

Common Course Syllabus
Government 2305
Revised March 26, 2024

Department: Social Sciences

Discipline: Government

Course Number: GOVT 2305

Course Title: Federal Government

Credit: 3 Lecture, 0 Lab

This course partially satisfies a core curriculum requirement: Government/Political Science Foundational Component Area (070)

Available Formats: Conventional (Fully Face-to-Face), Fully Online, Hybrid, ITV

Campus: Levelland, Downtown Center, Plainview, Dual Credit

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: 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.

Course Objectives addressed:

- **critical thinking:** to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.
- **communication:** to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
- **social responsibility:** to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
- **personal responsibility:** to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):

Students who have completed this course will:

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

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment: A writing assignment rubric will be used to determine the extent of improvement that the students have gained during the semester.

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

Attendance Policy: Students must make every effort to attend face-to-face courses. Whenever absences become excessive and in the instructor's opinion, minimum course objectives cannot be met due to absences, the instructor may recommend that the student withdraw from the course. Each instructor will have additional information about attendance on his/her course information sheet.

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>.

Syllabus Statements: For information about Artificial Intelligence, Disabilities, Non-Discrimination, Intellectual Exchange, Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations, CARE (Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation) Team, Campus Concealed Carry, and COVID-19, please use this link: <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>.

Government 2305 Instructor Syllabus

Course Description

This course is a survey of the 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.

Instructor Information

- **Name:** Professor: Britt Bearden
- **Email:** bbearden@southplainscollege.edu
- **Office:** Lubbock Downtown Center 1016B
- **Office Hours:** M/W: 12:15PM – 1:30PM | T/TH: 11:00PM – 1:15PM | F: 4:00PM – 5:00PM •
- **Textbook:** Krutz, Glen and Waskiewicz, Sylvie, "American Government 3e" (2021). *Open Access Textbooks*. (Textbook is available on Blackboard)

Course Grade and Assignments

- **Exams = 40%**
- **Discussions = 35%**
- **Application Assignments: Government Comparison / Election Comparison / Election Analysis = 15%**
- **In-Class Activities = 10%**

Exams

- Number of Exams: 3
- Questions: 50 multiple choice
- **Make-up Exam: if you miss an exam without documentation you may take it for half credit**

Discussions Postings

- Number of Discussions: 3
- **A full rubric and example can be found in Blackboard.**

Government Comparison

- **Purpose:** compare a foreign government system to that of the U.S.
- **A full rubric, template, and instructions can be found in Blackboard.**

Elections Comparison

- **Purpose:** compare a foreign government's electoral system to that of the U.S.
- **A full rubric, template, and instructions can be found in Blackboard.**

Election Analysis

- **Purpose:** analyze a presidential election and in doing so critical assess party realignment and issue evolution.
- **A full rubric, template, and instructions can be found in Blackboard.**

In-Class Activities

- **Purpose:** to apply what we are learning in class with an activity alongside your classmates.
- Number of Activities: 8
- Each lecture topic will have an in class assignment.
- **You will be graded based on your attendance in class and participation in the activity.**
- **Make-up Assignments: if you have documentation, an alternative assignment will be available.**

Note: Expect written assignments to be graded within a business week of the due date.

Course Requirements, Expectations, and Policies

Late Policy and Technology Problems

I do not accept late work. If for some reason the professor or the Blackboard server has made a mistake, you will not be penalized. Always start early and finish early to avoid problems.

Extra Credit

I do not offer extra credit.

Drop Policy

Students who enroll in a course but have “Never Attended” by the official census date, as reported by the faculty member, will be administratively dropped by the Office of Admissions and Records. Other than that, it is your responsibility to drop the course.

Disruption of Classroom Environment

Your professor will not tolerate any disruption of the classroom environment. This includes any problems your facilitator encounters with you AND hateful/disrespectful remarks made in the classroom, on discussion postings, email, or chat. I will drop you from the course for such violations.

Emailing Your Professor

I require students to send a professional email when contacting me. If you send an unprofessional email to me, I will respond asking you to retype your email.

When emailing, please include what course you are enrolled in (Example: GOVT 2305.156).

DO NOT attempt to communicate with me through Blackboard. I only communicate through email, preferably your SPC email.

Unless there are unforeseen circumstances, you can expect me to reply to emails within 24 hours. If I do not, don't be afraid to email me again or forward your message to me.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Resources

There are now websites and applications that will generate semi-unique material that somewhat resembles original material. Since the technology is available to create this content, technology is also available to detect this content.

Make no mistake, this is plagiarism. I am not asking AI to write a paper, I am asking you, the student, to create this content.

If you submit work that is not your own, original material, it will be considered plagiarism and receive a grade of zero. The incident will also be detailed to the Dean of Students for disciplinary actions.

This includes grammar software such as Grammarly is considered as AI. Using these programs will also result in a zero. **I want to see YOUR work not the work of software.**

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is the taking of credit for something that is not the work of the owner. It is cheating and will not be tolerated. See the General Catalog for more information on plagiarism. Cheating or dishonesty of any type in this course will result in the student being dropped from this course with an "F."

Academic English

South Plains College requires all students to become proficient in "academic English," a form of English 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.

Tentative Schedule of Assignments

Exam 1: February 12th

Discussion 1: February 23rd by 11:59PM

Government Comparison: February 23rd by 11:59PM

Exam 2: March 26th

Discussion 2: April 6th by 11:59PM

Elections Comparison: April 6th by 11:59PM

Discussion 3: May 4th by 11:59PM

Election Analysis: May 4th by 11:59PM

Final Exam: See final exam schedule