

**Statement of the SPC Social Science Department's**  
**Government/Political Science Division for**  
**GOVT 2305 Common Course Syllabus**

*(As required by the Texas Legislature and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and  
approved by Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and SPC)*

Room: RC832 (Reese Center ITV Lab)  
Primary Email: **davidjring@gmail.com**  
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Class Site: <http://sites.google.com/site/3042point0/>  
Extra Instruction (EI): by appointment

Department: Social Sciences  
Discipline: Government  
Course Number: GOVERNMENT 2305  
Course Title: Federal Government (Federal Constitution and Topics)  
Course Sections: GOVT2305.030.039.052.059  
Credit: 3 Lecture, 0 Lab

**Foundational Component Area of Core Curriculum:**

Social Science and ALL Undergraduate Degrees

Prerequisites: TSI compliance in Reading  
Formats: Conventional  
Campus: Reese

Textbook: Ginsberg. We The People 11e. Pearson ISBN 9780393283624.

Course 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:**

At the end of the semester, students will complete an online course evaluation via SPC Blackboard

### **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excessive and in the instructor's opinion, minimum course objectives cannot be met due to absences, the student will be withdrawn from the course.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):**

1. *Recognize the differences between the New Jersey and Virginia Plans*
2. *Identify the major components of Articles I, II, and III of the US Constitution*
3. *Explain the major components of the Bill of Rights*
4. *Define federalism and its constitutional basis between the national and state governments*
5. *List differences between the US House of Representatives and the Senate*
6. *Describe the powers of the president as established in the Constitution*
7. *List the weaknesses of the Texas Constitution*
8. *Identify the formal structure and organization of the Texas House and Senate*

### **Fundamental Component Areas (FCA):**

Students will be expected to perform satisfactorily in four FCA.

**Critical Thinking Skills** – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information by:

- Generating and communicating ideas by combining, changing, or reapplying existing information,
- Gathering and assessing information relevant to a question, □ Analyzing, evaluating, and synthesizing information.

**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.
- Social Responsibility Skills – to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively I regional, national, and global communities by:
  - Demonstrating intercultural competence,
  - Identifying civic responsibility,
  - Engaging in regional, national, and global communities.

**Personal Responsibility** – to include the ability to connect choices, action, and consequences to ethical decision-making by:

- Reading, understanding and affirming agreement and acceptance of principles, guidelines and requirements set forth in the “Statement of Personal Responsibility of Students” (Attached)
- Evaluating choices and actions and relating consequences to personal decision-making

- Accepting personal responsibility for decisions and actions taken or not taken

## **SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE & CLASS POLICIES**

### **Attendance, drops and withdrawals, and academic integrity:**

#### **Attendance**

- FOUR missed assignments (at any time; for any reason) will result in you being dropped from the course.

#### **Dropping the course**

- YOU must drop this course at the SPC registrar's Office (there is **no on-line drop system** so on-line students must take care of this in person at the registrar's office). This is an official procedure which is described in the SPC Catalog. No one but YOU can initiate the drop and it must conform to the procedure for dropping a course. Failure to initiate and finalize the drop procedure will result in an F grade on your transcript. The drop cannot be made retroactive. The drop date can be found on the SPC calendar.
- Students who stop attending a class should go through the procedure for dropping a course; otherwise they may be administratively withdrawn for lack of attendance and their record will show an "X," "U," or "F" instead of a "W." Failure to follow college policy by withdrawing according to this procedure will be reflected on a student's transcript by the presence of "X," "U," or "F" marks, as determined by the instructor. A mark of "W" will be given for student-initiated drops or withdrawals that occur prior to and through "The Last Day to Drop" as indicated in the appropriate class schedule. A student who quits attending class and is administratively withdrawn from class will receive a grade of "X," or "F" as determined by the instructor. "The Last Day to Drop" is indicated in the college class schedule.
- **Dropping an on-line class: You must contact Andrew Ruiz, Registrar (806-716-2371)**
  - option 1:** if the student is in Lubbock or Levelland they will need to go to the admissions office (Levelland or Reese Campus) to drop the class.
  - option 2:** if the student is in does **not** live in Lubbock or Levelland they should contact the Registrar's Office (806-716-2371) for further instructions.

