# Statement of the SPC Social Science Department's
# Government/Political Science Division for
# GOVT 2304 Common Course Syllabus

*(As required by the Texas Legislature and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
and approved by Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and SPC)*

Department: Social Sciences

Discipline: Government

Course Number: GOVERNMENT 2304

Course Title: Introduction to Political Science

Credit: 3 Lecture, 0 Lab

Satisfies a core curriculum requirement? No.  This is an Elective course, and does NOT satisfy
the Government Requirement (GOVT2305 and GOVT2306)

Prerequisites: TSI compliance in Reading

Available Formats: Conventional, INET, ITV

Campus: Levelland, Reese, ATC, Plainview

Textbook: Varies according to instructor.  Refer to each instructor's instructions for textbook
requirements.

Course Specific Instructions: Each instructor will attach his/her course with specific instructions.

Course Description: Introductory survey of the discipline of political science focusing on the
scope, and methods of the field, and the substantive topics of the discipline including the
theoretical foundations of politics, political interaction, political institutions and how political
systems function.

Course Purpose: Government 2304, as taught at South Plains College, is a reading intensive
course designed to acquaint the learner with the various sub-fields of Political Science,
including Political Theory, American Politics, Comparative Politics, and International
Relations.

Approval Number: 45.1001.52.25

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

Attendance Policy: Whenever absences become excessive and in the instructor's opinion,
minimum course objectives cannot be met due to absences, the student will be withdrawn

from the course. Each instructor will have additional information about attendance on his/her course information sheet.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):
Students who have completed this course will be expected to:

1. Define, explain and apply political terms and concepts,
2. Define Political Science and explain the various sub-fields,
3. Compare and contrast the different political systems and institutions,
4. Critically interpret and analyze contemporary political issues and problems, and propose and critique various solutions.

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 I 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

**GOVT 2304, Introduction to Political Science; Blackboard**
<u>**Term:**</u>  Fall 2017
<u>**Instructor**</u>: Daniel Bunye
<u>**Office**</u>: Reese Center, Bldg. 3, #316G
<u>**Office Hours**</u>: As posted, or by appointment.
<u>**Phone**</u>: (806) 894-9611 #2467
<u>**Text:**</u> <u>Introduction to Political Science</u> 2017.  Craig Parsons.
        ISBN: 978-0-205-05681-1

<u>**Coordinating Board Academic Approval Number**</u>: 45.1001.52.25

<u>**Purpose**</u>: This course is an introductory survey of the discipline of Political Science, focusing on the history, scope, and methods of the field.  A primary objective is that students will learn to differentiate among the various fields of Political Science, including Political Theory, American Politics, Comparative Politics, and International Relations.  This course is designed to function along the lines of an Independent Study course.  Please note, this course is an Elective/Transfer course, but does **<u>NOT</u>** meet the state (nor SPC) requirements for Political Science for those who wish to earn a Bachelor's Degree (that requirement is met by completing GOVT2305 and GOVT2306).

<u>**Targeted Population**</u>:  Clearly, this course is designed to introduce the various fields of Political Science to those students who are interested in pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in the field.  However, it is not limited to those with such career goals, and is open to any student interested in expanding their knowledge of the field of Political Science.

<u>**Course Requirements**</u>: This is a reading and writing intensive course! Only those students with <u>strong</u> reading, comprehension and writing skills, along with considerable resolve and dedication, should enroll in this course.  The student is <u>strongly</u> advised to dedicate significant time and efforts to the readings required for this course, and not fall behind.  The requirements for this course are extensive, but should not be excessively difficult if granted appropriate attention.

| Assignment | Value | Example Grades |
|---|---|---|
| Political Autobiography Paper | 5% | 95 x .05= 4.75 |
| Biography Papers Ave. | 10% | 90 x .10= 9.00 |
| US Supreme Court Case ID's Ave. | 20% | 85 x .20= 17.00 |
| Opinion Essays Ave. | 25% | 90 x .25= 22.50 |
| Chapter Quiz Ave. | 40% | 80 x .40= <u>32.00</u> |
| | | 85.25, B |

<u>**Assignment Explanations**</u>: More details concerning the various writing (Papers and Essays) portions of this course are available as separate tabs.  Each should be carefully read and followed by the student.  The quizzes will consist of 20 multiple-choice style questions, and you will have 45 minutes to complete this quiz.  Each student will be allowed to take each quiz twice, with the highest grade being retained for the gradebook.  Quizzes will be available from 12:00am on the first day of availability until 11:30pm on the last day of availability.  Students who fail to take a quiz during the availability period will receive a grade of zero (0) for that quiz.

