GOVT 2305.005/006 Federal Government
Spring 2024
Department of Government
Locations: Ferguson 371 MW 1:00-2:15 & MW 2:30-3:45
Instructor: Dr. Richard J. Herzog
Quote: I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts.
   – Will Rogers
Office Location: Vera Dugas Liberal Arts North 139
Office Hours: MW 11:00-12:30 & 6:00-7:00 or by appointment
Phone: 468-2446
E-mail: Desire2Learn only
SI: Jake Underwood
Location:

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.

Program Learning Outcomes

This course is a general education core curriculum course. No specific program learning outcomes for a political science major are addressed in this course.

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.
- Empirical and Quantitative Skills--To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
- Teamwork--To include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.
- 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.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will:
1. better understand how the federal government affects their lives
2. have learned about federal political systems
3. understand the structure and functions of the five branches of the federal government: executive, legislative, judicial, the bureaucracy, and the media
4. have used research skills to gather governmental information
5. gain greater interest in contemporary political issues
6. become knowledgeable about public policies
7. develop the ability to critically analyze information
8. have intellectually discussed and presented contemporary political issues
9. work with classmates to gain people skills

**Required Textbooks**

*We the People* (2021) 13th Essentials Edition, Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, Tolbert, Campbell, and Spitzer
ISBN: 978-0-393-42702-8
https://digital.wwnorton.com/wethepeople13ess

**Additional Required Readings**

Sources for contemporary political news (e.g., news on your phone, news pages on the Internet, television programs, radio broadcasts, newspapers, magazines)

**Lectures**

You should take copious notes on lectures as you will need them to study for the exams. The best way to take notes is with a pen and notebook.

**Course Requirements/Grading**

**Exams:** There will be four (4) timed exams. You can earn more than 100 points on each exam. The exams will consist of true/false statements and multiple-choice questions. The exams will test your knowledge of lectures (about 80 percent of the exam) and Textbook readings in *We the People* (about 20 percent of the exam). Our first exam will be on Wednesday, February 14. The final exam will not be comprehensive.

**Class Preparation/Required & Bonus Points:** You can earn up to 40 required and bonus points for class preparation. Students should carefully read, digest, and critically consider the assigned reading materials before attending class. Students should be fully prepared not only for getting good grades, but for successful careers. To assist in your preparation, you are to take multiple choice quizzes on D2L over the assigned readings and contemporary political news prior to attending class. The quizzes will coincide with a reading designated by "Quiz #" under date of class, on the calendar section of this syllabus.
Quizzes will be available 24 hours in advance and must be submitted 5 minutes before class starts (12:55 or 2:25 p.m.). To receive credit for quizzes you must attend the entire class period after the quiz.

Group Presentations (GPs):
1. By Monday, January 29, form a group with five (5) or six (6) classmates and notify Dr. Herzog
2. Pick a leader.
3. Pick a research question (e.g., Is President Joe Biden effective? How can the border crisis/challenge be addressed? Will Former President Donald Trump win the 2024 presidential election?) and have it approved by Dr. Herzog a week in advance of the GP due date. Dr. Herzog will also provide a list of research questions that are focused, challenging, and grounded (read handout in course materials).
4. Conduct research to answer the research question.
5. Submit text (50 to 100 words) of information and citation of your research to Group Presentation Research—Individual Submission dropbox for 3 BONUS points.
6. Discuss your topic with your group.
7. The format of your presentations can use a variety of presentation techniques including debates, role-playing, game shows, editorials, different perspectives, and opposing viewpoints. Avoid descriptive presentations that involve reading your research.
8. Make a 5 to 6-minute video or Zoom presentation with your group. We all have access to Zoom via mySFA accounts.
9. Save video to YouTube.
10. Change your privacy setting to unlisted access so classmates with your link can view your video. Please view YouTube Unlisted and Privacy Settings
11. Send Dr. Herzog, via D2L e-mail, your URL or link by 8:00 p.m. on the due dates.
12. Dr. Herzog will post the GPs in the Discussions section of D2L for you to view and provide feedback (information to improve future GPs) to classmates. Post/provide your feedback for each presentation (30 to 60 words) to each group's video, including an appraisal of your group's presentation. Earn points for feedback on each individual presentation up to five (5) required for each GP. Feedback on presentations after five (5) points will be considered for BONUS points. GP feedback will be recorded in Group Presentations categories in your gradebook.
13. See the Group Presentation Rubric for Grading specifics, major categories for grading are delivery, organization, and content.
14. You can earn up to 25 points on each group presentation.