You will need the following:

1. Statement indicating which class you want to drop
2. Student's Name
3. Student's Date of birth
4. Student ID# or last 4 digits of social security #
5. Telephone #
6. Student signature
7. Photo ID (usually a driver's license)
8. payment of drop fee
9. **If you follow these instructions you do NOT need my signature.**

#### **Academic integrity**

- Anything that borders on cheating, plagiarism, or affects the academic integrity of the assignment or of the course will be dealt with using the harshest measures possible -- the least thing that could happen to you is dismissal from my class roster with a failing grade.
- Cheating includes group work on the chapter exams.
- Your work must be *in your own words* and it must be original (cheating and plagiarism -- that is copying your friend's work or copying from another source -- will be dealt with in the harshest manner: you will be dropped from the class with an "F")
- Your work must be turned in on schedule to receive credit – neither chapter exams nor major exams and assignments can be turned in after the due date and time have expired. There are no exceptions to this provision.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is a morally repugnant choice. At SPC we take the offense of plagiarism very seriously.

Plagiarism is a very simple thing to spot: a failing student all of a sudden writes an essay that ought to be published – and guess what it usually is published! A mediocre student all of a sudden starts to use words and phrases that if asked to explain what the word or phrase means the offender cannot do so. But what you probably do not know is that having read widely in almost all of the areas I have you write on I have read most of the works that have been used in on-line sources. I am not a novice when it comes to the scholarly material nor am I a novice when it comes to how students your age should write. You are young students with little experience and I expect you to write like it – I have never asked you to write and think like professional historians and I certainly have not graded your work from that benchmark.

Secondly, plagiarism is the theft of another person's work. If you copy something from an internet source and present it as your own that is cheating, copying, and it is against the rules. In the "old days" before the internet, students had to at least go to the library and find a book to copy from; the internet has unfortunately made that a very simple (too simple, perhaps) process. If you take anything from this letter remember this: all anyone has to do to check for plagiarism is take a random phrase from an essay, copy it, and paste it into a Google search and the source comes up. Unlike the old days, I don't have to go to the library in search of the proof – I have access to the same sources as you! The internet has made plagiarism much easier but it has also made catching it much easier, too!

Plagiarism can also be defined as one or more students turning in the same or similar papers. I remember what I have read and can spot similar words and phrases from paper to paper, from section to section, and from semester to semester. SPC also maintains a file of every paper submitted by every student and student papers are automatically scanned for uncanny similarities.

Plagiarism also includes anything copied from an internet source, such as Wikipedia. I am not just offended that you think so little about your own honor that you would steal from someone else, but I am disgusted that you would waste my time having to deal with this. **The consequence of plagiarism in my classes is this: the offender(s) will be receive zero credit for the entire assignment or exam or will be automatically dropped from the class with an F.**

**SPC Policy regarding "standard English":** All written assignments should be presented using the conventions of Standard Written English. South Plains College requires all students to become proficient in "academic English," a form of English that is typically used in academic, professional, and business contexts. While slang, regional idioms, and informal kinds of self-expression are appropriate in some contexts, they are out of place in academic writing.

Writing instructors and professors in courses across the campus expect all students to demonstrate proficiency in using the conventions of academic English in their written work, whether it is inclass exams or take-home essays.

**Students with disabilities:** Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Special 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 Special Services Coordinator. For more information, call or visit the Special Services Office in the Student Services Building, 806716-2529 or 806-716-2530.

**Blackboard Accessibility Standards:** Blackboard measures and evaluates accessibility levels using two sets of standards: Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act issued from the United States federal government and the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.0) issued by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). A third party conducts audits of our software releases to ensure the accessibility of the products. For Blackboard Learn 9.1's conformance with the accessibility standards under Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act using the [Voluntary Product Accessibility Template® \(VPAT®\) tool](#), see the [VPAT for Blackboard Learn Release 9.1](#). For Blackboard Learn 9.1 SP11 conformance statement for [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0, Level AA](#) see [Learn Accessibility Conformance Statement](#). To learn more about Blackboard's commitment to accessibility, see <http://www.blackboard.com/accessibility>. (These resources are available in English only.)

### **Student Privacy**

South Plains College is bound by the Texas Open Records Law and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. Information regarding these topics can be found in the South Plains College Catalog. As far as this class is concerned, I will NOT release or discuss your class performance, grades, averages, or attendance with anyone but you. This means that your parents, class counselors, principals, or any other interested party will not gain this information from me – if they need this sort of information they must ask you for it. This provision does not apply to student athletes or those for whom a grade check is part of their scholarship support.

**Diversity Statement:** In this class, I will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences 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 diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.