

[↪ Get Started](#)[📄 Syllabus](#)

Welcome to Political Science 2320: Functions of American Government

New to the course?

Be sure to familiarize yourself with the [Syllabus](#) and *review the information carefully*.

To succeed in this course, please fill out your [Course Pacing Guide](#) and take no more than **7 days** from when you enroll to submit it via Modules.

Click [Get Started](#) to begin your course.

Returning to the course? Click **Modules** to the left and resume where you left off.

Important reminders:

- This is a 6-month, online, correspondence self-paced course.
- **All submissions, including exams, must be completed by the course expiration date.** When you registered for the course, you were sent an email to your Texas State account indicating registration and expiration dates.
- **You may not submit more than 2 assignments per week.**
- You may not take an exam before previously submitted assignments have been graded and returned.

**At the end of the course, you will be asked
to complete a brief course evaluation.
Your input will help improve the course.**

Course Syllabus

Political Science 2320: Functions of American Government

Course Goal

Students will analyze governmental institutions, political behavior, civic engagement, and their political and philosophical foundations.

Course Objectives

After you have completed this course, you should be able to do the following:

- understand why we replaced our experiment called the Articles of Confederation with a constitution in 1789;
- discuss such principles of American government as separation of powers, Federalism, and judicial review;
- have an increased familiarity with the constitutions of the United States and Texas; and
- appreciate your political heritage more.

Course Description

This course is a study of functions performed in the American system of government, both national and state, within the framework of the U.S. and Texas Constitutions.

Learning Outcomes

General Education Core Curriculum (Code 070)

Students will analyze governmental institutions, political behavior, civic engagement, and their political and philosophical foundations.

- **Core Objectives:**
 - Critical Thinking:
 - Students will demonstrate creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
 - Communication:
 - Students will effectively develop, interpret and express ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
 - Social Responsibility:

- Students will demonstrate intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
- Personal Responsibility:
 - Students will relate choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.
- **Additional departmental learning outcomes:**
 - Outcome 1:
 - Students analyze governmental institutions, political behavior, civic engagement, and their political and philosophical foundations. Students will demonstrate their ability by explaining the impact of the U.S. Constitution and the Texas Constitution on civil liberties.
 - Outcome 2:
 - Students will demonstrate their ability by evaluating and synthesizing knowledge of the judicial review and due process at both the federal and state level.
 - Outcome 3:
 - Students will demonstrate their ability by interpreting and expressing ideas about the impact of the U.S. Constitution and the Texas Constitution on civil rights.
 - Outcome 4:
 - Students will demonstrate their ability by expressing their knowledge of civic responsibility by analyzing the rights and responsibilities of citizens on individual behavior.
 - Outcome 5:
 - Students will demonstrate their ability by expressing how issues and policies in the U.S. and Texas politics impact regional, national, and global communities.

Required Texts

There is a Texas State Political Science Custom E-Book required for this class.

It is on the McGraw-Hill Connect platform. **You will receive an email explaining how to access McGraw-Hill Connect. ([Contact your instructor](#) if you have not received access instructions within your first week of enrollment in the course.)**

Our custom e-Book includes the textbook as well as guided reading activities to help you learn the material. When you click on a chapter to read, Connect will open a new window labeled LearnSmart. It will have the chapter text along with highlights and an interactivity system. Think Memrise or Duolingo but with an accompanying textbook. When you start reading the assigned chapters, every so often, LearnSmart will alert you to begin answering questions about what you've read. Once you've answered those questions, you begin reading again. This is called adaptive learning, a guided method of reading that helps you review as you read. These reading activities are included in your grade.

Here is a video explanation on how LearnSmart works: [McGraw-Hill - LearnSmart - Adaptive Learning Technology](#)

Our e-Book Connect site also includes Topic quizzes. These are for after you've mastered the assigned Topic chapters.

For more detailed information on how Connect works, McGraw-Hill has information at [MGH Student Success Academy](#).

In addition, once you register and log into Connect, a demo will be offered.

Our Textbook:

“American and Texas Politics - POSI 2320”

- Edition: 3rd
- Author: Sherri Mora and William Ruger
- Publisher: McGraw-Hill
- Date: 2017
- ISBN: (subject to change)

A. It is **required** that you email Professor Mora through the Contact Your Instructor/ODEL tab to receive instructions on purchasing the course textbook. The ISBN changes over time, so you must email Professor Mora to make sure you receive the right code. If you purchase from our University Bookstore or elsewhere, you will not receive the correct book.

