

## **Political Science 3302: E01/V01: American Constitutional Law**

Fall 2025: Dr. Mark Saad Saka

Sul Ross State University

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Office Hours can be set by appointment

### **Course Objective:**

The objective of this course is to examine the

1. structure, interpretation, and implementation of the American Constitution on American Law, Government, Society, and Policy and Its structure, historical development through the Courts, the Executive, and the Legislative branches.
2. The origins and ideas that shaped the American Constitution and Civil Liberties through the Bill of Rights during the Constitutional Convention, and the expansion of civil liberties through the Courts and the following decades.
3. The Constitution through the lens of federalism and the relationship between state and federal authority.
4. The expansion of Civil Rights through the Amendment Process and the role of the Courts in interpreting Civil Rights, Equal Protection, and Due Process through the decades.
5. The role of the Constitution and the Courts in understanding American foreign policy.
6. The role of the Constitution and the Courts in defining Federal citizenship over the decades.
7. The role of the Constitution and the Courts and the notion of Habeas Corpus, public safety and security, and Homeland Security
8. Federalism, state power, and the Commerce Clause
9. The role of the Constitution and the Courts in defining public health and environmental protection and law.
10. The Constitution and the Courts in defining voting rights and suffrage
11. The Constitution and the Courts in shaping religious liberty as well as protection for religious minorities and church-state relations.

### **Course Required Readings**

**Examples & Explanations for Constitutional Law: National Power and Federalism 9th Edition** by Christopher N. May (Author), Allan Ides (Author), Simona Grossi (Author), Aspen Publication, 2021, ISBN # 978-1543850871

## **Examples & Explanations for Constitutional Law: Individual Rights, 9th ed. Edition**

by Alan Ides (Author), Christopher N. May (Author), Simona Grossi (Author); Aspen Publications, 2021, ISBN # 978-1543850857

## **Course Requirements**

1. Obtain the books
2. Read the books
3. Attend class regularly and punctually
4. Ten writing Assignments, five pages per written assignment, double spaced, 12 font,  
  
Each writing assignment will be worth 10 points each and will cover the lecture material, reading material, and material from legitimate scholarly sources, websites, books, or journal. All assignments must be in MLA format.  
  
The topics and dates due are covered and can be found in the Blackboard assignment link
5. Open debate—all ideas are open on the table and can be discussed. My commitment to the 1st Amendment and Free Speech is binding—but not completely--vulgarity, profanity, and attacks or demeaning another student or ideas can create a hostile environment. Let us just be civil with one another and we can all learn.
6. A happy smile-a positive attitude will help you enjoy this course much more than if you are wearing a frown!

## **Course Grading**

**Marketable Skills for Political Science** • 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 policymaking across different nation-state settings • Students can engage with social and political problems and use critical thinking to develop logical solutions

**Plagiarism** on any written assignment will result in an automatic grade of “0” for the assignment and may result in disciplinary action from the university.

**ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act):** 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. RGC students seeking accessibility services should contact Paulette Harris, Executive Assistant to the Vice

President and Dean, at 830-279-3023 or email [pharris@sulross.edu](mailto:pharris@sulross.edu). Ms. Harris's office is at 2623 Garner Field Road, Uvalde, TX 78801 (this is the mailing address, too).

**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.