Why Group Presentations?
1. to allow you to contribute to the educational process in the course
2. to improve your research skills
3. to experience working with other classmates to prepare for and deliver presentations
4. to refine your oral presentation skills
5. to allow you to discuss and present contemporary political topics that pique your interest

Course Evaluation/Extra Points: At the end of the semester, you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous course evaluation accessed through MySFA. If you complete the multiple choice and comments sections of the course evaluation, you will be able to earn four (4) BONUS POINTS.
Final Grades

Grading in this course is on a cumulative point system, where you can earn over 560 points, with final grades determined on the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 504</td>
<td>&gt; 90</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>448-503.5.5</td>
<td>80 to 89.9</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>392-447.5</td>
<td>70 to 79.9</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>336-391.5</td>
<td>60 to 69.9</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 336</td>
<td>&lt; 60</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With multiple opportunities for bonus points in this course, there will be no consideration of borderline grades. You will receive the grade that you earn.

Grades will be posted on D2L as earned, and students can monitor their cumulative points and current percentage of points earned in the course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Item</th>
<th>Number of Grades (Total Points Possible/Required)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>4 (400)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>15 (40 plus bonus)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP Research</td>
<td>4 (12 bonus)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPs</td>
<td>4 (100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP Feedback</td>
<td>20 (20 plus bonus)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Evaluation</td>
<td>1 (4 bonus)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>48 (560)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course Calendar

Monday 1/22  Syllabus and Schedule
Reading Student Evaluations Fall 2023

Wednesday 1/24  Introduction
Reading: Chapter 1, pp. 2-27

Monday 1/29  The Constitution
Reading: Chapter 2, pp. 28-59

Wednesday 1/31  The Constitution Continued

Monday 2/5  Federalism
Reading: Chapter 3, pp. 60-87

Wednesday 2/7  **Group Presentation (GP) #1 due by 8:00 p.m.**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>2/12</td>
<td>Civil Liberties</td>
<td>Chapter 4, pp. 88-117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>2/14</td>
<td><strong>Exam I</strong></td>
<td>This exam will test your knowledge of class content (about 80 percent of the exam) and textbook readings (about 20 percent of the exam).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>2/19</td>
<td>Civil Rights</td>
<td>Chapter 5, pp.118-147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>2/21</td>
<td>Public Opinion</td>
<td>Chapter 6, pp. 148-179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>2/26</td>
<td>The Media and Politics</td>
<td>Chapter 7, pp. 180-211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>2/28</td>
<td><strong>Group Presentation (GP) #2 due by 8:00 p.m.</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>The Functions of Congress</td>
<td>Chapter 10, pp. 290-331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>3/6</td>
<td>The Functions of Congress Continued</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>3/6</td>
<td><strong>Exam II opens at 8:00 p.m.</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>3/8</td>
<td><strong>Exam II due by 1:00 p.m.</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>3/18</td>
<td>Political Parties and Interest Groups</td>
<td>Chapter 8 pp. 212-249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>3/20</td>
<td>Participation, Campaigns, and Elections</td>
<td>Chapter 9 pp. 250-289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>3/25</td>
<td>The Presidency and The Many Roles of the President</td>
<td>Chapter 11, pp. 332-363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>3/27</td>
<td><strong>Group Presentation (GP) #3 due by 8:00 p.m.</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>4/1</td>
<td>The Consumer Product Safety Commission</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>4/3</td>
<td>The Bureaucracy &amp; Public Administration</td>
<td>Chapter 12, pp. 364-393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>4/8</td>
<td><strong>Exam III</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>4/10</td>
<td>Model of the Public Policy Process</td>
<td>Chapter 14, pp. 428-461</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Monday 4/15  The Goals of Economic Policy Making

