"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."  

The Constitution “is to be of no more consequence than the paper on which it is written, unless it be stamped with the approbation of those to whom it is addressed.”

Instructor: Dr. Peyton Gooch
E-mail: woffordpe@sfasu.edu Email is the best way to reach me.
Phone: 936-468-4408
Office: Vera Dugas Liberal Arts North 112 (first floor of the Liberal Arts Building)
Office Hours: TBA

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 – 40% (400 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 – 40% (400 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.

Final Exam – 20% (200 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.

Weighting/Percentage and Points Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Component</th>
<th>Percentage/Points of Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Socratic Seminar</td>
<td>40% / 400 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study Questions</td>
<td>40% / 400 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20% / 200 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100% / 1000 pts</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Final Letter Grade Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90% or more / 900 pts or more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80% - 89% / 800 to 899 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70% - 79% / 700 to 799 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60% - 69% / 600 to 699 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59% or less / 590 pts or less</td>
</tr>
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Guidelines for Class Meetings:

This course combines the Socratic method and lecture. James Madison describes our task.

“‘You are called upon to deliberate on a new Constitution....it seems to have been reserved to the people of this country...to decide the important question, whether societies of men are really capable or not of establishing good government from reflection and choice, or whether they are forever destined to depend for their political constitutions on accident and force.”

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 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.

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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 all reading and writing assignments before class time. Bring your texts to class.

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May 14 and 15 – The Social Value of the College Bred

Read: Items 1 through 5, 7, and 10 in A Well Constructed Union

May 16 – The Common Sense of the Subject

Read: Items 13 through 17 in A Well Constructed Union
Write: SQ 1 due at the start of class on May 16 (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.

May 17 and May 18 – Pillars of the Union

Read: Items 18, 19, 25, and 30 in A Well Constructed Union
Items 9, 11, 12, 6, 22, and 21 in A Well Constructed Union

May 21 and May 22 – Judicial Power

Read: Items 31 through 37 in A Well Constructed Union
Chapter 4 in Texas Government: Structures and Functions
Write: SQ 2 due in class on May 21 (hard copy only)

May 23 through May 25 – Executive Power

Read: Items 24 (stop at page 157), 38, 39, 43 through 45, 46 (skim), 47, 48 in A Well Constructed Union
Chapters 2 and 3 in Texas Government: Structures and Functions
Write: SQ 3 due at the start of class on May 25

May 28 – Legislative Power – NO CLASS

Read: Items 42 and 41 in A Well Constructed Union
Chapter 1 in Texas Government: Structures & Functions
NOTE: Although we will NOT be meeting for class on May 28. Questions from the assigned reading will appear on the next quiz and final exam.

May 29 – Policy Manifestations

Read: Items 52 through 55 in A Well Constructed Union
Chapter 5 and 7 in Texas Government: Structures and Functions

May 30 – Comprehensive Final Exam