Course Goal

Students will analyze governmental institutions, political behavior, civic engagement, and their political and philosophical foundations.

Course Description

This course is a study of functions performed in the American system of government, both national and state, within the framework of the U.S. and Texas Constitutions.

Learning Outcomes

Learning Outcomes: The Department of Political Science has adopted student learning outcomes for general education courses (POSI 2310 and POSI 2320) and for all undergraduate and graduate degree programs offered in the Department of Political Science. These outcomes are available for your review at http://www.polisci.txstate.edu, Pull down the "Student Resources" menu and go to “Learning Outcomes.”

How to be successful in this course

Completing this course successfully will require time and effort on your part. Accordingly, I’ve compiled the following list of study practices that I believe will help you to be successful in this course:

- **Realize that you cannot cram this material.** Slow and steady wins the race. Please do not try to complete this course in an unreasonably short period of time. One of your first tasks in this course should be to prepare a schedule and stick to it. (The Course Study Schedule will help you do this.) I suggest you plan to cover no more than one chapter every two weeks. Be careful about stepping away from the course material for an extended period of time.

- **Fully utilize your textbooks online resources.** Recognize that learning is not a spectator sport. Would you expect to watch someone play a sport and then go and perform at the same level? No. It’s the same with online courses. Think of your brain as a muscle; you’ve got to build it up and get it into shape by practicing.

- **Make a plan.** Self-motivation is necessary for successful completion of this course; no one will be pushing you but you. Use the Course Study Schedule (.pdf) to help you identify target dates and chart a path for progressing through the course, including when you’ll complete each homework, project, chapter test, and exam. You will benefit the most by completing the assignments in the sequence shown on the study schedule. Also, as you plan your submission dates, remember that I have five business days from the date of receipt to grade your projects, midterm exam, and final exam. Life happens; update your schedule as needed.

- **You are not alone.** Though correspondence self-paced courses offer tremendous convenience for students, they also leave some students feeling isolated. Remember that I am here to help. If you have questions about the course content or structure, please email me via the Mail tool in the left-hand navigation menu. You can also visit the useful links to reference materials, interactive activities, and videos provided in the lessons. If you’re on campus, remember also that you can utilize Slac for free tutoring. Those of you distant from campus have access to free online tutoring via Smarthinking.

Meet Your Instructor

**Principles of American Government [2310.010]**

Instructor: Professor Mora
Office: UAC 355F
Email: sm43@txstate.edu
Phone: 512.245.7427

**Curriculum Vitae**

B.A., M.A., Texas State University

**Senior Lecturer, Department of Political Science**
**Undergraduate Program Coordinator**

Sherri Mora is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Political Science. Her areas of interest are American Government, Public Policy-Emphasis, Education, and Finance. She earned her A.A. in General Education from Consumes River College and her B.A. in Political Science from Southwest Texas State University. She also received her M.A. in Political Science and M.P.A. from Texas State University. Upon receiving her M.A., she began teaching. She currently teaches Junior and Senior level courses. In 2004, she became the Internship Director for the Public Administration program and still holds that position today. Additionally, in her time at Texas State, she has become the Undergraduate Programs Coordinator for the Political Science and Public Administration programs and served as Academic Advisor from 2004-2007. Sherri Mora has also received numerous awards for excellence in her time as a Lecturer including The Howard M Green Award, Award for Academic Excellence in 1999 a nomination for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Service in 2004.

**COURSES TAUGHT**

**POSI 2310 (GOVT 2301) Principles of American Government**
A survey of the principles of political science, the American system of government, and the origins and development of the constitutions of the United States and Texas. This course satisfies the legislative requirements for teacher certification.

**POSI 2320 (GOVT 2302) Functions of American Government**
A study of functions performed in the American system of government, both national and state, with special reference to Texas.

**POSI 3316 Introduction to Public Administration**
The organization and management of the machinery for executing public policies, with particular emphasis upon the Federal bureaucracy.

**POSI 3318 Public Personnel Administration**
A study of public personnel systems in the United States with major concentrations on the national civil service system. Special emphasis is given to current research in the areas of leadership, informal organization, motivation, and small group theory.
POS 3328 Public Finance Administration
Focuses on planning, organization, and implementation of budgeting including fund accounting, auditing, and debt management in the public sector.

