

**Statement of the SPC Social Science Department's
Government/Political Science Division for
GOVT 2305 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 2305

Course Title: Federal Government (Federal Constitution and Topics)

Credit: 3 Lecture, 0 Lab

Foundational Component Area of Core Curriculum: Social Science and ALL Undergraduate Degrees

Prerequisites: TSI compliance in Reading

Available Formats: Conventional, INET, ITV

Campus: Levelland, Reese, ATC, Plainview

Textbook: Varies according to instructor, (but for ALL dual credit classes: American Government, Continuity and Change-Texas Edition, O'Connor, Pearson current edition.) Refer to each instructor's instructions for textbook requirements.

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

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 requirements for teacher certification.

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 US 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 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excessive and in the instructor's opinion, minimum course objectives cannot be met due to absences, the student will be withdrawn from the course.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. Explain the origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of our 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 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

**Government 2305 -Federal Government
Internet Course Syllabus- PRINT THIS OUT!**

Instructor: Mr. Larry Norris

Office: Student Services Building (SS), #118, Levelland campus

I will not be in my office this summer.

Communication Policy: All written communication must be sent through Blackboard Course Messages. Send written messages to me using the “Course Messages” function in Blackboard and not to my SPC address (I will not reply to any messages sent to my SPC address). I will respond to your message within 24 hours if I receive your message between 8:00 AM Monday and 1:00 PM Friday (excluding holidays). I am not available over the weekends to answer any messages. Remember to be considerate, polite and courteous in all communications. Disrespectful and profane communications will result in the student being dropped from the course

Textbook: We the People: An Introduction to American Government: 11th Edition;
Thomas E. Patterson.

ISBN: 9780078024795 (McGraw Hill):

Only the 11th edition will be accepted for this course.

Course Requirements: (Read carefully!)

1. **Course Syllabus Agreement and Student Online Introduction:** After thoroughly reading the course syllabus, each student will submit the following statement: “I have read the course syllabus and clearly understand the course policies.” This statement will be followed by a paragraph in which the student provides biographical information such as his/her college major, educational goals, and any other relevant information the student wants to provide the instructor. Click on the **Course Syllabus Agreement/Student Online Introduction** link on the “Getting Started” page to submit this assignment. This requirement is worth 100 points and is due by Thursday July 20 at 3:00 pm. No late submissions will be accepted. **There are no exceptions to this policy.**
2. **Chapter Examinations: (located within the assessments tab)**
Below is a list of chapters that will be covered in this course. The student will carefully read and study the required chapters in the textbook. The exams are not “Open-book”. The student will take an online 25 question multiple-choice exam over each assigned chapter. A time limit of 30 minutes will apply to each exam. Each question will count 2 points each. Therefore; each exam will equal 50 points. I allow two attempts on each chapter exam. It is the student’s decision whether to take the exam a second time. The highest score of the two attempts will be counted. If a student elects to take the chapter exam only one time that will be the recorded score. There are 11 chapter exams

for the semester. I will drop your lowest chapter exam score (if you do not take an exam that becomes your lowest score). Therefore, only the 10 highest exam scores will be counted.

Ten (10) chapter exams = 500 points.

All eleven chapter exams will open up for test taking on Monday, July 17, at 8:00 am.

Notice there is due dates/times by which each chapter exam must be taken. Students who fail to take chapter exams by the scheduled date/time will receive a grade of zero (0) for that exam. Once you begin the exam you cannot stop. If you are unable to take an examination because of problems with your computer or your server; you will receive a zero (0) for that examination. Therefore, make sure you are using a reliable server and computer. **There are no exceptions to this policy.**

NOTE: The questions on the exam will be delivered one at a time and the student will not be allowed to revisit the questions. Questions must be answered in the order given. Questions can be skipped; but once a question has been answered or skipped, it cannot be revisited. It is important to remember to click “Save Answer” before moving to the next question. Once you begin the exam you must complete the exam in its entirety. Questions not completed during the allotted time will be counted wrong.

Chapter 2: Constitutional Democracy: Promoting Liberty and Self-Government – Exam must be taken by Monday July 24 3:00 pm.

Chapter 4: Civil Liberties: Protecting Individual Rights - Exam must be taken by Monday July 24 3:00 pm.

Chapter 5: Equal Rights: Struggling toward Fairness- Exam must be taken by Monday July 24 28 3:00 pm

Chapter 7: Political Participation: Activating the Popular Will- Exam must be taken by Monday July 31 3:00 pm

Chapter 8: Political Parties, Candidates, and Campaigns: Defining the Voter’s Choice- Exam must be taken by Monday July 31 3:00 pm.

Chapter 11: Congress: Balancing National Goals and Local Interests – Exam must be taken by Monday July 31 3:00 pm.

Chapter 12: The Presidency: Leading the Nation –Exam must be taken by Monday August 7 3:00 pm.

Chapter 13: The Federal Bureaucracy: Administering the Government- Exam must be taken by Monday August 7 3:00 pm.

Chapter 14: The Federal Judicial System: Applying the Law – Exam must be taken by Monday August 7 3:00 pm.

Chapter 15: Economic and Environmental Policy: Contributing to Prosperity – Exam must be taken by Monday August 14 3:00 pm.

Chapter 17: Foreign Policy: Protecting the American Way – Exam must be taken By Monday August 14 3:00 pm.

3. **Discussion Board Questions:** There will be two (2) discussion board questions for the semester. I will post a discussion question one week before the due date as well as instructions for that discussion board. Each discussion board question will be worth 200

points. Late discussion board responses will not be accepted. **There are no exceptions to this policy.**

Grading Scheme:

-Course syllabus and student online introduction = 100 points

-Eleven Online Chapter Examinations (50 points each)

Your lowest chapter exam score will be dropped (if you do not take an exam that becomes your lowest score). Therefore, only the 10 highest exam scores will be counted.

= 500 points

-Discussion board questions – 2 questions (200) points each = 400 points

Total course points = 1000 points

Grading Scale:

A= 900 - 1,000 points (90% - 100%)

B= 800 – 899 points (80% - 89%)

C= 700 -799 points (70% – 79%)

D= 600 - 699 points (60% - 69%)

F= 0 - 599 points (0% - 59%)

There is no curve for this course, no re-tests, no make-up tests, no extra credit projects and grades are not rounded up. In order to obtain a certain grade, you must receive sufficient points.

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.

Dishonesty:

Cheating will **Not** be tolerated and will result in immediate failure in the course. While this course is conducted over Blackboard, it is not a group effort, nor is it “open-book”. Honesty and integrity are expected at all times.

Drop Policy:

A student who does not attempt to take three (3) consecutive chapter examinations will be dropped from the course with an X.

Drop date:

The last day this course may be dropped is Monday, August 7, 2017.

Blackboard and Tech Support:

I will be of no help with computer problems, mechanical failures, ISP problems, etc. Please contact blackboard@southplainscollege.edu for any Blackboard related issues.

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 at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716-2577, Reese Center (Building 8) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

