

Fall 2021
GOVT 2305: Federal Government
Department of Social Sciences
South Plains College

Instructor: Mr. Timothy Holland

Course Time:

GOVT 2305-005: Tuesday/Thursday (9:30AM to 10:45AM)

GOVT 2305-006: Tuesday/Thursday (11:00AM to 12:30PM)

GOVT 2305-007: Tuesday/Thursday (1:00PM to 2:30PM)

Location: AD 140

Professor's Office: AD 119

Email: 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 learners 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 the 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 FCAs

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.
 - a. 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, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making by:
 - a. Reading, understanding, and affirming agreement and acceptance of principles, guidelines, and requirement 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: Please attend my regularly scheduled office hours listed below if you have any questions or concerns. My office is located in the Administration Building, room 119. If you cannot attend my office hours you may email me to set up an alternative time or we can discuss your question or concern via email.

Office Hours	AD119
Monday	11:00AM-12:00PM & 2:30PM-3:30PM
Tuesday	2:30PM-3:30PM
Wednesday	11:00AM-12:00PM & 2:30PM-3:30PM
Thursday	2:30PM-3:30PM
Friday	10:00AM-12:00PM
Email	tholland@southplainscollege.edu

Textbook: We are using a free online textbook through OpenStax. You can access this textbook for free at the URL below.

American Government 2e by Glen Kurtz and Sylvie Waskiewicz

ISBN: 97819471726611

<https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-2e>

Openstax allows you to read the textbook online at the URL I have provided, or you can download it to your computer as a PDF file.

Grading Scale:

Grade	Percent
A	90% or greater
B	80% to 89.99%
C	70% to 79.99%
D	60% to 69.99%
F	Less than 60%

Grade Distribution:

GRADED ITEM	Percent of Total Grade
Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	15%
Exam 3	15%
Exam 4	15%
Syllabus	4%
Quiz 1	2%
Quiz 2	2%
Quiz 3	2%
Quiz 4	2%
Quiz 5	2%
Quiz 6	2%
Quiz 7	2%
Quiz 8	2%
Quiz 9	2%
Quiz 10	2%
Quiz 11	2%
Quiz 12	2%
Quiz 13	2%
Attendance	10%
TOTAL POSSIBLE	100%

EXAMS: There will be four exams this semester. Each exam will only cover the material since the previous exam.

- EXAM 1 will cover the lectures and readings over Introduction to American Government, the Constitution, and Federalism
- EXAM 2 will cover the lectures and readings over Congress, the Presidency, and the Bureaucracy
- EXAM 3 will cover the lectures and readings over
- EXAM 4 will cover the lectures and readings over Parties, Elections, and Public Policy

Quizzes: There will be 14 quizzes throughout the semester. The Syllabus Quiz will cover the information in this Syllabus and the remaining quizzes (Quiz 1 through Quiz 13) will cover the chapters in our textbook *American Government 2e*. Each quiz will be composed primarily of multiple-choice questions with some true/false questions. Quizzes will be completed in Blackboard. You can find each quiz in the weekly folders in the "Course Content" page in this Blackboard course

- Quiz 1 will cover Chapter 1
- Quiz 2 will cover Chapter 2
- Quiz 3 will cover Chapter 3 and 14
- Quiz 4 will cover Chapter 11
- Quiz 5 will cover Chapter 12
- Quiz 6 will cover Chapter 15
- Quiz 7 will cover Chapter 13
- Quiz 8 will cover Chapter 4
- Quiz 9 will cover Chapter 5
- Quiz 10 will cover Chapter 6 and 10
- Quiz 11 will cover Chapter 9
- Quiz 12 will cover Chapter 7
- Quiz 13 will cover Chapter 16 and 17

Attendance Policy: You are required to regularly attend class. I will record and grade attendance. Your attendance will be worth ten percent of your total grade. The attendance grade will be calculated by dividing the number of days you have attended by the number of class days we have met. You are excused from class if you are attending a SPC-sponsored event but you must inform me of this prior to your absence. If you are sick please stay home. Your absence will be excused if you are ill. If you are absent because of illness you may be required to submit proof from a doctor if your absences are deemed excessive.

Plagiarism and Cheating: Plagiarism and cheating in any form will not be tolerated in this course. South Plains College provides for a wide range of punishments for cheating including failing the assignment, quiz, exam, or course. I will be vigilant against cheating and you will at a minimum fail the assignment, quiz, or exam in which cheating or plagiarism has occurred.

Extra Credit: If extra credit is offered it will be offered to the entire class. There will likely be no extra credit opportunities in this course.

Final Grades: Do not ask me to round up your grade. My policy for rounding up is that any grade that is XX.5 or higher will be rounded up to the next whole number.

Gradebook: You will be able to view your graded assignments, quizzes, and exams in the “My Grades” link.

Classroom Discussions: Although this class is primarily lecture-based, you will be encouraged to contribute to classroom discussions on the topic of the day or other relevant political topics which may arise. Given the nature of this course students may express political views contrary to your own and while no one is required to agree with another’s political views you are required to be respectful. I encourage you to honestly express your views in this class but you must be respectful in both your tone and delivery.

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 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 the 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 formal 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. Abuse of electronic devices for non-academic purposes will result in the banning of electronic devices. Do not use your phone

during class. No video or audio recording devices may be used without the consent of the instructor or unless part of a disability accommodation.

Classroom Expectations: The following activities are prohibited in class. This list is not meant to be exhaustive of all prohibited behaviors.

1. Texting, emailing or other correspondence
2. Social media activity or other web browsing
3. Answering or initiating phone calls
4. Watching movies or other videos
5. Smoking, vaping, or chewing tobacco or other illicit substances

Emails: Every email must include your name, course, day and time the class meets. I am teaching multiple courses and sections and most of your other professors are as well. Therefore, it is imperative that you always include this information so we know which class you are in so that we know where you are coming from and can quickly respond to your concerns.

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

Class Schedule:

Topic 1: Introduction to American Politics	
Topic 2: Constitutionalism	
Topic 3: Federalism	
Topic 4: Congress	
Topic 5: the Presidency	
Topic 6: the Bureaucracy	
Topic 7: the Courts	
Topic 8: Civil Liberties	
Topic 9: Civil Rights	
Topic 10: Interest Groups	
Topic 11: Public Opinion	
Topic 12: Political Parties	
Topic 13: Elections	
Topic 14: Policy	
Graded Item	Due Date
Syllabus Quiz	September 3
Quiz 1	September 3
Quiz 2	September 10
Quiz 3	September 17
Quiz 4	September 24
Quiz 5	October 1
Quiz 6	October 8

Quiz 7	October 15
Quiz 8	October 22
Quiz 9	October 29
Quiz 10	November 12
Quiz 11	November 19
Quiz 12	November 26
Quiz 13	December 10
Exam 1	TBD
Exam 2	TBD
Exam 3	TBD
Exam 4	TBD

Special Note: The professor reserves the right to change the terms of the syllabus as circumstances require. Any changes to the syllabus will be posted in Blackboard.

Important Dates	Fall 2021
Labor Day – Campus Closed	September 6
Fall Break – Campus Closed	October 15
Thanksgiving Break – Campus Closed	November 24, 25, & 26
Last Day to Drop	December 2
Final Exams Week	December 13-16 *Final Exam dates and times will be provided by each instructor. Consult Final Exam schedule for more information.

Syllabus Agreement: By continuing to complete the course you agree to the terms of this Syllabus. If you do not agree to the terms of the Syllabus you must drop the course.