POS 4322 Public Policy Formulation
Intensive analysis of theories and processes of both policy formation and policy enforcement in the American administrative system, emphasizing the regulatory function.

POS 4380 Internship in Government
The student will participate in the ongoing work of a selected governmental unit.

POS 4381 Internship in Public Administration
Students in the Bachelor of Public Administration (BPA) degree program will participate in the ongoing work of a public or non-profit agency.

POS 4397 Research in Public Administration
This course is designed to assure familiarity with the basic concepts and approaches used in the study of public administration. Students will learn to identify, locate, and employ resources to assist in understanding public administration at all governmental levels.

POS 4680 Internship in Government
The student will participate full time (40 hours per week) in the ongoing work of selected governmental units.

Required Texts

ISBN: 9781308408477 (Printed Product) or 9781259763724 (E-Book)

NOTE: For special pricing, this product may be purchased at any San Marcos Book Store. You may also access the publisher directly from the TRACS site by clicking on “MHCampus” located on the left side menu buttons. Once you open that button, you will “Click here to launch this tool in a new window.” When the new window opens, click “Connect” where you will create an account. Be sure to use your Texas State Bobcat Mail and an easy to remember password. Once you’ve created your account, you may then click “purchase” to obtain access to the e-book or enter the access code provided in the special bookstore text. Student homework assignments are submitted directly via this online format associated with the text, therefore, it is IMPERATIVE that you purchase the exact ISBN or electronic version of "Connect Plus" to obtain the correct access.

Ordering Textbooks
Books can be ordered through the Texas State University Bookstore or an online vendor of the student's choice, such as Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com, or Half.com, or from a brick-and-mortar bookstore.

When purchasing required materials for a course, be sure to purchase the correct edition of the material and to verify that the material's International Standard Book Number (ISBN) matches that listed on the course website.

Should you require any assistance in locating course materials, please call the Office of Distance and Extended Learning at 512.245.2322.

Please keep in mind that all materials should be purchased within 30 days of enrollment; after 30 days, materials may no longer be available for your course.

When ordering from the online bookstore:

- Allow plenty of time for textbooks to arrive before class.
- Order early! You will need your textbook for the first week of class.
- NOTE: Please be aware International versions of the text may differ from the Domestic (North American) version required for
Course Schedule

Course Procedure

**Unit One: The American Political System**

Required Reading: *State of Texas*, Chapter 2 and Chapter 5

**Federalism Defined and Compared**

Additional Reading:

- **Required**: watch the video on federalism below [https://youtu.be/3ogosGSqSI](https://youtu.be/3ogosGSqSI)
- **Required**: Read the *Articles of Confederation* and the *The United States Constitution*

**The Evolution of Federalism**

Additional Reading:

- **Required**: Read More on *McCulloch v. Maryland*

**The Functions of Federalism and Why It Is Important?**

Additional Reading:

- **Required**: Read *About the Federalist Papers*, *Federalist No. 51* and *Federalist No. 46*

**Criticisms of Federalism**

Additional Reading:

- **Required**: Read *Problems with Federalism in Immigrations Policy*

**Fiscal Federalism**

Additional Reading:

- **Required**: Read more on *formula grants*

**Civil Liberties**

Additional Reading:

- **Required**: Watch the video on civil rights and liberties [https://youtu.be/kbwS-F-A2sTq](https://youtu.be/kbwS-F-A2sTq)
- **Required**: Read *The Bill of Rights*
- **Required**: Watch the video on freedom of Religion [https://youtu.be/Y8dI1GTWCK4](https://youtu.be/Y8dI1GTWCK4)
- **Required**: Watch the two videos on freedom of speech and freedom of press [https://youtu.be/Zeeq0qaEALw](https://youtu.be/Zeeq0qaEALw) and [https://youtu.be/Vtpd0EbaFoQ](https://youtu.be/Vtpd0EbaFoQ)

**Civil Rights**

Additional Reading:

- **Required**: Read More on *Affirmative Action*
- **Required**: Watch the video on sex discrimination [https://youtu.be/1uFh4GTZH-U](https://youtu.be/1uFh4GTZH-U)

**Unit Two: Ideology and Policy Process**

Required Reading: *State of Texas*, Chapter 4 and Chapter 11

**American Political Culture**

Additional Reading:

- **Required**: Read more about voter turnout [https://tracs.txstate.edu/portal/tool/5b4306d0-cfc8-43ec-9344-d484ae419553/printFriendly](https://tracs.txstate.edu/portal/tool/5b4306d0-cfc8-43ec-9344-d484ae419553/printFriendly)
Socialization
Additional Reading:

**Required**: Watch the video on Political Socialization  [https://youtu.be/1ZTnRWbdzs](https://youtu.be/1ZTnRWbdzs)

Political Ideology
Additional Reading:

**Required**: Read more about the Republican Party
**Required**: Read more about the Democratic Party

Policy Process

Regulation Policy

Environmental Policy

Domestic Policy
Additional Reading:

**Required**: Read more on the history of welfare programs
**Required**: Read more on [Rodriguez v. San Antonio ISD](https://example.com) and [Edgewood ISD v. Kirby](https://example.com)
**Required**: Read more on [How to Navigate Texas' School Finance System](https://example.com)

Immigration Policy
Additional Reading:

**Required**: Read more about [US Citizenship and Immigration Services](https://example.com), [Immigration Enforcement](https://example.com), and [Immigration to the US by Region of Origin](https://example.com)

**Unit Three**: Fiscal and Monetary Policy

Required Reading: *State of Texas*, Chapter 10 and Chapter 12

Constitutional Framework

Legislative Acts

Monetary Policy
Additional Reading:

**Required**: Watch the video on the difference between the two policy types  [https://youtu.be/SQCCIT41ss0](https://youtu.be/SQCCIT41ss0)
**Required**: Read more on [The Federal Reserve and Monetary Policy](https://example.com)

Fiscal Policy
Additional Reading:

**Required**: Read [The Differences Between Monetary and Fiscal Policy](https://example.com)
**Required**: Read about the [The Legislative Budget Board](https://example.com)

The Budget Process
Additional Reading:

**Required**: Read more about the [Office of Management and Budget](https://example.com)

Tax Policy

Expenditures
Additional Reading:

**Required**: Check out [Federal Agency Spending](#)

**Federal Debt**

Additional Reading:

**Required**: Check out the [Debt Clock](#)

**Required**: Watch this documentary on the federal debt, *I.O.U.S.A* (embedded on sub-topic page)

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**Unit Four: Foreign Policy**

**Essential Theories and Definitions of Foreign Policy**

Additional Reading:

**Required**: watch the video on realism [https://youtu.be/UnKEFSVAlNQ](#)

**Required**: watch the video on liberalism [https://youtu.be/TZbDMeqweE8](#)

**Constitutional Framework**

Additional Reading:

**Required**: [Foreign Policy Roles of the President and Congress (Read at least the Abstract and Introduction)](#)

**The Revolutionary War**

Additional Reading:

**Required**: Read more on the [Louisiana Purchase](#)

**Required**: Read more on the [Monroe Doctrine](#)

**Required**: Read more on the [War of 1812](#)

**The World Wars**

Additional Reading:

**Required**: Watch the two videos on World War I [https://youtu.be/Cd2ch4XV84s](#) and [https://youtu.be/pFcpKtwCkI](#)

**Required**: Read more on the [creation of the UN](#)

**Required**: Read more on the [War of 1812](#)

**The Cold War**

Additional Reading:

**Required**: Watch the two videos on the Cold War [https://youtu.be/9C72ISMF_D0](#) and [https://youtu.be/Y2IcmLkuhG0](#)

**Required**: Read more on [Containment Policy](#)

**Required**: Read more on the [Marshall Plan](#)

**Required**: Read more on the [Crises of 1958-1960](#)

**The Coming of a Democratic Century**

Additional Reading:

**Required**: Take a [closer look at the Arab Spring](#)

**9/11 and the War on Terror**
Cost and Consequence

Additional Reading:

**Required:** Read More on *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld*

Grading

Each topic (four total) is worth 20%.

Within each topic, there is a short answer written assignment (5%), a primary source analysis (5%), and a quiz (10%). Students may submit no more than two assignments each week.

This breaks down as follows:

**Topic 1:** 20%
- Short Answer Assignment: 5%
- Primary Source Analysis: 5%
- Quiz: 10%

**Topic 2:** 20%
- Short Answer Assignment: 5%
- Primary Source Analysis: 5%
- Quiz: 10%

**Topic 3:** 20%
- Short Answer Assignment: 5%
- Primary Source Analysis: 5%
- Quiz: 10%

**Topic 4:** 20%
- Short Answer Assignment: 5%
- Primary Source Analysis: 5%
- Quiz: 10%

Outside of the Topics, there will be a Midterm and Final.

