

**Fall 2019**  
**GOVT 2305: Federal Government**  
**Department of Social Sciences**  
**South Plains College**

Instructor: Timothy Holland

Course Times:

GOVT 2305-001: MW 8:00am-9:15am

GOVT 2305-002: MW 9:30am-10:45am

GOVT 2305-008: TR 11:00am-12:15pm

GOVT 2305-009: TR 2:30pm-3:45pm

Location: Administrative Building 140

Instructor's Office: AD119

Email: [tholland@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:tholland@southplainscollege.edu)

Office Phone: (806) 716-2972

**Course Description:** This course is a survey of fundamental principles of political science, including the American system of government and the origins and development of the constitutions of the United States. This course satisfies the Legislative requirement for teacher certification.

Credit: 3 Lecture Hours

Prerequisites: TSI compliance in Reading

**Course Purpose:** Government 2305, as taught at South Plains College, is a reading intensive course designed to acquaint the learner with the origin and development of the U.S. Constitution, structure and powers of the national government including the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, federalism, political participation, the national election process, public policy, civil liberties and civil rights. This course meets the statutory requirements as set forth by the State of Texas.

Approval Number 45.1002.51.25

**Course Requirements:** To maximize a student's potential to complete this course, he/she should attend all class meetings, complete all homework assignments and examinations in a timely manner, and complete all other projects or papers as assigned in the instructor's specific instructions.

**Course Evaluations:** See the instructor's course information sheet for specific items used in evaluating student performance.

**Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):**

1. Explain the origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the federal system
3. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of federal government
5. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups and political parties
6. Analyze the election process
7. Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens
8. Analyze issues and policies in U.S. politics

**Fundamental Component Areas (FCA):**

Students will be expected to perform satisfactorily in four FCA.

1. Critical Thinking Skills – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information by:
  - a. Generating and communicating ideas by combining, changing, or reapplying existing information,
  - b. Gathering and assessing information relevant to a question,
  - c. Analyzing, evaluating, and synthesizing information.
2. Communication – to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral or visual communication by:

Developing, interpreting, and expressing ideas through written, oral, or visual communication.
3. Social Responsibility Skills – to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities by:
  - a. Demonstrating intercultural competence,
  - b. Identifying civic responsibility,
  - c. Engaging in regional, national, and global communities.
4. Personal Responsibility – to include the ability to connect choices, action, and consequences to ethical decision-making by:
  - a. Reading, understanding and affirming agreement and acceptance of principles, guidelines and requirements set forth in the “Statement of Personal Responsibility of Students” (Attached)
  - b. Evaluating choices and actions and relating consequences to personal decision-making
  - c. Accepting personal responsibility for decisions and actions taken or not taken

**Office Hours:** If you need to discuss your grade, the course content or you need to speak with me for any reason, please feel free to attend any of my scheduled office hours. My office is located in the Administration Building, in room 119. If you cannot attend my office hours please email me at [tholland@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:tholland@southplainscollege.edu) to setup an appointment to meet at another time or we can discuss your issue through email if you prefer.

<i>Office</i>	<i>AD119</i>
Monday	11:00am-12:00pm
Tuesday	8:30am-10:30am
Wednesday	11:00am-12:00pm
Thursday	8:30am-10:30am
Friday	9:00am-11:00am

**Textbook:** American Government by Glent Kutz

Free copies of this textbook are available at [www.openstax.org](http://www.openstax.org) and for Kindles through Amazon. You may also purchase the textbook through iBooks.

ISBN: 978-1-947172-66-1

Grades			Grading Scale		
Assessments	Points	Percent	Grade	Points	Percent
Exam 1	200	20%	A	900 or greater	90% or greater
Exam 2	200	20%	B	800 to 899.9	80% to 89.9%
Final Exam	200	20%	C	700 to 799.9	70% to 79.9%
Quiz 1	50	5%	D	600 to 699.9	60% to 69.9%
Quiz 2	50	5%	F	599.9 or less	59.9% or less
Quiz 3	50	5%			
Quiz 4	50	5%			
Essay	100	10%			
Attendance and Participation	100	10%			
TOTAL	1000	100%		1000	100%

**Exams:** There will be three exams in this course. Exams will consist of multiple choice questions and possibly a few true/false or short answer questions.

