

# **Course Syllabus: Political Science 3302:2W1 : American Constitutional Law**

Summer 2026: Sul Ross State University

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**Course Objectives:** The objective of this course is to examine some of the core concepts and ideas in the American Constitutionalism and the Court system in various interpretations of the Constitution, Constitutional Adjudication, Judicial Power, Federalism, as well as other issues.

**Required Readings** "American Constitutional Law: The Structure of Government: Volume I" by Ralph A. Rossum and G. Alan Tarr, Westview Press, 2019, ISBN # 978-0367233334

The book is available through the Sul Ross Bookstore. This is the 11<sup>th</sup> Edition, but if you can find the 10<sup>th</sup> Edition for much cheaper on an online outlet, save yourself some money, the differences between the two editions are minimal.

## **Course Requirements:**

1. You need to write twelve chapter reviews over the twelve chapters in the book. Each review should be four pages.
2. The chapter reviews prompts are located under the Content link on Blackboard, this will include basic questions as to the subject matter and a requirement that you read and analyze one major court ruling-decision as part of your analysis.

- 3. There will be a total of 12 reading assignments, each assignment is worth 100 points.**

### **Marketability Skills of a Political Science Major**

#### **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**

**This course is a web offered and semi-asynchronous. What is semi-asynchronous?**

**Good question, it means that you work at you own pace but you have specific due dates for the readings and the short essays. You must have regular access to the computer and the internet, the course is to be located on your Blackboard.**

**Follow the assignments under the assignment section.**

**Keep a lookout for any information given through the announcement link.**

**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.

**ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act):** Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students who need accessibility services should contact the Eagle Pass Campus.

**Papers will be evaluated on the following points:**

- strength of your historical arguments and content
- how well you have used historical evidence to support your arguments
- composition (i.e., spelling, grammar, sentence structure)
- form (i.e., correct citation)

**Academic Honesty** the University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of their classroom. The University may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an

**examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials.**

**“Cheating” includes:**

- 1. Copying from another student’s test paper, laboratory report, other report, or computer files, data listings, and/or programs, or allowing another student to copy from same.**
- 2. Using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test.**
- 3. Collaborating, without authorization, with another person during an examination or in preparing academic work.**
- 4. Knowingly, and without authorization, using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, soliciting, copying, or possessing, in whole or in part, the contents of a no administered test.**
- 5. Substituting for another student; permitting any other person, or otherwise assisting any other person to substitute for oneself or for another student in the taking of an examination or test or the preparation of academic work to be submitted for academic credit.**
- 6. Bribing another person to obtain a non-administered test or information about a no administered test.**
- 7. Purchasing, or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one’s own work any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm. This section does not apply to the typing of a rough and/or final version of an assignment by a professional typist.**
- 8. "Plagiarism" means the appropriation and the unacknowledged incorporation of another’s work or idea in one’s own written work offered for credit.**

**9. "Collusion" means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit.**

**10. "Abuse of resource materials" means the mutilation, destruction, concealment, theft or alteration of materials provided to assist students in the mastery of course materials.**

**11. "Academic work" means the preparation of an essay, dissertation, thesis, report, problem, assignment, or other project that the student submits as a course requirement or for a grade.**

**12. "Falsification of Data" means the representation, claim, or use of research, data, statistics, records, files, results, or information that is falsified, fabricated, fraudulently altered, or otherwise misappropriated or misrepresented.**

**All academic dishonesty cases may be first considered and reviewed by the faculty member. If the faculty member believes that an academic penalty is necessary, he/she may assign a penalty but must notify the student of his/her right to appeal to the department chair, the dean and eventually, to the Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs before imposition of the penalty. At each step in the process, the student shall be entitled to written notice of the offense and/or of the administrative decision, an opportunity to respond, and an impartial disposition as to the merits of his/her case. The decision of the Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs shall be final.**