Syllabus

PSC 142.502

Summer II 2018

Professor: Charles Gregory

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Office: Liberal Arts North 106

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Virtual Office Hours: Tues. 12:30 - 2:30, Weds. 12:30pm - 2:30pm, & Thurs. 12:30pm - 1:30pm

Text Books (both are required)


Course Description

“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.” General Bulletin.

General Education Core Curriculum 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 Objectives

- To examine the major structural and functional concepts underlying American and Texas government.
- To be able to identify and discuss important trends in American and Texas public policies.
- To gain the ability to critically analyze issues facing American and Texas government.

Grades

Grades for this course will be based on lessons and a final exam.

- **10 Lessons (each lesson is worth 20 points).** Each lesson contains a set of readings, one discussion question that you will respond to and will then reply to a fellow student’s response and one quiz (10 multiple choice questions). Each discussion is worth 10 points and each quiz is worth 10 points (for a total of 20 points for each lesson). The lessons will be available beginning on Monday at 8am and will close on Sunday at 11pm unless otherwise noted in the course calendar.
- **Final Exam (exam is worth 100 points).** The final exam contains 50 multiple choice questions that cover all material addressed during the semester. Moreover, the final exam is timed (90 minutes), and once you log on you must take the exam. You will only have one opportunity to take the exam. You cannot log on, view the exam and then take the exam at a later time. Exam will be available at 8am on August 8, 2018 and must be taken by 12pm on August 10, 2018.

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 - 100</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>80 - 89</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>70 - 79</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>60 - 69</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0 - 59</td>
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Course Schedule

The course schedule is subject to change. More importantly, chapters should be read to prepare for the lesson for that week. There may be additional readings found within the lesson. Some assignments for the week will connect to the readings so be sure to get the books and complete the readings.

- **Week One: July 10 - July 15**
  - Lesson One - U.S. Congress
  - Lesson Two - Texas Congress
  - Readings:
    - Keeping the Republic ch. 6
    - Lone Star Politics ch. 3 & 4
- **Week Two: July 16 - July 22**
  - Lesson Three - The Presidency
  - Lesson Four - Texas Governor
  - Readings:
    - Keeping the Republic ch. 7
    - Lone Star Politics ch. 5
- **Week Three: July 23 - July 29**
  - Lesson Five - U.S. Judiciary
  - Lesson Six - Texas Judiciary
  - Readings:
    - Keeping the Republic ch. 9
    - Lone Star Politics ch. 7 & 8
- **Week Four: July 30 - August 5**
  - Lesson Seven - U.S. Bureaucracy
  - Lesson Eight - Texas Plural Executive & Bureaucracy
  - Readings:
    - Keeping the Republic ch. 8
    - Lone Star Politics ch. 6
- **Week Five: August 3 - August 9**
  - Lesson Nine - U.S. Domestic and Foreign Policy
  - Lesson Ten - Texas Local Government
  - Readings:
    - Keeping the Republic ch. 14
    - Lone Star Politics ch. 12
- **Final Exam: August 10**
  - The Final Exam will be available from August 8, 2018 at 12am to August 10, 2018 at 12pm
Academic Integrity

The following is taken from SFA’s Policy Manual and can be found in section 4.1 – 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.

All cases of academic dishonesty, both cheating and plagiarism, will be handled according to University policies and procedures (A-4.1 & A-6.3). 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. While these are not exhaustive lists, students who are curious should peruse SFA’s Policy Manual.2 Specifically, you should focus on section 4.1 – Student Academic Dishonesty.3

To be clear, I do not take academic dishonesty lightly, and the consequences for academic dishonesty will be an “F” for the course. No exceptions.

Withheld Grades

The following is taken from SFASU’s Policy Manual (2014), “Semester Grades Policy” (A-54): 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.

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/.