B. The cost is \$75.

C. Register for your McGraw-Hill account using your formal (Texas State) name and your Texas State email address. If you do not, your grades cannot be uploaded to Canvas.

D. If you're having trouble registering, get help at [MGH Student Success Academy](#) or call here: 1-800-331-5094 – Texas State unique contact. Please be sure to get a case number for your reference.

E. You are **NOT** required to purchase a paper version of this text; however, you may do so from the publisher for \$30 shipped to your home.

NOTE: This is a custom Texas State product, and therefore only the access code purchased directly through your instructor course link will work. If you purchase a Connect access card from an outside vendor (Amazon.com, Chegg.com, etc.) it will not work with this Connect course and you will still have to purchase the correct access to complete required assignments and assessments. Student homework assignments and assessment quizzes are submitted directly via this online format associated with the e-book, therefore, **it is IMPERATIVE that you purchase the exact product, provided through your instructor's course link**, as noted above to obtain the correct access.

Course Schedule

Before You Begin

- Read and Sign the [Course Pacing Guide](#) and submit it via Modules

Topic One: Constitutional Government, Federalism Revisited, Civil Liberties & Civil Rights

- *Topic Outline*
 - Constitutional Government
 - Federalism Revisited
 - Civil Liberties
 - Civil Rights
 - Topic Review
- *Reading:*
 - e-Book: US Chapters 4 and 5 as well as TX Chapter 2
 - Additional readings from links within Canvas course content
- *Assignments and Assessments:*
 - Canvas Course Content Topic One quiz
 - e-Book chapter reading activities
 - e-Book Unit Topic quiz

Topic Two: The Policy Process, Regulation, and Financing Government

- *Topic Outline*
 - The Policy Process
 - Regulatory Policy
 - Financing Government
 - Topic Review
- *Reading:*
 - e-Book: US Chapters 13 and 15 as well as TX Chapters 11 and 12
 - Additional readings from links within Canvas course content
- *Assignments and Assessments:*
 - Canvas Course Content Topic Two quiz
 - e-Book chapter reading activities
 - e-Book Topic Two quiz

Midcourse Exam - To be taken on-campus or at an approved proctoring center only after completing Topics One through Two.

Topic Three: Domestic Policy - Education, Social Programs, and Environment

- *Topic Outline*
 - Domestic Policy - Education
 - Social Programs
 - Environmental Policy
 - Topic Review
- *Reading:*
 - e-Book: US Chapters 15 and 1 as well as TX Chapter 11
 - Additional readings from links within Canvas course content
- *Assignments and Assessments:*
 - Canvas Course Content Topic Three quiz
 - e-Book chapter reading activities
 - e-Book Topic Three quiz

Topic Four: Foreign Policy and Criminal Justice

- *Topic Outline*
 - Domestic Policy - Criminal Justice
 - Foreign Policy
 - Topic Review
- *Reading:*
 - e-Book: US Chapter 17 as well as TX Chapter 11
 - Additional readings from links within Canvas course content
- *Assignments and Assessments:*
 - Canvas Course Content Topic Four quiz
 - e-Book chapter reading activities
 - e-Book Topic Four quiz

Final Exam - To be taken on-campus or at an approved proctoring center only after completing Topics One through Four.

Grading

Within each topic (there are 4 topics total), there are e-book assignments, an e-book topic quiz, and a Canvas content quiz.

This breaks down as follows:

- *Assessment:*
 - **e-Book Reading Assessments in Connect (LearnSmart):** There will be 4 e-book reading activities assigned for each topic to be completed via the e-book link provided to you. These activities are designed to improve student comprehension and overall performance and are averaged to account for 20% of your course grade.

- **e-Book Topic Quizzes in Connect:** There will be 4 e-book quiz assessments connected to the e-book reading and activities assigned for each topic. These also are accessed via the e-book link provided to you. The four e-book assessments will be averaged at the end of the semester and will account for 20% of your course grade.
- **Canvas Topic Quizzes:** There are 4 Canvas quiz assessments, one for each topic. These cover the Canvas course content as well as the additional readings linked throughout. These four Canvas course content assessments will be averaged at the end of the semester and will account for 20% of your course grade.
- **Exams:**
 - There will be 2 exams (multiple choice and/or true/false questions) administered during the course, a mid-term and a comprehensive final exam. They will each account for 20% of your course grade. Both of these exams are on Canvas and must be proctored at a testing center. You will not have access to either exam until a testing proctor enters a password.
 - Midterm: 20%
 - Final Exam: 20%

There will be **NO final curve**. Students will earn their grade. 89.5% and above (A), 79.5-89.4% (B), 69.5-79.4% (C), 59.5-69.4% (D), below 59.5% (F).

