

Fall 2025
GOVT 2305-005-090: Federal Government
Department of Social Sciences
South Plains College

Instructor: Dr. Timothy Holland

Course Time: N/A Online

Course and Section Number:

SPC Students: GOVT 2305-002

Dual Credit Students: GOVT 2305-090

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: Office hours are the time that I will be in my office to address any questions or concerns you have about the class.

Office Hours	AD134
Monday	By appointment only
Tuesday	1:00PM-2:00PM
Wednesday	10:00AM-12:00PM & 1:00PM-3:00PM
Thursday	1:00PM-3:00PM
Friday	10:00AM-11:00AM
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	Tuesday	26-Aug	Syllabus and Introduction Activity
	Thursday	28-Aug	Introduction to Federal Government
2	Tuesday	2-Sep	Introduction to Federal Government
	Thursday	4-Sep	Federalism
3	Tuesday	9-Sep	Federalism
	Thursday	11-Sep	Constitutionalism
4	Tuesday	16-Sep	Constitutionalism
	Thursday	18-Sep	Civil Liberties, Rights, and Duties
5	Tuesday	23-Sep	Civil Liberties, Rights, and Duties
	Thursday	25-Sep	Civil Liberties, Rights, and Duties
6	Tuesday	30-Sep	Exam 1
	Thursday	2-Oct	Congress
7	Tuesday	7-Oct	Congress
	Thursday	9-Oct	Congress
8	Tuesday	14-Oct	Presidency

	Thursday	16-Oct	Presidency
9	Tuesday	21-Oct	Bureaucracy
	Thursday	23-Oct	Judiciary
10	Tuesday	28-Oct	Judiciary
	Thursday	30-Oct	Exam 2
11	Tuesday	4-Nov	Public Opinion
	Thursday	6-Nov	Interest Groups
12	Tuesday	11-Nov	Parties
	Thursday	13-Nov	Parties
13	Tuesday	18-Nov	Campaigns, Elections, and Voting
	Thursday	20-Nov	Campaigns, Elections, and Voting
14	Tuesday	25-Nov	Campaigns, Elections, and Voting
	Thursday	27-Nov	Thanksgiving Break
15	Tuesday	2-Dec	Public Policy
	Thursday	4-Dec	Public Policy
16	Tuesday	9-Dec	Final Exam

FINAL EXAM: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9 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.

SPC Holidays – No Class	
Labor Day	September 1
Fall Break	October 17
Thanksgiving Break	November 26-28

Grading Scale:

Grade	Percent
A	900 or higher (90% or higher)
B	800 to 899 (80% to 89.99%)
C	700 to 799 (70% to 79.99%)
D	600 to 699 (60% to 69.99%)
F	Less than 600 (Less than 60%)

Grade Distribution:

Graded Item	Percent of Grade
Exam 1	200
Exam 2	200
Exam 3	200
Quiz 1	30
Quiz 2	30
Quiz 3	30
Quiz 4	30
Quiz 5	30

Quiz 6	30
Quiz 7	30
Quiz 8	30
Quiz 9	30
Quiz 10	30
Attendance	100
TOTAL	1000

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.