Spring 2024
GOVT 2304-151: Introduction to Political Science
Department of Social Sciences
South Plains College

Instructor: Dr. Timothy Holland
Course Time: N/A online
Course and Section Number: GOVT 2304-151
Location: online (Blackboard)
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Course Description: This course is an introductory survey of the discipline of political science focusing on the history, scope, and methods of the field. Special emphasis will be given to world political systems.
Credit: 3 lecture hours
Prerequisites: TSI Compliance in reading

Course Purpose: Government 2304, as taught at South Plains College, is a reading intensive course designed to acquaint the learner with the various sub-fields of Political Science, including Political Theory, American Politics, Comparative Politics, and International Relations.
Approval Number: 45.1001.52.25

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.

Internet Access: This course is an online course and you must have reliable access to a computer and the internet. If you do not own a computer or do not have access to a reliable internet connection then I would recommend using the computer lab, library, or other appropriate alternative. You must have access to a computer and the internet to complete this course. Failure to have access to either a computer or the internet is not a valid excuse for missing assignments, quizzes, exams, or other course content. Please make sure that you have a reliable internet connection when beginning exams and quizzes as you will only have one opportunity to complete those activities.

Course Calendar:

Week	Begin Date	End Date	Subject	Graded Items
1	16 Jan	19 Jan	Introduction to Political Science	Syllabus Quiz, Quiz 1, and Introduction Discussion Post
2	22 Jan	26 Jan	Political Ideology and Philosophy	Quiz 2 and Discussion Post 1
3	29 Jan	2 Feb	Socialization, Political Culture and Collective Action	Quiz 3
4	5 Feb	9 Feb	Exam 1	Exam 1
5	12 Feb	16 Feb	Civil Liberties, Rights, and Duties	Quiz 4 and Discussion Post 2
6	19 Feb	23 Feb	Political Participation	Quiz 5

7	26 Feb	1 Mar	Interest Groups, Parties, and Elections	Quiz 6 and Discussion Post 3
8	4 Mar	8 Mar	Exam 2	Exam 2
9	11 Mar	15 Mar	Spring Break	None
10	18 Mar	22 Mar	Legislatures	Quiz 7 and Discussion Post 4
11	25 Mar	29 Mar	Executives	Quiz 8 and Discussion Post 5
12	1 Apr	5 Apr	Democracy v. Authoritarianism	Quiz 9 and Discussion Post 6
13	8 Apr	12 Apr	Exam 3	Exam 3
14	15 Apr	19 Apr	Courts and Laws	Quiz 10 and Discussion Post 7
15	22 Apr	26 Apr	International Relations	Quiz 11 and Discussion Post 8
16	29 Apr	7 May	Exam 4	Exam 4

Class Schedule: All graded items must be completed BEFORE 11:59PM on their end date. Please note that discussion posts have an extra due date. You must complete your first discussion post responding to the discussion question at least 2 days before the Week's end date.

Office Hours: Please email me if you need to discuss your grade or the course content. Since this is an online course most of our communication will likely occur through email but feel free to attend my schedule office hours in person if you prefer. If you cannot attend my scheduled office hours please feel free to schedule an appointment with me via email.

Office Hours	AD134
Monday	1:00PM-3:00PM
Tuesday	1:00PM-3:00PM
Wednesday	By appointment only
Thursday	1:00PM-3:00PM
Friday	10:00AM-12:00PM
Email	tholland@southplainscollege.edu

Grading Scale:

Grade	Percent Needed
A	90% or greater
B	80% to 89.99%
C	70% to 79.99%
D	60% to 69.99%
F	Less than 60%

Grade Distribution:

Graded Item	Percent
Exams	60% (15% each)
Discussion Posts	16% (2% each)
Quizzes	24% (2% each)
TOTAL	**100%**

Textbook: We will be using a free online textbook through openstax.

Click the following URL (which is also located within each weekly folder in Blackboard):
https://openstax.org/details/books/introduction-political-science?Book%20details

Introduction to Political Science (2022) by Mark Carl Rom, Masaki Hidaka, and Rachel Bzostek Walker. Openstax.
ISBN (Digital): 978-1-951693-56-5
ISBN (Hardcover): 978-1-711470-68-9

Exams: There will be three exams over the course of this semester. Each exam will be composed of approximately 50 to 100 questions. Questions may be presented as multiple-choice, true/false, matching, or short answer.

