

South Plains College/Muleshoe High School

# The Organization of American and Texas Government

Government 2305  
John Gulley

Fall 2020

## Common Course Syllabus: Government 2305

DEPARTMENT: Social Science :

DISCIPLINE: Government :

COURSE NUMBER: Government 2305

COURSE TITLE: American Government, Organization :

CREDIT: 3 Lecture, 0 Lab : Satisfies a core curriculum requirement? Yes, Social Science and ALL Undergraduate Degrees

PREREQUISITES: TSI compliance in Reading :

AVAILABLE FORMATS: Traditional

CAMPUS: Muleshoe High School, Muleshoe Texas :

TEXTBOOK: ALL dual credit classes: We the People 2019 12<sup>th</sup> Edition

Ginsberg, WW Norton ISBN 13: 9780393644326

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 and Texas. This course satisfies the Legislative requirements for teacher certification.

COURSE PURPOSE: To acquaint students with the specifics of the development of the Texas and U.S. Constitutions and the party systems of the nation and state. The primary goal is to promote critical thinking in understanding of the operation of the US and Texas governments. Fundamentally, the course promotes general understanding of a body of knowledge any literate person should possess about the government of his or her own country.

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excessive and in the instructor's opinion, minimum course objectives cannot be met due to absences, the student will be withdrawn from the course.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: : 1. Recognize the differences between the New Jersey and Virginia Plans. 2. Identify the major components of Articles I, II, and III of the U.S. 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 U.S. 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.

**COVID-19: It is the policy of South Plains College for the Fall 2020 semester that as a condition of on-campus enrollment, all students are required to engage in safe behaviors to avoid the spread of COVID-19 in the SPC community. Such behaviors specifically include the requirement that all students properly wear CDC-compliant face coverings while in SPC buildings including in classrooms, labs, hallways, and restrooms. Failure to comply with this policy may result in dismissal from the current class session. If the student refuses to leave the classroom or lab after being dismissed, the student may be referred to the Dean of Students on the Levelland campus or the Dean/Director of external centers for Student Code of Conduct Violation.**

## **GOVT 2305: The Organization of American and Texas Government**

**Term:**

Fall 2020

**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 Home: (806) 925-6465

**E-mail:**

[jgulley@muleshoeisd.net](mailto:jgulley@muleshoeisd.net)

**Text:**

We the People 2019 12<sup>th</sup> Edition Ginsberg, WW Norton ISBN 13: 9780393644326

## Course Requirements and Grades:

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

### Periodic Examinations

Generally these will follow at the completion of each chapter.

### News Summary Instructions:

1. Summaries will be turned in **one week** before the end of each six weeks. Due dates this semester are:  
**September 18**  
**October 30**  
**December 11**
2. The summary will consist of 2 paragraphs, **totaling** not more than **one** typed page:
  - 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 and information from the textbook to the article. For example, how does the article relate to Checks and Balances, Social Contract Theory, or the ideas of the founding fathers? How does the article illustrate the enumerated powers of the President, Congress, or Supreme Court? **You should only include things which we have already studied in class.** The

- article should demonstrate a practical, current application of what we study to the “real world”.
3. On a second page, securely attach a copy of the article read, and write on the sheet the source from which it was obtained and the date of publication.  
WARNING: If you use an internet source, it must be approved in advance by the instructor—many websites are not legitimate news sources.
  4. 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 on the bulletin board in the classroom by your student number and in order of average (**not** in alphabetical order, to protect your privacy.)

**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. Remember, I do not have to have “proof” that you are cheating. My suspicions are quite sufficient for your removal from this class. Therefore, during any quizzes and/or exams, your eyes need to remain on your own paper. I will watch for wandering eyes and if I think someone is cheating, action will be taken. Working on projects or studying together is encouraged; however, your answers need to be your own. Again, it will be up to my discretion to decide if work has been copied.

**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 American Government: Continuity and Change by Karen O’Connor and Larry Sabato.

As time permits, we may watch the following videos:

*\*Within These Walls: A Visit to the White House*

*\*Inside the West Wing*

Department: Social Sciences

Discipline: Government