“The justification for a university is that it preserves the connection between knowledge and the zest of life, by uniting the young and the old in the imaginative consideration of learning.”

Instructor: Dr. Peyton Gooch
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Phone: 936-468-4408
Office: Vera Dugas Liberal Arts North 112 (first floor of the Liberal Arts Building)
Office Hours: Tuesday 11:00am to 3pm
        Wednesday 9am to 10:45am
        Thursday 11:00am to 12:30pm and 2pm to 3pm

Course description:

SFA’s official course description reads, “Legislative, executive, and judicial functions in American and Texas governments; public policy areas such as finance, social services, and foreign policy; Texas local and county governments” (SFA General Bulletin 2015-2016, p. 324).

Course Communication:

Email and/or visiting office hours are the best ways to contact me. I will respond to email as soon as possible. Typically, I respond within one business day, but it may take as many as two business days.

Familiarize yourself with D2L. Check the course’s D2L newsfeed and your D2L email frequently for course updates, particularly syllabus updates. Several course readings will appear on D2L under the Content tab.

To learn more about using D2L, visit http://sfaonline.sfasu.edu. For technical support, contact the Office of Instructional Technology at d2l@sfasu.edu or 936-468-1919. For general computer support (not D2L related), contact the Technical Support Center at 936-468-4357 or helpdesk@sfasu.edu.

Books:

1) A Well Constructed Union edited by Peyton Wofford
   a. ISBN: 9781516521197
2) Texas Government: Structures & Functions edited by Alan Baily
   a. ISBN: 9781524922481

Both texts are required. See instructions on D2L for purchasing A Well Constructed Union. If you use older editions, you are responsible for reading the correct content if/when chapter and item numbers differ from those listed on the syllabus.

Course Components:

Each course component is a percentage (or weight) of your final course grade. See tables below. Grades are non-negotiable. Late assignments are not accepted. Extra credit is not offered. I expect you to have read and understood SFA’s academic honesty policies (see below). The penalties for plagiarism, cheating, and other failures of academic integrity are outlined in the Academic Honesty section of this syllabus (see below).

**Socratic Seminar – 30% (300 points)**

Engaging in civil discourse, the respectful exchange of ideas, is a course requirement. To this end, I encourage you to ask questions and think aloud in class discussion. If followed, the guidelines for class meetings described below will facilitate civil discourse. I expect you to have read and understood the information in the Guidelines for Class Meetings section of this syllabus (see below). Failure to follow these guidelines will negatively impact your grade in the course.

Expect unannounced (i.e., pop) quizzes throughout the semester. Quizzes are administered in class. Students who arrive late or leave early will earn a zero on that day’s quiz. Quizzes include multiple choice and short answer questions. To prepare for quizzes, complete the required reading, review D2L materials, review notes from the previous class, and otherwise retain and engage with the course material.

**Study Questions – 30% (300 points)**

You will submit a series of graded study questions about the assigned readings. See D2L for more information. Please review the sample study questions for information about formatting, length, and style. Bring a typed copy of your completed study questions to class according to the course schedule (see below). Study questions that appear in my department mailbox, under my office door, or in my email inbox will earn a grade of zero. Use study questions as opportunities to practice expressing yourself in English prose. Proofread your work. Avoid violating the rules of usage and principles of composition. Do not include outside research or a works cited, bibliography, or foot/endnotes. However, if you quote from the assigned reading, I expect you to provide the page number. See below for information about what constitutes plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty.

**Caucus – 15% (150 points)**

You will submit three written caucus assignments (about half a page each) and attend three caucus meetings. See the syllabus for dates and the table below for point allocation. After being assigned a candidate and a political party, you will research both according to the caucus assignment instructions. More detailed instructions (including a rubric) are posted on D2L. This research will provide a foundation for your active participation in each caucus meeting.

**Final Exam – 25% (250 points)**

Unless I notify you otherwise, the final exam will be administered according to SFA’s final exam schedule. Questions drawn from required reading, lesson material, and class discussion. You are responsible for all of these components. The final exam will be comprehensive.
This course features a combination of the Socratic method and lecture. Your professional engagement in class requires consistent preparation, punctuality, and attentiveness.

**Preparedness:** Meaningful participation during class depends on reading the assigned material before class and having that material with you in class for reference. Complete the required reading and assignments before class begins. Bring all readings with you. Print D2L readings and bring them to class.

**Punctuality and Attentiveness:** I expect you be ready to take notes and participate in each class meeting from start to finish. Unless you have discussed it with me beforehand, late arrivals and/or early departures are prohibited. Students who arrive late or depart early will earn a zero for the day’s quiz.

**Electronics:** Personal electronics have a negative impact on attentiveness and retention. As such, no phones and no laptops. Take notes with pen and paper. Phones tend to be the biggest temptation, so the following penalties describe phone use explicitly. These penalties, however, apply to the use of any electronic device, including recording audio or taking pictures. Students who use their phone, check their phone, have their phone in their lap/on their desk, or allow their phone to ring/vibrate (or be otherwise disruptive) during class will incur a ten (10) point deduction from their Socratic Seminar grade and be required leave the class. Students who ignore/violate the electronics policy a second time will incur a twenty (20) point deduction from the Socratic Seminar grade. To minimize disruption, circumstances that require phone use must be cleared with me before class begins.

**Inappropriate Conduct:** According to SFA’s Student Conduct Code (D-34.1), your behavior in class should not interfere with my ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program. Students who disrupt the learning environment will be subject to penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums. The instructor has full discretion over what classroom behavior is (in)appropriate.

