

**PS 5305 W02 Readings and Research in Government
Spring 2025
Sul Ross State University**

Instructor: Dr. Yen-Hsin Chen

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Office hours:

- Monday & Wednesday: 9:00 AM-10:00 AM & 11:30 AM -12:30 PM
- Tuesday & Thursday: 10:45 AM- 11:45 AM & 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Course Description

This independent study course will focus on studying international organizations. We will discuss the reason why do nation states create international organizations, how do they maintain these international organization, and to what degree these international organizations are functional.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will:

- Be able to describe the difference between a basic research paper and a research study.
- Be aware of existing data sources for research
- Be able to read and interpret results from empirical studies.
- Understand how to formulate a research question and hypothesis
- Be aware of the different ways to approach a research study
- Be able to conduct a literature review of existing studies
- Be able to select the appropriate statistical test for their research design
- Be more aware of existing theories and how to apply them to research
- Know the steps to publish research in at least one scholarly journal
- Gain valuable experience presenting a research proposal

Program Learning Outcomes

Public Administration	Political Science
<p>The graduating student will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate the ability to critique significant theoretical approaches of public administration. • Demonstrate the ability to evaluate domestic and international administrative processes. • Demonstrate the ability to apply appropriate statistical tools for quantitative analysis. 	<p>The graduating student will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate the ability to analyze significant theoretical approaches of political science. • Demonstrate the ability to evaluate domestic and international political processes. • Demonstrate the ability to apply appropriate statistical tools for quantitative analysis.

Marketable Skills

Public Administration	Political Science
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students can organize and execute presentations relevant to public administration. • Students understand and can execute a program evaluation. • Students can conduct statistical analyses that are useful to the work of public administrators. • Students can read and interpret an organization budget. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students can organize and execute verbal and written presentations of complex social issues. • Students can tackle social and political problems by acquiring relevant data and using insight and technical skills to analyze data and develop logical solutions. • Students understand the roles and responsibilities of institutional authority within local, state, national, and international communities. • Students understand and can execute a policy analysis.

Assignments and Grading

Students of this course will write a paper that includes the following four parts:

1. Why do nation-states build international organizations?
2. How do the member countries maintain their international organizations?
3. What factors determine whether an international organization is functional?
4. Case study

Grade Scale

Your grade will be determined based on the following grading scale:

Points	Letter Grade
100- 90.0	A
89.9-80.0	B
79.9-70.0	C
69.9-60.0	D
59.9 or less	F

Assigned Reading

There is no required textbook for this independent study course. However, students are expected to read and use existing scholarly articles to compose their papers.

Other Course Policies & Resources Academic Integrity

Intellectual development requires hard work. 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.

The policy can be found at: <https://www.sulross.edu/about/administration/university-policies/> In addition, please note that plagiarism detection software will be used in this class for written assignments.

Course Blackboard Resources

There are several resources on the course Blackboard page. You are expected to review and familiarize yourself with the items in Blackboard in the first week of class.

Blackboard Technical Support

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

SUSR Library Services

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library in Alpine 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 logging in with your LobolD and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or phone (432-837-8123).

The Southwest Texas Junior College (SWTJC) Libraries at Uvalde, Del Rio, and Eagle Pass offer additional access to library spaces and resources. Del Rio, Eagle Pass, and Uvalde students may also use online resources available through SWTJC website, library.swtjc.edu. The SWTJC Libraries serve as pick-up locations for Inter Library Loan (ILL) and Document Delivery from the Alpine campus.

SRSU Disability 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. Alpine students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mary Schwartz Grisham, M.Ed., LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203, or email mschwartz@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall – room 112, and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

Commitment to Diversity

I aim to create a learning environment for my students that supports a diversity of thoughts, perspectives and experiences, and honors your identities (including race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability, socioeconomic class, age, nationality, etc.). I also understand that the crisis of COVID, economic disparity, and health concerns, or even unexpected life events could impact the conditions necessary for you to succeed. My commitment is to be there for you and help you meet the learning objectives of this course. I do this to demonstrate my commitment to you and to the mission of Sul Ross State University to create an inclusive environment and care for the whole student as part of the Sul Ross Familia. If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don't hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you.

SRSU Distance Education Statement

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as 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. 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. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook.