

South Plains College/Muleshoe High School

The Organization of American and Texas Government

Government 2305-372
John Gulley

Fall 2023

SOCIAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT/ DIVISION OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Common Course Syllabus: Government 2305

Department: Social Sciences

Discipline: Government

Course Number: GOVERNMENT 2305

Course Title: Federal Government (Federal Constitution and Topics)

Credit: 3 Lecture, 0 Lab

Satisfies a core curriculum requirement? Yes, Social Science and ALL Undergraduate Degrees

Prerequisites: None

Available Formats: Conventional, e-book

Campus: Levelland, Reese, ATC, Plainview

Textbook: Varies according to instructor.

Course Specific Instructions: Each instructor will attach his/her course with specific instructions.

Course Description: This course is a survey of fundamental principles of political science, including the American system of government and the origins and development of the constitutions of the United States. This course satisfies the Legislative requirements for teacher certification.

Course Purpose: Government 2305, as taught at South Plains College, is a **reading intensive course** designed to acquaint the learner with the origin and development of the US 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. This course meets the statutory requirements as set forth by the State of Texas.

Approval Number: 45.1002.51 25

Course Requirements: To maximize a student's potential to complete this course, he/she should attend all class meetings, complete all homework assignments and examinations in a timely manner, and complete all other projects or papers as assigned in the instructor's specific instructions.

Course Evaluation: See the instructor's course information sheet for specific items used in evaluating student performance.

Attendance Policy: Whenever absences become excessive and in the instructor's opinion, minimum course objectives cannot be met due to absences, the student will be withdrawn from the course. Each instructor will have additional information about attendance on his/her course information sheet.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):

Students who have completed this course will:

1. Explain the origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of our federal system.
3. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government.
5. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties.
6. Analyze the election process.
7. Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
8. Analyze issues and policies in U.S. Politics.

Fundamental Component Areas (FCA):

Students will be expected to perform satisfactorily in four FCA.

1. Critical Thinking Skills – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information by:
 - a. Generating and communicating ideas by combining, changing, or reapplying existing information,
 - b. Gathering and assessing information relevant to a question,
 - c. Analyzing, evaluating, and synthesizing information.
2. Communication -- to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral or visual communication by developing, interpreting, and expressing ideas through written, oral, or visual communication.
3. Social Responsibility Skills – to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively I regional, national, and global communities by:
 1. Demonstrating intercultural competence,
 2. Identifying civic responsibility,
 3. Engaging in regional, national, and global communities.
1. Personal Responsibility – to include the ability to connect choices, action, and consequences to ethical decision-making by:
 - a. Reading, understanding and affirming agreement and acceptance of principles, guidelines and requirements set forth in the “Statement of Personal Responsibility of Students” (Attached)
 - b. Evaluating choices and actions and relating consequences to personal decision-making
 - c. Accepting personal responsibility for decisions and actions taken or not taken

Intellectual Exchange Statement

In South Plains College courses, the instructor will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group difference and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

Disabilities Statement

Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716-2577, Lubbock Centers (located at the Lubbock Downtown Center) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302.

Non-Discrimination Statement

South Plains College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President for Student Affairs, South Plains College, 1401 College Avenue, Box 5, Levelland, TX 79336. Phone number 806-716-2360.

Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations Statement

If you are pregnant, or have given birth within six months, under Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your education.

To activate accommodations you must submit a [Title IX pregnancy accommodations request](#), along with specific medical documentation, to the Health and Wellness Center. Once approved, notification will be sent to the student and instructors. It is the student's responsibility to work with the instructor to arrange accommodations. Contact the Health and Wellness Center at 806-716-2529 or email dburleson@southplainscollege.edu for assistance.

CARE (Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation) Team

South Plains College is committed to ensuring the safety, health, and well-being of its students and community. To support its campus community SPC has a CARE Team. This is a dedicated group of campus professionals responsible for assessing and responding to students who could benefit from academic, emotional, or psychological support, as well as those presenting risk to the health or safety of the community. If you see someone experiencing challenges, appearing distressed, posing a threat to their safety or someone else's safety, or causing a significant disruption to the SPC community, please submit a [CARE Team referral](#). You may also submit a referral for yourself if you would like

additional support. NOTE: In cases where a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Government Code 411.2031, et al. authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in South Plains College buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and South Plains College policy, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations and Frequently Asked Questions, please refer to the Campus Carry page at: <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/campuscarry.php>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all South Plains College campuses. Report violations to the College Police Department at 806-716-2396 or 9-1-1.

