

Sam Houston State University
Political Science 261 – Principles of American Government – National/State
Instructional Syllabus

I. **BASIC COURSE INFORMATION:**

- A. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:** *(As stated in the bulletin, including necessary requisite courses, credit hours.)* Three credit hours. This course is an introduction to the study of the United States and Texas governments from an institutional and functional standpoint.
- B. **INTENDED AUDIENCE:** This class is intended for all Texas college students seeking a bachelor's degree. It satisfies three of the six credit hours necessary for graduation.
- C. **INSTRUCTOR:**
Kevin Wooten
Office Hours – By Appointment
Email – klw007@shsu.edu

II. **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES:**

A. **Required Textbooks, Materials, and Equipment** – Janda, Berry, Goldman, et al. *The Challenge of Democracy with Practicing Texas Politics, 9th edition, Special Edition for Sam Houston State.* .

C. **Course policies** –

Additional Policies Established by the Individual Instructor

Attendance – Attendance will be taken! Absences in excess of 3 will count off 3 points from the final grade per excess absence.

Be on time! If late arrivals begin to be a problem, I reserve the right to refuse entry to class after the designated start time. Those that may arrive late are responsible for informing the instructor of their attendance.

Cell Phones – Cell phones will be turned off before entering class. If you are expecting an emergency phone call, please let me know before class; otherwise cell phone use is not permitted.

Email etiquette – When sending an email, please include your full name and the days and time of your class *in every email correspondence*. If both your full name and days and time of class are not included in the email, it will not be answered.

Laptop use – Laptops may be used in class for note-taking only. Students using laptops for other uses during class time will lose laptop privileges

CLASS CONDUCT – THIS IS A COLLEGE CLASS. AS AN ADULT ASSUMING THE RESPONSIBILITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, YOU SHOULD ACT APPROPRIATELY. THIS MEANS TREATING FELLOW STUDENTS AND THE INSTRUCTOR WITH RESPECT. IN RETURN, YOU WILL BE TREATED WITH RESPECT. RESPECT MEANS ALLOWING OTHERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK WITHOUT INTERRUPTION. IT ALSO MEANS ALLOWING THE INSTRUCTOR TO PRESENT MATERIAL TO THE CLASS WITHOUT INTERRUPTION. VIOLATION OF THESE POLICIES MAY RESULT IN REMOVAL FROM THE CLASS.

Exams – Three major exams – Schedule to be announced. All makeup exams must be taken **BEFORE THE NEXT EXAM!** There are no exceptions to this rule

III. COURSE CONTENT:

A. Content/Topics – A study of United States and Texas government from an institutional, operational and functional point of view. Topics of discussion will be: The powers and functions of Congress; the powers and functions of the Texas Legislature; the powers, functions, and structure of the executive branches of government at both the national and state levels; the judiciary at the national, state, and local levels; the U.S. economy; the Texas economy; revenues, expenditures, and fiscal policy at the national and state levels; local government.

B. Additional Content – (as required by the instructor) – N/A

IV. EVALUATION AND GRADING:

90 – 100 = A

80 – 89 = B

70 – 79 = C

60 – 69 = D

00 – 59 = F

Exam #1 = 25%

Exam #2 = 25%

Exam #3 = 25%

Exam #4 = 25%

Total = 100%

V. SYLLABUS MODIFICATION:

The instructor may modify the provisions of the syllabus to meet individual class needs by informing the class in advance as to the changes being made