**Early Submission and Makeup Work:** Avoid missing class. Meet the deadlines outlined in the course schedule. If you miss coursework due to documented illness, documented emergency, or documented University-related activity, it is your responsibility to request makeup work. Acceptable documentation, evaluated on a case-by-case basis, is required to complete make up work or submit late work. It is your responsibility to provide documentation. If the absence meets the above criteria, we will discuss options for completing the missed coursework. If you know you will miss class/coursework ahead of time for unavoidable medical, personal, or University-related reasons, you must to notify me ASAP, provide documentation, and submit any missed coursework early or immediately upon your return to class. Once you return, we can discuss options for missed quizzes.
-------- Other Helpful Information--------

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

WITHHELD GRADES
At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future semesters, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

ACADEMIC HONESTY
“Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.” - SFASU’s Policy Manual (2011), section on “Academic Integrity” (A-9)

Definition of Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp. All cases of academic dishonesty will be handled according to University policies and procedures (A-9.1). The consequences for academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarizing or cheating) may range from a score of zero (0) on the assignment to an “F” for the course. For details, students should refer to the SFA Policy Manual (2015) or the University’s General Bulletin, 2014 – 2015 section entitled “Academic Integrity” and other sources of University policy.
Tentative Course Schedule

This calendar is subject to change. Complete reading and writing assignments before class time. Bring your texts to class.

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Week 1: Thursday, January 18 – Our Project

Read: Items 3, 5, 7, 4 in A Well Constructed Union

Week 2: Tuesday, January 23 and Thursday, January 25 – The Social Value of the College Bred

Read: Items 3, 5, 7, 4 in A Well Constructed Union

Write: SQ 1 due at the start of class on Thursday, January 25 (hard copy only)

See D2L for detailed instructions. Bring a hard copy of your typed responses to class. Late study questions (SQs) earn a grade of zero. Emailed/electronic submissions of SQs earn a grade of zero.

Week 3: Tuesday, January 30 and Thursday, February 1 – The Common Sense of the Subject

Read: Items 1, 2, and 10 in A Well Constructed Union

Week 4: Tuesday, February 6 and Thursday, February 8 – Pillars of the Union

Read: Items 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 in A Well Constructed Union

Write: SQ 2 due in class on Tuesday, February 6

Week 5: Tuesday, February 13 through Thursday, February 15 – Pillars of the Union

Read: Items 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 in A Well Constructed Union

Week 6: Tuesday, February 20 through Thursday, February 22 – A Revolutionary Experiment (Don’t forget the caucus!)

Read: Items 18, 25, 19, and 30 in A Well Constructed Union

Write: Caucus Prep 1 due at the start of class on Tuesday, February 20

*** FIRST CAUCUS MEETING: Tuesday, February 20 at 6pm in the Student Center Theater ***

Week 7: Tuesday, Feb. 27 through Thursday, March 1 – A Revolutionary Experiment (Don’t forget about the caucus!)

Read: Items 22 and 21 in A Well Constructed Union

Week 8: Tuesday, March 6 through Thursday, March 8 – A Revolutionary Experiment

Read: Items 11, 12, 9, 6, and 8 in A Well Constructed Union

Write: SQ 3 due at the start of class on Tuesday, March 6

Week 9: Spring Break
Week 10: Tuesday, March 13 through Thursday, March 15 – Executive Power

Read: Items 43, 48, and 47 in A Well Constructed Union

Week 11: Tuesday, March 20 through Thursday, March 22 – Executive Power

Read: Items 44, 45, 46, and 24 in A Well Constructed Union
Write: SQ 4 due at the start of class on Tuesday, March 20

Week 12: Tuesday, March 27 – Executive Power (Don’t forget about the caucus!)

Read: Chapters 2 and 3 in Texas Government: Structures and Functions
Write: Caucus Prep 2 due at the start of class on Tuesday, March 27

*** SECOND CAUCUS MEETING: Tuesday, March 27 at 6pm in Kennedy Auditorium ***

Week 13: Tuesday, April 3 through Thursday, April 5 – Judicial Power

Read: Items 32, 34, and 35 in A Well Constructed Union
Write: SQ 5 due at the start of class on Tuesday, April 3

Week 14: Tuesday, April 10 through Thursday, April 12 – Judicial Power

Read: Items 33, 31, 36, and 37 in A Well Constructed Union
Chapter 4 in Texas Government: Structures and Functions

Week 15: Tuesday, April 17 through Thursday, April 19 – Legislative Power

Read: Items 38, 39, 42, and 41 in A Well Constructed Union

Week 16: Tuesday, April 24 through Thursday, April 26 – Legislative Power

Read: Items 42 and 41 in A Well Constructed Union
Chapter 1 in Texas Government: Structures & Functions
Write: SQ 6 due at the start of class on Tuesday, April 24

Week 17: Tuesday, May 1 and Thursday, May 3 – Individual v. Community (Don’t forget about the caucus!)

Read: Items 52, 54, 53, 56, 57, and 58 in A Well Constructed Union
Skim Chapters 5 and 7 in Texas Government: Structures and Functions
Write: Caucus Prep 3 due at the start of class on Tuesday, May 1

*** THIRD CAUCUS MEETING: Tuesday, May 1 at 6pm in the Student Center Theater ***

Thursday, May 10 from 8:00am to 10:00am: Comprehensive Final Exam