American Government: The Federal System (GOVT 2305.003)
Stephen F. Austin State University—Fall 2023
TR 11:00 - 12:15, F371
Instructor: Dr. Alan Baily
Office: LAN 137
Office Hours: MWF: 9:00-10:00 TR: 1:00-2:00
Office Phone: (936) 468-2363
Email address: bailyal@sfasu.edu

I. Course Description and Objectives

Course Description:
"Course includes development of the U.S. Constitution, structure and powers of the national government, including the legislative, executive and judicial branches, federalism, political participation, the national election process, public policy, civil liberties and civil rights." General Bulletin, 2020-2021.

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 Outcomes:

By the end of the course, you should be able:

- To think critically about the relationship between political behavior and political institutions, especially the interdependence of behavior and institutions
- To think critically about American and Texas politics, especially the theoretical foundations of both systems
- To communicate effectively about the foundations of the US and Texas Constitutions and about political matters in general
- To explain the role, and influence, of voters, political parties, interest groups, and media in a democratic political system
• To understand more thoroughly the personal and social rights and responsibilities associated with American citizenship

Credit-hour Justification: This three-credit hour face-to-face course requires approximately 150 minutes of classroom time/direct instruction as well as at least six hours of out-of-class reading and studying each week in preparation for exams and completion of writing assignments.

II. Texts

The following texts are required in this class; the two required books are available at the university bookstore:

2. Any Major Daily Newspaper (and keep up with Texas politics, too!)

III. Assignments and Grades

Your grade in this course will be based on:

1. Examinations: three section exams, each worth 20% of your final grade; and a comprehensive final exam, worth 20% of your semester grade [80%]. If you choose not to take the final exam, the three other exams will comprise 80% of your grade.
2. Involvement: worth 20% of your grade altogether [10% review assignments & 10% class participation]. Take-home review assignments will be posted on D2L.

Final grade distribution is as follows: A=90-99, B=80-89, C=70-79, D=65-69, F=64 or below

IV. Attendance and Classroom Decorum

Attendance is required; roll will be taken upon occasion. Students who miss more than three class meetings may face a 5% reduction for each additional missed meeting. Absences shall be excused for documented emergencies or official university events (also documented) only.

Mutual respect and consideration are indispensable to the success of any group endeavor. In view of this, I demand the highest standard of conduct in our class. To promote respect for yourself and your fellow students, please silence and put out of sight all cellphones, laptops, blackberries, iPods and other mobile electronic communication or entertainment devices: One you enter the classroom these devices can only function as a narcotic or as a weapon. Zone out or fight at home if you must, but not in here! And please do not record me in any way; under present circumstances, unfortunately, recording has a chilling effect.

Do not pass notes or exchange whispers. If you must make a call (or a text) during class-time, please exit the classroom to do so, and do not return (you will be counted absent for the day) unless you have an exceptionally serious excuse (e.g. a documented emergency, death in the family, etc.).
Email Policy:

I shall endeavor to respond in a timely manner to all emails addressed to bailyai@sfasu.edu. Please avoid using other email addresses (e.g. D2L email).

I will not reply to the below:

1. Emails not composed in standard written English (an email is not an IM)
2. Emails asking questions the answers to which are available in the syllabus, catalog, or course schedule
3. Emails requesting an excused absence or make-up assignment. Unless the emergency is dire, please discuss these matters with me in person
4. Emails requesting a recap or summary of material covered in a missed class meeting
5. Emails requesting a grade increase (e.g., “bump me up”)

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, policy D-34.1). 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 Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

V. Academic Integrity

The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using
any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

VI. Fall 2023 Calendar for GOVT 2305

This calendar is tentative; as the course instructor I reserve the right to change it. Reading assignments must be completed by the beginning of class on the day listed. Written assignments are due at the beginning of class. No late work will be accepted without a documented excuse.

T  8/29 Welcome and Introduction; Review Syllabus.
R  8/31 American Government Ch. 1
T  9/5 Federalist #10 (appendix to textbook, or find online)
R  9/7 American Government Ch. 2
T  9/12 Federalist #51 (appendix to textbook, or find online)
R  9/14 American Government Ch. 3 (Federalism & Separation of Powers)
T  9/19 No Reading
R  9/21 Examination One
T  9/26 American Government Ch. 5 (The US Congress)
R  9/28 No Reading
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>10/3</td>
<td>T</td>
<td><em>American Government</em> Ch. 6 (The Presidency)</td>
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<td>10/5</td>
<td>R</td>
<td><em>American Government</em> Ch. 7 (Federal Bureaucracy)</td>
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<td>10/10</td>
<td>T</td>
<td><em>American Government</em> Ch. 8 (Federal Courts)</td>
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<td>10/12</td>
<td>R</td>
<td><em>Plessy v. Ferguson</em> and <em>Brown v. Board of Education</em> (USSC Opinions)</td>
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<td>10/17</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>Film: <em>With all Deliberate Speed</em></td>
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<td>10/19</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>No Reading</td>
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<td>10/24</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>Examination Two</td>
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<td>10/26</td>
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<td><em>American Government</em> Ch. 9 (Public Opinion &amp; the Media)</td>
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<td>10/31</td>
<td>T</td>
<td><em>American Government</em> Ch. 10 (US Elections)</td>
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<td>11/2</td>
<td>R</td>
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<td>11/7</td>
<td>T</td>
<td><em>American Government</em> Ch. 11 (Parties in the USA)</td>
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<td>11/9</td>
<td>R</td>
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<td>11/14</td>
<td>T</td>
<td><em>American Government</em> Ch. 11 (Interest Groups)</td>
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<td>11/16</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>No Reading</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/21</td>
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<td>Thanksgiving Holiday</td>
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<td>11/23</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday</td>
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<td>11/28</td>
<td>T</td>
<td><em>American Government</em> Ch. 4 (Civil Rights and Liberties)</td>
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<td>11/30</td>
<td>R</td>
<td><em>American Government</em> Chs. 13 &amp;14 (Domestic and Foreign Policy)</td>
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<td>12/5</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>No Reading</td>
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<td>12/7</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>Examination Three</td>
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**Final Examination:** Tuesday, December 12th, from 10:30 to 12:30

**VII. Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (5.5)**

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 coursework 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 to compute the grade point average. For additional
information, go to https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf.

VIII. Students with Disabilities

Please copy the following statement and paste it into your course syllabus.
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
promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to
http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

IX. Student Wellness and Well-Being

SFA values students' overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic
and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both
their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include
academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being,
alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, SFA provides a variety of resources to
support students' mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all
of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:
The Dean of Students Office (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)
www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents
936.468.7249
dos@sfasu.edu

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic Human Services, Room 202
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
936.468.1041

The Health and Wellness Hub "The Hub"
Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.

To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub
offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit.
Services include:
- Health Services
- Counseling Services
- Student Outreach and Support
- Food Pantry
- Wellness Coaching
Crisis Resources:
- Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
- National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
- johCrisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741