- Midterm: 10% (to be taken on campus in Testing Center)
- Final Exam: 10% (to be taken on campus in Testing Center)

There will be **NO final curve.** Students will earn their grade. 89.5% and above (A), 79.5-89.4% (B), 69.5-79.4% (C), 59.5-69.4% (D), below 59.5% (F).

Communication Policy

According to "Seven Principles for Good Practice in Undergraduate Education," faculty-student contact is very important.

Accordingly, I encourage you to contact me if you have any concerns, questions, or problems. You are welcome to email me by using the Mail tool in the left navigation bar. (It is important to keep all mail related to this course contained within this TRACS site.)

My policy is that during non-holiday breaks or announced away times, emails I receive between Monday morning and Friday at noon will receive a reply within 48 hours. Emails received between Friday at noon and Sunday night will receive a reply on the next business day.

Free Tutoring Resources

A variety of free tutoring resources are available for students enrolled in correspondence self-paced courses.

All correspondence students have access to several hours of free online tutoring from Smarthinking for subjects ranging from
grammar and writing to mathematics and Spanish. Free online tutoring for writing-related assignments is also available from the Texas State Writing Center and from the Math Lab in Derrick 233.

For information on accessing these resources, please visit the Office of Distance and Extended Learning’s Free Tutoring page.

Currently-enrolled, degree-seeking students able to visit the Texas State campus are eligible for free in-person tutoring from the Student Learning Assistance Center (SLAC) on the fourth floor of Alkek Library.

TRACS Technical Support
Texas State’s Information Technology Assistance Center (ITAC) provides phone and LiveChat technical support for TRACS 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

To take advantage of these services, visit ITAC online or call 512.245.ITAC (4822).

Note also that a number of online TRACS tutorials are available from TRACS Facts.

Before beginning this online course, it is recommended that you review the minimum hardware and software requirements and other important information available on the ITS Course Information page.

Correspondence Course Information
As a correspondence self-paced studies student, it is your responsibility to be familiar with correspondence-related policies and services. To this end, I encourage you to review the Correspondence Course Information (.pdf) page as well as the Correspondence Studies Student Handbook.

Students with Special Needs
The Office of Distance and Extended Learning is committed to helping students with disabilities achieve their educational goals.

A disability is not a barrier to correspondence self-paced study, and we strive to provide reasonable accommodations to individuals in coursework and test taking.

Students who require special accommodations need to provide verification of their disability to the Office of Disability Services, Suite 5-5.1 LBJ Student Center, 512.245.3451 (voice/TTY).

Students should then notify the Office of Distance and Extended Learning of any disability-related accommodation needs as soon as possible to avoid a delay in accommodations.

Academic Integrity
The Texas State Academic Honor Code applies to all Texas State students, including correspondence students. The Honor Code serves as an affirmation that the University demands the highest standard of integrity in all actions related to the academic community. As stated in the Texas State Student Handbook, Violation of the Honor Code includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials.

Academic work means the preparation of an essay, thesis, report, problem, assignment, or other projects, which are to be submitted for purposes of grade determination. Cheating means engaging in any of the following activities:

- copying from another student’s test paper, laboratory report, other report or computer files, data listing, or programs;
- using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- collaborating, without authorization, with another person during an examination or in preparing academic work;
- knowingly, and without authorization, using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, soliciting, copying, or possessing, in whole or in part, the content of an unadministered test;
- substituting for another student—or permitting another person to substitute for oneself—in taking an exam or preparing academic work;
- bribing another person to obtain an unadministered test or information about an unadministered test;
- purchasing, or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one’s own work, any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm. This section does not apply to the typing of the rough or final versions of an assignment by a professional typist.
Plagiarism means the appropriation of another’s work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one’s own written work offered for credit. Collusion means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit. Abuse of resource materials means the mutilation, destruction, concealment, theft, or alteration of materials provided to assist students in the mastery of course materials.

Please cite all unoriginal material through the use of standard bibliographical practice. [https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/] Incidents of academic dishonesty as outlined by the University will be reported to the administration for disciplinary action. In addition, students will receive a 0 for the assignment or assignments without the opportunity to redo the work.