POLITICAL SCIENCE 199.500 (ONLINE)
FEDERAL & TEXAS CONSTITUTIONS
Stephen F. Austin State University
Spring 2020 (1.15.20 – 5.08.20)

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Office Hours:
T/Th: 8:30-9:30 & 12:30-1:30
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Course Description

The origins and development of American and Texas constitutions – including the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the US and Texas Bill of Rights.

Requirements of the Course

You are expected to read the assigned material before each module. You should also stay informed of current political events by reading the paper, watching the news, browsing political websites, etc. Doing so will help you understand how the US and Texas constitutions have evolved through time.

Grading Policy

Quizzes: At the conclusion of each module you will be given a ten (10) questions quiz consisting of multiple choice and/or true/false questions. Quizzes for each module will cover material from that module only. Each question is worth two points for a total of 100 possible points. You will have ten (10) minutes to complete each quiz.

Grading Policy: Grades will be determined by the five quizzes on a pass/fail scale. The following scale will be used for this course, based on a total of 100 points available for the course.

Pass = 60 - 100 points  Fail = Less than 60 points

Attendance: Attendance will not be taken.

Required Reading – Chapters will be available on D2L.


**Policy on Academic Dishonesty**

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.

**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](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

**General Education Core Curriculum Objectives/Outcomes**

In any given semester, one or more of the following Exemplary Educational Objectives (EEO)s for Social and Behavior Sciences may be assessed.

- EEO#3 – “To use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories”
- EEO #5 – “To analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on the area under study”
- EEO #6 – “To comprehend the origins and evolution of the U.S. and Texas political systems, with a focus on growth of political institutions, the constitutions of the U.S. and Texas, federalism, civil liberties, and civil and human rights”
- EEO #8 – “To differentiate and analyze historical evidence (documentary and statistical) and differing points of view”
- EEO #9 – “To recognize and apply reasonable criteria for the acceptability of historical evidence and social research”
- EEO #11 – “To recognize and assume one’s responsibility as a citizen in a democratic society by learning to think for oneself, by engaging in public discourse, and by obtaining information through the news media and other appropriate information sources about politics and public policy”
- EEO #12 – “To identify and understand differences in commonalities within diverse cultures”

**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 think critically about American and Texas politics, especially the theoretical foundations of both systems
- To discuss the foundations of the US and Texas Constitutions

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy: Ordinarily, 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 terms 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/.