**Quizzes:** There will be four quizzes that will be completed on blackboard. If you do not have access to the internet or a computer, then please utilize the library or computer lab which are free for students to use.

**Essay:** You will complete one essay over a topic assigned by the instructor. Information about the essay can be found on your courses blackboard homepage.

**Plagiarism and Cheating:** Plagiarism and cheating in any form will not be tolerated in this course. South Plains College policies allow a wide range of punishment for cheating including failing the assignment, quiz, exam or the course. I will be vigilant against cheating and we will discuss how to avoid plagiarism in class.

**Late Work:** Late work will not be accepted.

**Makeup Exams:** If you miss Exam 1 or Exam 2 you will be permitted to take a make-up exam on the last class day. The make-up exam may be multiple-choice or in essay format at the instructor's discretion. No student may make-up more than one exam.

**Extra Credit:** There will likely be no extra credit opportunities in this course. The instructor may provide extra credit opportunities, but there are no guarantees.

**Final Grades:** I will round your final grade to the nearest whole number. Any number XX.5 or above will be rounded up.

**Attendance Policy:** Students are expected to regularly attend classes and I will keep record of your attendance. Attendance will account for 10 percent of your grade. Your attendance grade will be calculated by dividing the number of days you have attended class by the number of class days we meet

during this semester. I will typically record attendance at the beginning of class, if you arrive after the attendance was recorded then you will not be considered present.

You will not be counted absent if you are attending a South Plains College-sponsored event, if you are sick and have a doctor's note or another reason approved by the instructor. If you miss four or more classes during the semester you may be dropped by the instructor, subject to his discretion.

**Classroom Discussions:** Although this class is primarily lecture-based, you will be encouraged to contribute to class discussion on the topic of the day or other relevant political topics. Given the nature of this course students may express political views contrary to your own and while you are not required to agree with those views you are required to be respectful. I encourage you to express your own views but you must be respectful in both tone and the delivery of your viewpoint.

**Classroom Expectations:** The following activities are prohibited during class:

- Text messaging, emailing, meme-ing or other electronic correspondence
- Social media activity
- Answering (or initiating) a phone call
- Watching movies or other videos

**Diversity Statement:** In this class, I will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world, and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

**Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland Student Health & Wellness Center 806-716-2577, Reese Center (also covers ATC) Building 8: 806-716-4675, Plainview Center Main Office: 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611, or the Health and Wellness main number at 806-716-2529.

URL: <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/health/disabilityservices.php>

**SPC Policy Regarding "Standard English":** All written assignments should be presented using the conventions of Standard Written English. South Plains College requires all students to become proficient in "academic English," a form of English that is typically used in academic, professional, and business contexts. While slang, regional idioms, and informal kinds of self-expression are appropriate in some contexts, they are out of place in academic writing. Writing instructors and professors in courses across the campus expect all students to demonstrate proficiency in using the conventions of academic English in their written work, whether it is in-class exams or take-home essays.

**Electronic Devices:** Use of electronic devices for academic purposes is welcome in this class. You may use your laptop or tablet to take notes during class but for no other activities. Do not use your phone during class. No video or audio recording devices will be allowed in class unless part of a disability accommodation.

**Tobacco Use:** The use of tobacco products is prohibited in this class. Electronic cigarettes are also prohibited.

**Emails:** All emails should include your name, course and section number. I am teaching multiple courses and most of your other professors are also teaching multiple courses therefore it is imperative that you include this basic information so that I can (and your other professors can) address your question or concern.

