

**Spring 2025**  
**GOVT 2305-002: Federal Government**  
**Department of Social Sciences**  
**South Plains College**

Instructor: Dr. Timothy Holland  
Course Time: N/A Online  
Course and Section Number: GOVT 2305-002  
Location: AD140  
Time: Monday and Wednesday at 11:00 A.M.  
Professor's Office: AD134  
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.

**Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):** students who have completed this course will:

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.

**Core Objectives addressed:**

1. **Critical Thinking:** to include critical thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.
2. **Communication:** to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication

3. **Social responsibility:** to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
4. **Personal responsibility:** to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

**Course Evaluations:** You will have the opportunity to evaluate this course and the instructor toward the end of the semester. A link to complete course evaluations will be provided in Blackboard when it becomes available.

**Office Hours:** Please email me if you need to discuss your grade or the course content. Since this is an online course most of our communication will likely occur through email but feel free to attend my schedule office hours in person if you prefer.

Office Hours	AD134
Monday	1:00PM to 3:00PM
Tuesday	1:00PM-3:00PM
Wednesday	By appointment only
Thursday	1:00PM to 3:00PM
Friday	10:00AM to 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: 978-1-951693-38-1

<https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-3e>

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.

### Course Lecture Schedule

Week	Day	Date	Topic
1	Monday	13-Jan	Syllabus and Introduction Activities
	Wednesday	15-Jan	Introduction to Federal Government
2	Monday	20-Jan	Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No Class
	Wednesday	22-Jan	Federalism in the United States
3	Monday	27-Jan	Federalism in the United States
	Wednesday	29-Jan	Origins and Development of the U.S. Constitution
4	Monday	3-Feb	Origins and Development of the U.S. Constitution
	Wednesday	5-Feb	Civil Liberties, Civil Rights, and Civic Duties
5	Monday	10-Feb	Civil Liberties, Civil Rights, and Civic Duties
	Wednesday	12-Feb	Civil Liberties, Civil Rights, and Civic Duties
6	Monday	17-Feb	Exam 1
	Wednesday	19-Feb	Congress
7	Monday	24-Feb	Congress
	Wednesday	26-Feb	Congress
8	Monday	3-Mar	American Presidency
	Wednesday	5-Mar	American Presidency

<b>9</b>	Monday	10-Mar	Bureaucracy
	Wednesday	12-Mar	Judiciary
<b>10</b>	Monday	17-Mar	Spring Break - No Class
	Wednesday	19-Mar	Spring Break - No Class
<b>11</b>	Monday	24-Mar	Judiciary
	Wednesday	26-Mar	Exam 2
<b>12</b>	Monday	31-Mar	Interest Groups and Public Opinion
	Wednesday	2-Apr	Political Parties
<b>13</b>	Monday	7-Apr	Political Parties
	Wednesday	9-Apr	Campaigns, Elections, and Voting
<b>14</b>	Monday	14-Apr	Campaigns, Elections, and Voting
	Wednesday	16-Apr	Campaigns, Elections, and Voting
<b>15</b>	Monday	21-Apr	Domestic Policy
	Wednesday	23-Apr	Domestic Policy
<b>16</b>	Monday	28-Apr	Foreign Policy
	Wednesday	30-Apr	Foreign Policy

**FINAL EXAM: MONDAY, MAY 5 AT 10:15AM**

**Lecture Schedule Note:** I will do my best to follow the lecture schedule above, however please note that this schedule is to give you a rough idea of when lectures and exams will occur. The only guarantee on this schedule is the date and time of the final exam which is required to take place in class at this day and time.

<b>SPC Holidays – No Class</b>	
<b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b>	20 Jan
<b>Spring Break</b>	17-21 Mar
<b>Easter Break</b>	18 Apr

**Grading Scale:**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>A</b>	900 or more
<b>B</b>	800 to 899
<b>C</b>	700 to 799
<b>D</b>	600 to 699
<b>F</b>	Less than 600

**Grade Distribution:**

<b>Graded Item</b>	<b>Percent of Grade</b>
<b>Exam 1</b>	200
<b>Exam 2</b>	200
<b>Exam 3</b>	200
<b>Quiz 1</b>	30
<b>Quiz 2</b>	30
<b>Quiz 3</b>	30
<b>Quiz 4</b>	30
<b>Quiz 5</b>	30

<b>Quiz 6</b>	30
<b>Quiz 7</b>	30
<b>Quiz 8</b>	30
<b>Quiz 9</b>	30
<b>Quiz 10</b>	30
<b>Attendance</b>	100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1000</b>

**Exams:** You will complete three exams in this course. Each exam will be worth 200 points and will be completed in class. Each exam will be composed of 50 or more questions. The exam questions will be primarily multiple-choice questions with some fill-in-the-blank questions and true/false questions. I may include short answer and essay questions but you will be informed in advance if this is the case.