<u>**Grades**</u>:  The grading scale for this course is as follows:
100-90= A
89-80= B
79-70= C
69-60= D
59-00= F

There is **<u>no</u>** curve for this course, nor for any assignment.  You will be graded only by your own efforts.  No extra credit is available.  Additionally, rounding up of final grades will occur for a maximum of one (1) point (thus, a 78.9 will ***not*** be rounded up to a 'B').

<u>**Attendance**</u>: Attendance will not be checked for this course.  There are no requirements to participate in any chat-rooms, discussion, or group projects.  However, students who fail to complete two assignments by their respective due dates will be withdrawn with a grade of 'F' or 'U'/'X'.

**Dishonesty**: Cheating and/or plagiarism will **not** be tolerated! Either will result in immediate failure of the course. Violators may be removed from South Plains College. Assisting another to cheat or plagiarize will also result in failure. While this course is conducted over Blackboard/internet, it is not a group effort. Honesty and integrity are expected at all times.

**Foundation Skills:** This course will attempt to accomplish the following academic skills:

> Basic Skills: Reading (F-1) and Writing (F-2).
> Thinking Skills: Creative Thinking (F-7), Decision Making (F-8), Problem Solving (F-9),
>     Knowing How to Learn (F-11), and Reasoning (F-12).
> Personal Qualities: Responsibility (F-13), Self-Esteem (F-14), Self-
>     Management (F-16), and Integrity/Honesty (F-17)

**Chapter Quizzes and Dates**: Below is a list of chapters that will be covered in this course. A short description follows each chapter number. All quizzes are available immediately, but do note the due dates for each. Questions for these quizzes will be of Multiple-choice style. There will be twenty questions for each quiz, and a time limit of forty-five (45) minutes will apply. You will be allowed to attempt each quiz twice, with the highest score saved. Quizzes will be available from 12:00am on the first day of availability until 11:30pm on the last day of availability. Students who fail to take a quiz during the availability period will receive a grade of zero (0) for that quiz. There are eighteen (18) chapter quizzes, and the average of these will equal 40% of the students' final grade.

> Chapter 1: Introduction (Monday 8/28 until Friday 9/29)
> Chapter 2: Political Philosophy and its Offshoot: Political Science (Monday 8/28 until Friday 9/29)
> Chapter 3: Ideologies (Monday 8/28 until Friday 9/29)
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> Chapter 4: States (Monday 8/28 until Friday 10/27)
> Chapter 5: Governments (Monday 8/28 until Friday 10/27)
> Chapter 6: Individual Participation and Collective Action (Monday 8/28 until Friday 10/27)
> Chapter 7: Inside Liberal Democracy I: Representation (Monday 8/28 until Friday 10/27)
> Chapter 8: Inside Liberal Democracy II: Power and Policymaking (Monday 8/28 until Friday 10/27)
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> Chapter 9: Political Economies (Monday 8/28 until Friday 12/1)
> Chapter 10: Economic Development and Growth (Monday 8/28 until Friday 12/1)
> Chapter 11: Political Change (Monday 8/28 until Friday 12/1)
> Chapter 12: Political Violence: War and Terrorism (Monday 8/28 until Friday 12/1)
> Chapter 13: Globalization and Governance (Monday 8/28 until Friday 12/1)

**Statement of Nondiscrimination:** It is the policy of this instructor not to discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation or veteran status, particularly veterans of the Vietnam era. In addition to complying with federal and state equal opportunity laws and regulations and/or resolutions of professional organizations in education and psychology, my diversity policy declares harassment based on individual differences to be inconsistent with my instructional mission and educational goals.

**Student Support**: If you are having problems with Blackboard, please contact Brooke Walker in Student Support at: (806) 716-2180 or blackboard@southplainscollege.edu

**Pop-up Blockers:** Students are urged to disable all pop-up blockers, as these can interfere with the taking of the chapter quizzes. This problem has been most pronounced with laptops, but has also occurred with desktop PC's.

**Due Dates**: All due dates for the various assignments are ***not*** negotiable. Late papers are not accepted, and no extensions for quiz dates will be provided, for any reason. The student is *strongly* urged to make the necessary and appropriate accommodations to meet their obligations as far in advance as possible.

**ADA Statement**: 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 through the Guidance and Counseling Centers at Reese Center (Building 8) 716-4675, or Levelland (Student Services Building) 716-2577.