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

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. Spring 2024 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.

<p>| R | 1/18 | Welcome. Review Syllabus. Read: American Government Ch. 1 |
| T | 1/23 | American Government Ch. 1 |
| R | 1/25 | Declaration and Federalist #10 (appendix to textbook, or online) |
| T | 1/30 | American Government Ch. 2 |
| R | 2/1 | Federalist #51 (appendix to textbook, or online) |
| T | 2/6 | American Government Ch. 3 (Federalism &amp; Separation of Powers) |
| R | 2/8 | No Reading |
| T | 2/13 | Examination One |
| R | 2/15 | American Government Ch. 5 (The US Congress) |
| T | 2/20 | No Reading |
| R | 2/22 | Film: Charlie Wilson’s War |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>2/27</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>Film: Charlie Wilson’s War</td>
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<td>2/29</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>American Government Ch. 6 (The Presidency)</td>
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<td>3/5</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>American Government Ch. 7 (Federal Bureaucracy)</td>
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<td>3/7</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>No Reading</td>
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<td>3/12</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
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<td>3/14</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
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<td>3/19</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>American Government Ch. 8 (Federal Courts)</td>
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<td>3/21</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>Marbury v Madison (USCC Opinion)</td>
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<td>3/26</td>
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<td>Examination Two</td>
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<td>3/28</td>
<td>R</td>
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<td>4/2</td>
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<td>American Government Ch. 9 (Public Opinion &amp; the Media)</td>
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<td>4/4</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>American Government Ch. 10 (US Elections)</td>
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<td>4/9</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>American Government Ch. 11 (Parties in the USA)</td>
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<td>4/11</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>American Government Ch. 11 (Interest Groups)</td>
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<td>4/16</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>No Reading</td>
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<td>4/18</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>American Government Ch. 4 (Civil Rights and Liberties)</td>
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<td>4/23</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>No Reading</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/25</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>American Government Chs. 13 &amp; 14 (Domestic and Foreign Policy)</td>
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<td>4/30</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>No Reading</td>
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<td>5/2</td>
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<td>Examination Three</td>
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**Final Examination:** Thursday, May 9th, from 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

**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
- Alcohol and Other Drug Education
  www.sfasu.edu/thehub
  936.468.4008
  thehub@sfasu.edu

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