GOVT 2305: The Organization of American and Texas Government

Term:

Fall 2023

Instructor:

John Gulley

Room:

212

Conference Hours:

7:45-7:55 a.m., 3:37-3:47 p.m., or by appointment

Phone:

School: (806) 272-7303 Cell: (806) 946-7326

E-mail:

jgulley@muleshoeisd.net

Text:

- We the People 14th Edition Ginsberg, WW Norton
ISBN: 978-1-324-03475-9

Course Requirements and Grades:

<u>Periodic Examinations:</u>	40%
<u>Homework/Participation:</u>	20%
<u>News Summaries:</u>	20%
<u>6 Weeks Test:</u>	20%
(Descriptions follow)	

Periodic Examinations

Generally, these will follow at the completion of each chapter.

Homework/Participation

Occasional assessment of projects, activities in the ancillary materials to the text, and discussing the readings in class in an informed manner.

News Summary Instructions:

1. Choose a news article **dated no more than 6 months ago** from a mainstream news source. Acceptable sources include but are not limited to:
 - a. New York Times
 - b. Washington Post
 - c. ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, BBC, FOX,
 - d. Other sources are also acceptable, but should be approved in advance by the instructor.

2. CAUTION: Make sure that is it a news article, and not an opinion, editorial, or other story that is promoting a particular point of view. It should be **factual**.
3. Summaries will be turned in **one week** before the end of each six weeks. Due dates this semester are:
September 15
October 27
December 13
4. The summary will consist of 2 paragraphs roughly the same length, **totaling** not more than **one** typed page.
5. It should be 12 pt., Times New Roman font.
6. Here is what the News Summary should include:
 - a. **Paragraph 1:** summarize the article **in your own words**. You may quote brief passages, but the purpose of this paragraph is to demonstrate your understanding the article well enough to **explain what it says in your own words**.
 - b. **Paragraph 2:** explain how the information contained in the article applies to what we have studied in this course. Tie the vocabulary from the textbook to the article. Choose 3 vocabulary terms from the chapters that we have studied to this point, and explain how these terms are related to the news article. **You should only include things which we have already studied in class.** (Examples: separation of powers, checks and balances, freedom of speech, cruel and unusual punishment, commander in chief.) This paragraph should demonstrate a practical, current application of what we study to the “real world”.
7. Please also submit a hard copy of the article read, including the source from which it was obtained and the date of publication.
8. Students should write in formal written English.

Semester Test:

Students taking the course for credit from South Plains College will be required to take the Semester Test/Final Exam, which will count as **20% of the semester grade.**

Attendance:

Students who are absent should make arrangements to come to tutorials within 5 school days after their return to make up missing grades. Excessive absences may result in the denial of credit from South Plains College.

Grade Posting:

Grades are always posted as soon as possible (check your Student Portal.)

Special Needs:

Any student, who because of a disabling condition may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements, should contact the course instructor as soon as possible so that the necessary accommodations can be made. Any student who anticipates a need for accommodations must contact the Special Service Office.

Statement of Nondiscrimination:

It is the policy of this instructor not to discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status. In addition to complying with federal and state equal opportunity laws and regulations and/or resolutions of professional organizations in education and psychology, my diversity policy declares harassment based on individual differences to be inconsistent with my instructional mission and educational goals.

In this class, the instructor will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding multiple perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger

world, and about ourselves. By promoting intellectual exchange, we will come to understand the reasons for the differences in politics and society, and the values and beliefs which underlie our democratic institutions.

Academic Dishonesty Policy:

Academic dishonesty is the cardinal sin of college. Therefore, during any quizzes and/or exams, your eyes need to remain on your own paper. The use of AI, copy/pasting the work of others, and using someone else's work without giving them credit is prohibited and may be met with a variety of penalties that are at the discretion of the instructor. Working on projects or studying together is encouraged; however, your answers need to be your own.

Course Content: In order to adequately deal with this amount of material, a considerable amount of reading, research and thought is required. Our textbook is *We the People*, 14th Edition, by Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, Tolbert, and Campbell.

Department: Social Sciences

Discipline: Government