POLITICAL SCIENCE 141: AMERICAN GOVERNMENT – THEORY
Summer II Semester 2018
Instructor: Dr. Steven E. Galatas
Course Meeting Time: MTWR 12:30 – 2:25 p.m.
Course Location: Ferguson 371
Office Location: Dugas LAN 134
Office Hours: MWR 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.
Office Phone: 468-2003
E-mail: galatasse@sfasu.edu

Course Description:
“Origins and development of American and Texas government systems; federalism; civil liberties and civil rights; interest groups, political parties and elections. Meets the state requirement for American Government. This course meets the legislative requirements for a course on the Constitutions of the United States and Texas.”

General Education / Core Curriculum Education Objectives:
In any given semester, one or more of the following Core Curriculum Objectives for the political science / government Foundational Component Area may be assessed.
• Critical Thinking Skills – creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information
• Communication Skills – effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication
• Social Responsibility – intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to effectively engage in regional, national, and global communities
• Personal Responsibility – the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making

Program Learning Outcomes:
This course is a general education core curriculum course and no specific program learning outcomes for a political science major are addressed in this course.

Student Learning Outcomes:
By the end of the course, you should be able to
• To describe the basic concepts related to the study of American and Texas political behavior
• To examine the relationship between political behavior and political institutions, especially the interdependence of behavior and institutions
• To think critically about, especially the theoretical foundations of both the U.S. and Texas systems
• To discuss the foundations of the US and Texas Constitutions
• To identify the key schools of thought regarding voting behavior and electoral processes
• To explain the roles and functions of political parties and interest groups in a democratic political system
• To understand citizenship in the American political system more completely
Textbooks:
Two textbooks are required for this class:
Additional readings from *The Federalist Papers* are listed on the Course Outline below. These readings are available online. The professor reserves the right to add other readings at any time during the semester.

Grades:
Grades for the course will be drawn from the following sources:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam #1</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam #2</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam #3</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing Assignment #1</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing Assignment #2</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>400</strong></td>
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Point values will be converted to letter grades using a standard 90% -- 80% -- 70% scale:
- **A:** 360 – 400 points (90% and above)
- **B:** 320 – 359 points (80% and above)
- **C:** 280 – 319 points (70% and above)
- **D:** 240 – 279 points (60% and above)
- **F:** 0 – 239 points (below 60%)

Course grades for the entire class are not curved or adjusted at the end of the semester. Extra credit work is not permitted. To receive a particular letter grade in the class, the student must earn at least the minimum number of points for that grade.

Exams:
You will take three exams during the semester.
- All exams consists of fifty (50) multiple-choice questions worth two (2) points each. Thus, each of the exams is worth a total of 100 points.
  - Material for the exams comes from classroom discussions and the assigned readings from your textbooks and outside sources.
  - Class sessions do not cover all material from the assigned readings, but all assigned readings, regardless of whether the material is discussed in class, are incorporated into the exams.
- Make-up exams are given only under the most extreme circumstances (e.g., a serious illness or a death in the family).
  - You must notify your instructor ahead of time if you are going to miss an exam.
  - You provide written documentation to substantiate your absence.
  - Failure to inform your instructor of an absence prior to the exam or failure to provide adequate documentation will result in a score of zero points (0) on the exam.
  - Your professor determines what constitutes adequate documentation to qualify for a make-up exam.
- During exams, cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off and stored away
- For each exam, you must bring a Scantron form (882-E) and a pencil.
Writing Assignments:
Throughout the semester, you will read three selections from the *Federalists Papers* by Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison.
- You will select two of the three of the *Federalists Papers*.
  - Option #1 is Federalist #51
  - Option #2 is Federalist #84
  - Option #3 is Federalist #10
- You will compose answers to a series of questions regarding each paper that you select.
- The questions will be distributed in class or on the course’s Desire2Learn website.
- Your answers will be typed, double-spaced using an appropriate font (e.g. Times New Roman 11 or 12 point).
- Each assignment is worth fifty (50) points, for a total of one hundred (100) points.
- *Regardless of which two of the three assigned Federalist Papers you choose for the writing assignments, you are responsible for reading all three papers for your exams.*

Participation:
You are expected to come to class prepared to engage in a critical evaluation of the topic of the day. At a minimum, you must complete the assigned readings before the start of class on the day that the reading is scheduled. In addition, you should be prepared to contribute voluntarily to class discussion. Although participation does not make up a portion of the final grade for the course, participation may prove to be a significant factor in determining borderline grades. For example, participation may be used as a criterion for a student whose final grade in the class is a 89.6% (B). A student who participated often in class discussions may receive an A as the final course grade.