Wednesday 4/17  Fiscal Policy & Monetary Policy

Monday 4/22  The U.S. Supreme Court is an Imperial Judiciary
Quiz #14

Wednesday 4/24  Group Presentation (GP) #4 Submission due by 8:00 p.m.

Monday 4/29  The U.S. Supreme Court is not an Imperial Judiciary

Wednesday 5/1  Foreign Policy
Quiz #15
Reading: Chapter 15, pp. 462-491

Wednesday 5/8  1:00 Final Exam 1:00 p.m.

Friday 5/10  2:30 Final Exam 8:00 a.m.

Make-up Policies

To take a make-up exam, you must have a legitimate reason (for example, illness, personal matters, and other required university activities). You must contact Dr. Herzog BEFORE the scheduled exam to legitimate your reason. Make-up exams will not be FUN. However, DO NOT attempt to take a scheduled exam on your DEATHBED. There will be limited make-up opportunities on quizzes and group presentation opportunities. Please contact Dr. Herzog if you need to do make-up work.

Proper/Mandatory E-mail Etiquette

If you are responding to the contents of a D2L e-mail Dr. Herzog has sent, you do not have to change the subject line. If your message does not relate to the contents of an e-mail that Dr. Herzog has sent or if you are e-mailing on a new topic, you need to compose a new D2L e-mail with a descriptive subject line that alludes to the content of the e-mail. Please note that e-mail is NOT a text message as it is more formal communication. You should start every e-mail to your instructor of this course with Dr. Herzog, he will address you as Ms. or Mr. and respond to your e-mail. Please remember to only use D2L e-mail when using this medium to communicate with Dr. Herzog.

Attendance/Cell Phones/Electronic Devices

Students are required to attend class and arrive on time. The use of cell phones is prohibited. If Dr. Herzog sees you using a cell phone in class, it is considered unacceptable and disruptive behavior as it interferes with Dr. Herzog’s ability to conduct class. Please turn your cell phone off or to silent when you arrive for class. Other electronic devices like laptops and iPads may only be used to take notes. The use of these devices will be monitored.
**Course Credit Justification**

This three-credit hour face-to-face course requires approximate 150 minutes of classroom time/direct instruction each week at least six hours of out-of-class reading and studying each week in preparation for quizzes, exams, and completion of group presentation assignments.

**Core Objectives**

The chart below indicates the core objectives addressed by this course; the assignment(s) that will be used to assess the objectives associated with this course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Course Assignment Titles</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Communication Skills| To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas though written, oral, and visual communication. | 1) Group Presentation #1  
2) Group Presentation #2  
3) Group Presentation #3  
4) Group Presentation #4 | 1) 2/7  
2) 2/28  
3) 3/27  
4) 4/24 |
| Critical Thinking   | To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information | 1) Exam I  
2) Exam II  
3) Exam III  
4) Final Exam | 1) 2/14  
2) 3/6--3/8  
3) 4/8  
4) 5/8 or 5/10 |
| Teamwork            | To include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal. | 1) Group Presentation #1  
2) Group Presentation #2  
3) Group Presentation #3  
4) Group Presentation #4 | 1) 2/7  
2) 2/28  
3) 3/27  
4) 4/24 |
| Social Responsibility| To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to effectively engage in regional, national, and global communities | Quizzes #1 to #15 | See course calendar |
| Personal Responsibility| To include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making | 1) Group Presentation #1  
2) Group Presentation #2  
3) Group Presentation #3  
4) Group Presentation #4 | 1) 2/7  
2) 2/28  
3) 3/27  
4) 4/24 |
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.

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.

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 promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

**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