Quizzes: You will complete 11 quizzes throughout the semester. Each quiz will cover the content found within the folder where the quiz is located. Make sure that you read and/or watch all materials provided in the folder before beginning your quiz. Each quiz will be worth 2 percentage points each. Each quiz will be composed of 5 to 20 questions. The questions in the quiz will be multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and, or, True/False questions. The Syllabus Quiz will also be graded but you will be permitted to re-take the syllabus quiz until you receive full points.

Discussion Posts: You will complete 8 discussion post assignments throughout this semester. Each discussion post assignment will cover a topic addressed within the weekly folder where the discussion post is located. To complete the discussion post assignment you will need to post a discussion addressing the question I post to you and the class. You will need to respond to that question in roughly 300 to 400 words (a word count function exists on the bottom left corner of Microsoft Word). However, you should write more than 400 words if you need to. It is always better to write more and fully answer the question than to write too little and leave important details out of your discussion.

You will also need to respond to at least 2 discussion posts by other students. You may respond twice to the same student or respond once to two different students. To make a response post hit the "Reply" button at the bottom of their discussion post. Each response post should be roughly 150 words, but once again write more if you need to.

Syllabus Statements: For Information regarding Intellectual Exchange, Disabilities, Non-Discrimination, Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations, CARE (Campus Assessment Response and Evaluation) Team, and Campus Concealed Carry, please use the following link:
https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/

Plagiarism and Cheating: Plagiarism and cheating in any form will not be tolerated in this course. South Plains College provides for a wide range of punishments for cheating including failing the assignment, quiz, exam, or course. I will be vigilant against cheating and you will at a minimum fail the assignment, quiz, or exam in which cheating or plagiarism has occurred.

A.I. Technology: All A.I. technologies are prohibited in this course, except spell check. Any use of A.I. technology to complete or supplement written work is cheating. I will drop you from the course with a failing grade if you use any A.I. technology in this course.

Late Work: I will allow you to complete assignments, quizzes, and exams after their due date for reduced points. Point will be progressively reduced the further away from the due date that you complete the assignment, quiz, or exam. If you know that you will be unable to complete an assignment, quiz, or exam because of illness or another reasonable circumstance then you must email me and I will allow your assignment, quiz, or exam to be graded for full points, but such accommodation shall be determined at the discretion of the instructor.

Late Work Penalty: 10 percent will be deducted from your earned grade for every day the graded item is late. Late work will not be accepted without permission from the instructor during or after Week 15 and Week 16.

Extra Credit: I do not intend to provide any extra credit opportunities in this course. If I provide extra credit it will be announced to the entire class.

Viewing Graded Material: You will be able to view your graded assignments, quizzes, and exams in "My Grades"

Attendance Policy: Since this is an online course I will not take daily attendance. However, you are expected to complete your work on time in accordance with the course calendar. Please email me if you are sick or have another valid reason for failure to complete your assignments.

Classroom Discussions: Given the nature of this course students may express political views contrary to your own and while no one is required to agree with another's political views you are required to be respectful. I encourage you to honestly express your views in this class, when it is appropriate and relevant, but you must be respectful in both your tone and delivery.

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 formal 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 in-class exams or take-home essays.

Emails: Every email must include your name, course and section number so that I can promptly address your question or concern. I will respond to your email within 24 hours. However, I will not respond to emails sent on Saturday or Sunday until the following Monday. Emails sent after normal business hours will not receive a response until the following workday. If Monday, or any other day is a public holiday for which SPC is closed, then I will not respond to the email until the following workday.

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

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):
Students who have completed this course will be expected to:
1. Define, explain, and apply political terms and concepts
2. Define Political Science and explain the various sub-fields

3. Compare and contrast the different political systems and institutions
4. Critically interpret and analyze contemporary political issues and problems, and propose and critique various solutions.

Fundamental Component Areas (FCA):
Students will be expected to perform satisfactorily in four FCAs
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.
    a. 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 in regional, national, and global communities by:
    a. Demonstrating intercultural competence
    b. Identifying civic responsibility
    c. Engaging in regional, national, and global communities
4. Personal Responsibility – to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making by:
    a. Reading, understanding, and affirming agreement and acceptance of principles, guidelines, and requirement 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

Syllabus Agreement: by continuing in this course you agree to the terms and conditions of this syllabus. If you do not agree to the terms and conditions of this syllabus you must drop the course.