is due Monday, December 6 |
| December 2 | Dead Day | | |
| December 6 | Exam III due | | |
| December 10 | Graduation | | |