Do not use the blackboard email function. If you need to contact me please use my SPC email address [tholland@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:tholland@southplainscollege.edu).

If you do not receive a response within 48 hours please re-send the email.

**Class Schedule:** Please remember that this class schedule is tentative and subject to changes.

Monday/Wednesday Class Schedule

Week	Date	Day	Topic
1	26-Aug	Monday	Syllabus and Introduction
	23-Aug	Wednesday	Introduction to Politics
2	2-Sep	Monday	No Class (Labor Day)
	4-Sep	Wednesday	Constitutionalism
3	9-Sep	Monday	Constitutionalism
	11-Sep	Wednesday	Federalism
4	16-Sep	Monday	Federalism
	18-Sep	Wednesday	Civil Liberties
5	23-Sep	Monday	Civil Liberties
	24-Sep	Wednesday	Civil Rights
6	30-Sep	Monday	Exam 1
	2-Oct	Wednesday	Legislative Branch
7	7-Oct	Monday	Legislative Branch
	9-Oct	Wednesday	Executive Branch
8	14-Oct	Monday	Executive Branch
	16-Oct	Wednesday	Executive Branch (Bureaucracy)
9	21-Oct	Monday	Judicial Branch
	23-Oct	Wednesday	Judicial Branch
10	28-Oct	Monday	Exam 2
	30-Oct	Wednesday	Interest Groups
11	4-Nov	Monday	Public Opinion
	6-Nov	Wednesday	Parties
12	11-Nov	Monday	Parties
	12-Nov	Wednesday	Campaigns, Elections and Voting
13	18-Nov	Monday	Campaigns, Elections and Voting
	20-Nov	Wednesday	Domestic Policy
14	25-Nov	Monday	Domestic Policy
	27-Nov	Wednesday	No Class (Thanksgiving Break)
15	2-Dec	Monday	Foreign Policy
	4-Dec	Wednesday	Final Exam Review
16			Final Exam

Final Exam Schedule

**Monday/Wednesday 8:00AM – Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:00AM**

**Monday/Wednesday 9:30AM – Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:00AM**

Tuesday/Thursday Class Schedule

Week	Date	Day	Topic
1	27-Aug	Tuesday	Syllabus and Introduction
	29-Aug	Thursday	Introduction to Politics
2	3-Sep	Tuesday	Constitutionalism
	5-Sep	Thursday	Constitutionalism
3	10-Sep	Tuesday	Federalism
	12-Sep	Thursday	Federalism
4	17-Sep	Tuesday	Civil Liberties
	19-Sep	Thursday	Civil Liberties
5	24-Sep	Tuesday	Civil Rights
	26-Sep	Thursday	Exam 1 Review
6	1-Oct	Tuesday	Exam 1
	3-Oct	Thursday	Legislative Branch
7	8-Oct	Tuesday	Legislative Branch
	11-Oct	Thursday	Executive Branch
8	15-Oct	Tuesday	Executive Branch
	17-Oct	Thursday	Executive Branch (Bureaucracy)
9	22-Oct	Tuesday	Judicial Branch
	24-Oct	Thursday	Judicial Branch
10	29-Oct	Tuesday	Exam 2
	31-Oct	Thursday	Interest Groups
11	5-Nov	Tuesday	Public Opinion
	7-Nov	Thursday	Parties
12	12-Nov	Tuesday	Parties
	14-Nov	Thursday	Campaigns, Elections and Voting
13	19-Nov	Tuesday	Campaigns, Elections and Voting
	21-Nov	Thursday	Domestic Policy
14	26-Nov	Tuesday	Domestic Policy
	28-Nov	Thursday	No Class (Thanksgiving Break)
15	3-Dec	Tuesday	Foreign Policy
	5-Dec	Thursday	Final Exam Review
16			Final Exam

Final Exam Schedule

**Tuesday/Thursday 11:00AM – Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:15AM**  
**Tuesday/Thursday 2:30PM – Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:00PM**