

Course: Government 2305 Federal Government

Instructor: Bob Bilodeau

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Office Hours: As posted or by appointment

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Text: Cal Jillson. *American Government: Political Development and Institutional Change, 12th Edition.* (optional)

Purpose: The object of this course is to give students a better understanding of American government. This course will focus on the U.S Constitution, federalism, political socialization, public opinion, political participation, interest groups, political parties, Congress, elections, the presidency, the courts, civil liberties, civil rights, domestic and foreign policy.

College Policies: 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: [Syllabus Statements](#) (southplainscollege.edu)

Course Policies

1. Attendance: Regular class attendance is requested. Students who attend on a regular basis and take good notes do well in this class. Students who frequently cut class and sleep through lectures do not do very well in this class. Students who quit coming to class or are failing should drop this class. The professor is not responsible for dropping students from this class.
2. Tardiness: Late attendance is not acceptable behavior. Please respect your fellow classmates and arrive on time.
3. Academic Integrity: Cheating will not be tolerated. Anyone caught cheating will receive a **zero** for the exam and face possible suspension (See General Catalog).
4. Code of Conduct: No disruptive behavior will be tolerated. Anyone who is disruptive in class will be requested to leave. If this behavior occurs again, the student will be withdrawn from the course. **Disruptive behavior includes: making disrespectful comments to the instructor or fellow students, talking to your neighbor, having a cell phone go off in class, sleeping, or doing work for another class.**

Exams and Grading

1. Exams: During the semester there will be four major examinations and a final exam. The final exam will not be cumulative. **No make-up exam will be given unless notified in advance with a valid reason. If a student fails to take an exam without proper notification, the student will receive an automatic zero.** (The same policy applies to approved make-up exams.)

2. Material for Tests:

- 1st test – types of government & ideologies, the U.S. Constitution, federalism,
- 2nd test – political socialization, and public opinion, political participation, interest groups, political parties, and elections
- 3rd test – Congress, the presidency, and the courts
- 4th test – civil liberties & civil rights
- 5th test – domestic policy

3. Test Dates:

- 1st Test – M-W – Sept. 18th
T-TH – Sept. 19th
 - 2nd Test – M-W – Oct. 9th
T-TH – Oct. 10th
 - 3rd Test – M-W – Oct. 30st
T-TH – Oct. 31st
 - 4th Test – M-W – Nov 20th
T-TH – Nov. 21st
- Final Exam – see final exam schedule

4. Grading:

- a. There will be 5 exams worth 100 points each.
- b. The final grade will be an average of the 5 tests.
- c. Grading scale: A = 100-90, B = 89-80, C = 79-70, D = 69-60, F = below 60
- d. Exam grades will not be curved.
- e. There will be no extra credit points to improve an exam score or the final grade.