



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY – SHREVEPORT, LA
SU College Connect Program

FALL 2020 – SPRING 2021

Revised: July 23, 2020

Course Syllabus
SPOL - 201S - AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

INSTRUCTOR:

OFFICE LOCATION:

OFFICE HOURS:

PHONE:

CLASS TIME(S)/SECTIONS:

EMAIL:

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

POLI 200 AMERICAN GOVERNMENT - Emphasis in this course is placed on what government is, how it operates with respect to individuals and groups, the development of how the constitutional system is developed, and the citizens' roles as voters. (3-0-3)

TEXTBOOK:

TEXT: American Government in Black and White

STUDENT ISBN#: 9780190298791

EDITION: 3RD

PUBLISHER: Oxford University Press

SUSLA MISSION STATEMENT:

Southern University at Shreveport, a unit of the Southern University and A & M College System, a historically black comprehensive community college serving Northwest Louisiana and beyond, is committed to teaching and preparing traditional and non-traditional students for degree attainment, transfer, workforce, continuous learning and self-improvement. This preparation is available through multiple delivery methods and instructional sites for students seeking certificates, technical diplomas and associate degrees.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon the successful completion of the course with a minimum grade of a "C" a student will be able to:

- Outline in sequential order the process that led to the creation of the U.S. Constitution.

Differentiate between express powers and implied powers and demonstrate how implied power situations are derived from express powers.

- Distinguish between the cases of Plessy v. Ferguson and Brown v. Board of Education and explain why they are known as landmark cases.
- Chart how a person can become president of the United States with a minority of the popular votes.
- Construct a flowchart depicting the steps of how a bill becomes law.
- Create a political newscast centered on national and international issues.
- Evaluate the three branches of government demonstrating the involvement of each branch in the activities of the other.

CLASS ATTENDANCE POLICY:

- Students are required to attend classes regularly and punctually as a minimum academic obligation. Attendance is recorded the first day after a student registers. Failure to observe this policy may seriously jeopardize a student's academic standing. Tardiness and excused absences should be brought to the attention of the instructor(s) by the student. The following class Attendance policies apply:
- Any student who acquires **SIX (6) UNEXCUSED ABSENTEES** will receive the grade of "F" in the course for the semester.
- A student required to be absent from class because of illness or other unavoidable circumstances should promptly report the reasons to the instructor **IN WRITING**. This is considered to be an EXCUSED ABSENCE.
- All excuses or explanations must be submitted **IN WRITING** to the student's INSTRUCTOR within three school days after the student returns to classes.
- Forms of **WRITTEN EXCUSES** accepted by the *SU College Connect Program* are as follows:
 - 1) Signed doctor's excuses
 - 2) Signed letters/statements from the student's parent or legal guardian with the parent's contact telephone number included in the excuse
 - 3) Signed letters/statements from a student's lawyer or legal representative
 - 4) Signed letters/statements from a judge or court appointee
 - 5) Signed letters/statements from the student's landlord or approved appointee
 - 6) Signed letters/statements from the student's mechanic or approved appointee
 - 7) Other **WRITTEN EXCUSES** as deemed acceptable by the INSTRUCTOR or the Coordinator for the SU College Connect Program on your host campus.

Excuses for participation in university-sponsored activities will be initiated by the sponsoring unit and approved by either the Coordinator for the SU College Connect Program on your campus OR the Director for the SU College Connect Program.

- Students who wish to be absent from classes for reasons not covered by these regulations **must** apply to either the Coordinator for the SU College Connect Program on your campus OR the Director for the SU College Connect Program for a leave of absence.

NOTE: Financial aid students who receive all F's due to non-attendance or suspension will be considered "unofficial withdrawals" for the semester. If the student does not take a final exam or complete more than 67% of the course load, he/she may owe money to SUSLA and the Title IV federal aid program(s).

TARDY POLICY:

A student is considered tardy if he/she is later than fifteen (15) minutes arriving to class. Three tardies constitute one absence.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY:

In the event of inclement weather, the Chancellor on the HOST campus may cancel classes. Students are advised to listen to the TV or radio for an announcement or check the university website. Absence without an official school closure is treated as an unexcused absence unless there is danger for the student to travel.

STUDENTS CALLED TO ACTIVE DUTY:

Any student called to active military duty that has **completed at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the semester and is in good academic standing** within the course or institution has the following options:

- Receive course grades for the current semester for each enrolled course with the grade earned at the date he or she was called into active duty.
- Receive incompletes for all courses **if approved** by instructors.
- Withdraw from all current semester courses.

Steps to follow when leaving the University for Active Military Duty:

- Provide a copy of military orders to the Registrar's Office. If one chooses to complete the semester courses via an incomplete and if time permits, please follow the appropriate procedures for course completion. If the professor approves an incomplete grade, the student and professor should complete an Incomplete Grade Form, which is available in the Registrar's Office. The incomplete grade form must

be initiated by the instructor, and the reason stated for the incomplete grade(s), as follows: —called to Active Military Duty.

In the event that the military obligation does not permit adequate time to finalize grades or withdrawal, please contact the Registrar's Office. They will act on the student's behalf to inform the appropriate persons and/or departments of call to active military duty, and assist to finalize grades or withdrawal. Any grading options and planning for course completion, as agreed upon by instructors, will be documented. The student will be asked to advise the Registrar's Office whether he wishes to accept the grading option available.

- If administrative drops or a withdrawal are to be processed, the SU College Connect Coordinator on the HOST campus should initiate them. Reasons for withdrawal/administrative drop should clearly state — called to Active Military Duty.

Departments to contact in the event of call to Active Military Duty:

- Registrar's Office on the SUSLA campus - to communicate military call up, overall assistance, and issues related to VA benefits.
- Coordinator for the SU College Connect Program on your HOST campus OR the Director for the SU College Connect Program - in cases of a military call up.
- Financial Aid Office - if receiving financial aid.

MAKE UP POLICY:

All assignments and papers are due on the due date. I will accept an assignment late. However, your grade will be penalized 10% for each day the paper is late for three (3) days. Assignments and papers submitted after three days will only be accepted *with a valid doctor's excuse*. Assignments and papers submitted more than two weeks overdue, with or without a doctor's excuse, will not be accepted. In class assignments, such as pop quizzes, group assignments, or discussion forums cannot be made up, as these activities are interactive and require immediate participation.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN CLASS:

The use of cellular phones, pagers, CD players, radios, and similar devices is prohibited in the classroom and laboratory facilities for PERSONAL use.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

The University defines academic dishonesty in two categories: premeditated and no premeditated fraudulent behavior. Premeditated fraud is defined as conscious, preplanned deliberate cheating with materials prepared in advance. It may consist of the following: collaborating during an exam without authority; stealing, buying or otherwise obtaining all or part of an examination; using specially prepared materials; selling or giving away all or part of an examination or examination information; bribing another person to obtain an examination or information; substituting for another student, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take an examination; submitting as one's own

any work prepared totally or in part by another; selling, giving or otherwise supplying materials to another student for use in fulfilling academic requirements (e.g., term paper, course project, etc.); breaking and or entering a building or office for the purpose of obtaining examinations (administered or un-administered); changing, or being an accessory to the changing, of grades in a grade book, on an examination paper, or on other work for which a grade is given, or a “drop slip” or other official academic records of the University which involve grades; proposing and/or entering into an arrangement with an instructor or receiving a reduced grade in a course, on an examination or any other assigned work in lieu of being charged with academic dishonesty; committing plagiarism – failing to identify sources, published or unpublished, copyrighted or copyrighted, from which information was taken; acquiring answers for any assigned work or examination from an unauthorized source; falsifying references; listing sources in a bibliography not used in academic assignment; inventing data or source information for research or other academic endeavors; forging the signature of a faculty member or any academic officer on an academic document; altering or being an accessory to altering the contents of an academic document (i.e. registration forms, preregistration forms, add/drop forms, transcripts, fee exemption forms, registration card, etc.); using computers in an act of academic dishonesty; or submitting falsified or altered transcripts.

Unpremeditated fraud is defined as cheating without the benefit of materials prepared in advance. It may consist of copying from another student’s examination paper; allowing another student to copy from an examination paper; using textbook(s) or materials brought to class but not authorized for using during an examination.

NON-DISCRIMINATION/DISABILITY POLICY:

Notice of Non-discrimination - Southern University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. To address inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies, please contact the Office of Academic Affairs and Workforce Development for more information at 318-670-9315.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Southern University is committed to ensuring equal access to an education for enrolled or admitted students who have verified disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). College policy calls for reasonable accommodations to be made for eligible students with verified disabilities on an individual and flexible basis.

Any student enrolling in Southern University with a documented disability, who requests accommodations, must first provide a current evaluation of the disability from a medical professional. This documentation, which is required by federal guidelines, will remain on file with the Section 504/ADA/Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Academic Affairs and Workforce Development 318-670-9315.

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNIQUES:

The instructional techniques used in this course are lectures, discussions, teacher/student feedback sessions, role-playing and structured debates.

METHODS OF EVALUATION:

The methods of evaluation used in this course are papers, debates, newscast, exams, article summaries and a class project. Rubrics are used for evaluating papers, debates, newscast, and class projects.

GRADING SCALE:

Southern University operates on a 4.0 grading system. Students' academic progress is evaluated according to the following grading system.

GRADE	EXPLANATION	SCALE	QUALITY POINTS
A	Excellent	90-100	4.0
B	Above Average	80-89	3.0
C	Average	70-79	2.0
D	Below Average	60-69	1.0
F	Failure	Below 60	0.0
W	Withdrawal		0.0
AU	Audit		0.0
NC	Non-Credit		0.0
CR	Credit		0.0
P	Pass		0.0

To be in good academic standing, students are required to maintain a cumulative 2.0 average on the 4.0 system. Each grade reported as having been earned by the student at the end of a semester or summer term will be included in computing the cumulative grade point average. The student should observe that the grade "F" carries zero quality points and will be included in the computation.



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION:

In compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and other federal, state, and local laws, Southern University at Shreveport forbids discriminating or harassing conduct that is based on an individual's race, color, religion, sex, ethnicity, national origin or ancestry, age, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, veteran or military status, membership in Uniformed Services, and all other categories protected by applicable state and federal laws. This commitment applies but is not limited to decisions made with respect to hiring and promotion, the administration educational programs and policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic or other College administered programs. Discriminatory acts of any kind are strictly forbidden.

Any member of the Southern University and A&M College community has the right to raise concerns or make a complaint regarding discrimination without fear of retaliation. All inquiries regarding the application of this statement and related policies may be referred to Dr. Tuesday W. Mahoney, Title IX Coordinator, at (318) 670-9210. Complaints may also be made via email at titleix@susla.edu or by visiting www.susla.edu/titleix.

As set forth in our policies, individuals may also file complaints with administrative agencies such as the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights. The contact information for the local office of OCR is (214) 661-9600 is at Office for Civil Rights, Dallas Office, U.S. Department of Education, 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 1620, Dallas, TX 75201-6810. The email address for OCR is OCR.Dallas@ed.gov.