Attendance:
You are expected to attend class. A strong correlation exists between your attendance and your performance in the course. Thus, attendance is required for this course. Moreover, regular attendance makes a clear and distinct statement about your personal responsibility; habits developed during your time at SFA carry over to the post-university world of employment.
- During each class session, a sign-in sheet will be passed around.
  - You are expected to sign for yourself only.
  - If you sign the attendance sheet for another student, you will have ten (10) points reduced from your final grade total for the course for each infraction of this policy.
  - If another student signs your name, you will have ten (10) points deducted from your final grade for the course.
- You may miss class up to five (5) times without penalty.
  - After the fifth absence, seven (7) points will be deducted for each additional absence.
  - No distinctions exist for “excused” and “unexcused” absences; all absences are treated the same.
  - You DO NOT need to inform the instructor of why you missed a specific class session.
- Because tardiness is distracting to your fellow students in the class, we begin class promptly at the time scheduled.
  - You are expected to be present for the entire class period.
  - Late arrivals and early departures are not tolerated.
  - If tardiness or early departures become a problem, the instructor will take remedial action.
Classroom etiquette:

Please demonstrate common courtesy for your fellow students by avoiding the following during class:

- Working on assignments for your other courses.
- Engaging in text messaging, Facebooking, and similar activities.
- Watching movies, television shows, and other media.
- Answering cell phone calls.

Engaging in any or all these activities during class presents a less than professional personal statement on your part. Such behavior is disrespectful to your fellow students. If you engage in any of these activities you will be asked to leave the classroom for the day, and you will be recorded as absent for the day.

Student Academic Dishonesty:

The following is taken from SFASU’s Policy Manual (2018), section on “Student Academic Dishonesty.”

“Abiding by university policy on academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members must promote the components of academic integrity in their instruction, and course syllabi are required to provide information about penalties for cheating and plagiarism, as well as the appeal process.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: using or attempting to use unauthorized materials on any class assignment or exam; falsifying or inventing of any information, including citations, on an assignment; helping or attempting to help other student(s) in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were one’s own. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to: submitting an assignment as one's own work when it is at least partly the work of another person; submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source; incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper or presentation without giving the author credit.

Penalties for Academic Dishonesty:

Penalties may include, but are not limited to, reprimand, no credit for the assignment or exam, resubmission of the work, make-up exam, failure of the course, or expulsion from the university.

All cases of academic dishonesty will be handled according to University policies and procedures in the SFASU Policy Manual and other sources of policy. The consequences for academic dishonesty 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 (2018) or the University’s General Bulletin, 2017 – 2018 section entitled “Academic Integrity” and other sources of University policy.

Withheld Grades:

The following is taken from SFASU’s Policy Manual (2018), “Course Grades Policy.” (Policy 5.5)

“At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic unit head, 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, except as allowed through policy [i.e., Active Military Service (6.14)]. 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.”

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. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.
Acceptable Student Behavior:

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the iCare program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.
## COURSE READINGS AND OUTLINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>07/10</td>
<td>Basic Concepts</td>
<td>Barbour and Wright, Ch. 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>07/11</td>
<td>U.S. Constitution</td>
<td>Barbour and Wright, Ch. 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>07/12</td>
<td>U.S. Constitution</td>
<td><em>Federalist #51</em></td>
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<td>07/16</td>
<td>Texas Constitution</td>
<td>Collier et al., Chs. 1-2; <strong>Writing Assignment #1 Due</strong></td>
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<td>07/17</td>
<td>Federalism</td>
<td>Barbour and Wright, Ch. 3</td>
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<td>07/18</td>
<td>Federalism</td>
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<td>07/19</td>
<td><strong>Exam #1; Civil Liberties</strong></td>
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<td>07/23</td>
<td>Civil Liberties</td>
<td>Barbour and Wright, Ch. 4</td>
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<td>07/24</td>
<td>Civil Liberties</td>
<td><em>Federalist #84</em></td>
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<td>07/25</td>
<td>Public Opinion</td>
<td><strong>Writing Assignment #2 Due</strong></td>
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<td>07/26</td>
<td>Public Opinion</td>
<td>Barbour and Wright, Ch. 10</td>
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<td>07/30</td>
<td>Interest Groups</td>
<td>Barbour and Wright, Ch. 11 (p. 365 – 378) and Collier <em>et al.</em>, Ch. 11</td>
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<td>07/31</td>
<td><strong>Exam #2; Civil Rights</strong></td>
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<td>08/01</td>
<td>Civil Rights</td>
<td>Barbour and Wright, Ch. 5</td>
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<td>08/02</td>
<td>Civil Rights</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>08/06</td>
<td>Political Parties</td>
<td>Barbour and Wright, Ch. 11 (p. 341 – 365); and Collier <em>et al.</em>, Ch. 10; and <em>Federalist #10</em>; <strong>Writing Assignment #3 Due</strong></td>
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<td>08/07</td>
<td>Elections and Voting</td>
<td>Barbour and Wright, Ch. 12</td>
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<td>08/08</td>
<td>Elections and Voting</td>
<td>Collier <em>et al.</em>, Ch. 9</td>
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<td>08/09</td>
<td>Elections and Voting</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>08/10</td>
<td><strong>Exam #3</strong></td>
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* Available online at [https://www.congress.gov/resources/display/content/The+Federalist+Papers](https://www.congress.gov/resources/display/content/The+Federalist+Papers)