**Quizzes:** You will complete ten quizzes. Each quiz will be worth 30 points and will cover one lecture topic. Each quiz will be composed of 5 to 10 questions. The questions on the quiz will be primarily multiple-choice questions with some fill-in-the-blank questions and true/false questions.

**Attendance Policy:** You are required to regularly attend class and I will take roll at the beginning of each class. Attendance will be worth 100 points (10% of your total grade). Your attendance grade will be calculated by dividing the number of days you have attended by the number of class days held throughout the semester. If you are sick, if you are attending an official SPC event, or if you have another reasonable excuse then I will excuse your absence so that your grade is not harmed. Excused absences will be determined at the discretion of the instructor and you must notify me of your absence in advance. If you are absent you will still be responsible for the information covered in class. It is your responsibility to obtain notes from another student so that you can study the content you have missed.

**Syllabus Statements:** For Information regarding Intellectual Exchange, Disabilities, Non-Discrimination, Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations, CARE (Campus Assessment Response and Evaluation) Team, and Campus Concealed Carry, please use the following link:  
<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>

**Dropping a Course:** Students may drop courses through Texan Connect, the Admissions and Records Office, or Advising and Testing Center through the late registration period.

After late registration has closed, a student must complete the online [Student Initiated Drop Request](#) to drop a course.

Students may also drop courses in person at any campus location by completing a Student Initiated Drop Form. Complete a [Student Initiated Drop Form](#) and return the signed form to the Levelland Admissions and Records Office, the Student Support Center at the Lubbock Downtown Center, the Lubbock Career and Technical Center, or Plainview Center. You must have a picture ID to complete the drop.

A mark of "W" will be given for student-initiated drops that occur prior to and through the last day to drop as indicated in the online Academic Calendar found here:  
<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/academiccalendar/index.php>.

**Plagiarism and Cheating:** Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, examinations, and papers. Failure to comply with this policy may result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F or X for the course, if circumstances warrant.

Plagiarism violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Submitting work that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another student or an online term paper site.
2. Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation;
3. Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them; or
4. Missing in-text citations.
5. Violating the Artificial Intelligence policy, as outlined in the syllabus. For more information on AI, please reference this in the syllabus statements:  
<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>

Cheating violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion;
2. Discovering the content of an examination before it is given;
3. Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, text messaging, internet, apps) during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment;
4. Entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage;
5. Taking an examination for another;
6. Altering grade records;
7. Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment;
8. Rewriting another student's work in Peer Editing so that the writing is no longer the original student's;
9. Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper.

**A.I. Policy:** The use of A.I. technology to create or supplement written work for this class is prohibited. Using A.I. to create or supplement your written work constitutes both cheating and plagiarism in this course. If I suspect a student has used A.I. to create or supplement their written work or an A.I. detection service identifies part or all of the written work to have been generated using A.I., then I will assign the student a zero for the assignment. If a student's written work was incorrectly identified as created or supplemented by A.I. then the student must contact and meet with the instructor within 7 days of their grade posted in Blackboard. The instructor will replace the student's grade if they can demonstrate mastery of the content covered by the assignment. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the instructor if their assignment was incorrectly flagged as using A.I. to create or supplement their written work.

**Honorlock:** If we need to complete work in Blackboard instead of completing work in class then I will use the proctoring software Honorlock. Honorlock monitors online activity while you are completing work to ensure academic integrity while completing exams, quizzes, and assignments.

**No Late Work Without Authorization:** No late work will be accepted without approval from the instructor. The instructor alone will determine you have a reasonable excuse to allow you to make up the missed work.

**Extra Credit:** I do not intend to provide any extra credit opportunities in this course. If I provide extra credit it will be announced and made available to the entire class.

**Viewing Graded Material:** You will be able to view your graded assignments, quizzes, and exams in the Gradebook.

**Classroom Discussions:** 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, when it is appropriate and relevant, but you must be respectful in both your tone and delivery.

**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.

**Emails:** Every email must include your name, course and section number so that the instructor can promptly address your question or concern. The instructor will respond to your email within 24 hours. However, the instructor will not respond to emails sent on Saturday or Sunday until the following Monday. Emails sent after normal business hours will not receive a response until the following workday during normal business hours. If Monday, or any other day is a public holiday for which SPC is closed, then I will not respond to the email until the following workday.

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

**Course Amendment Statement:** The professor reserves the right to make changes to the course and this syllabus as may be necessary. You will be informed of any changes in the "Announcements" section of this course's Blackboard page.

**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 this course.