How To Be Successful In This Course

Completing this course successfully will require time and effort on your part. Accordingly, I've compiled the following list of study practices that I believe will help you to be successful in this course:

- **Realize that you cannot *cram* this material.** Slow and steady wins the race. Please do not try to complete this course in an unreasonably short period of time. One of your first tasks in this course should be to prepare a schedule and stick to it. (The [Course Pacing Guide](#) will help you do this.) I suggest you plan to cover no more than one chapter every two weeks. Be careful about stepping away from the course material for an extended period of time. **Fully utilize your textbooks online resources.** Recognize that learning is not a spectator sport. Would you expect to watch someone play a sport and then go and perform at the same level? No.
- It's the same with online courses. Think of your brain as a muscle; you've got to build it up and get it into shape by practicing. **Make a Plan.** Self-motivation is necessary for successful completion of this course; no one will be pushing you but you. Use the [Course Pacing Guide](#) to help you identify target dates and chart a path for progressing through the course, including when you'll complete each homework, project, chapter test, and exam. You will benefit the most by completing

the assignments in the sequence shown on the study schedule. Also, as you plan your submission dates, remember that I have five business days from the date of receipt to grade your projects, midcourse exam, and final exam. Life happens; update your schedule as needed.

- **You are not alone.** Though self-paced courses offer tremendous convenience for students, they also leave some students feeling isolated. Remember that I am here to help. If you have questions about the course content or structure, please email me via the Mail tool in the left-hand navigation menu. You can also visit the useful links to reference materials, interactive activities, and videos provided in the lessons. If you're on campus, remember also that you can use the [Math Lab](#) (if needed), [SLAC](#), and the [Writing Center](#).

You have ODEL. Please feel free to visit, call, or email the Office of Distance and Extended Learning for additional help. Our year-round office hours are: Monday – Friday, 8am – 5pm.

- - **Visit Us!** Academic Services Building – North, 302. Conveniently above the Math Lab and Writing Center
 - **Email:** corrstudy@txstate.edu
 - **Call:** 512-245-2322 or 800-511-8656
- **Free Tutoring Resources.**

A variety of free tutoring resources are available for students enrolled in correspondence courses. You may access tutoring through Tutor.com by clicking on Tutor.com: 24/7 Online Tutoring in the left menu of this course. Then just respond to the questions to start tutoring. If you need help with writing specifically, then choose Writing as your topic.

Free online tutoring for writing-related assignments is also available from the University Writing Center. For information on accessing these resources, please visit the Office of Distance and Extended Learning's [Free Tutoring](#) page. Currently-enrolled, degree-seeking students able to visit the Texas State campus are eligible for free in-person tutoring from the [Student Learning Assistance Center \(SLAC\)](#) on the fourth floor of Alkek Library

Contact Your Instructor/ODEL

Instructor

Even though this is a correspondence course, you are encouraged to contact your instructor, Dr. Sherri Mora, at sm43@txstate.edu if you have any concerns, questions, or problems.

Any email received between Monday morning and Friday at noon will receive a reply within 48 hours, except during holiday breaks or announced away times. Emails received between Friday at noon and Sunday night will receive a reply within 48 hours of the next business day.

To ensure timely delivery of all e-mails related to this course, you must use your official Texas State Bobcat Mail email address.

Office of Distance and Extended Learning (ODEL)

Email: corrstudy@txstate.edu

When you are ready to take an exam, you must [submit a request to take a proctored exam](#).

Submission 1: Course Pacing Guide

Start Assignment

Due No Due Date **Points** 0 **Submitting** a file upload

Download and add target dates to this [Course Pacing Guide](#).

Then click Submit Assignment and attach and submit your completed document.

After you upload your document, click Next to proceed with the course.

63

You are currently logged into Student View

Resetting the test student will clear all history for this student, allowing you to view the course as a brand new student.

Reset Student

Leave Student View

Topic One Objectives

Topic Goal:

The goal of this topic is for students to be able to demonstrate an understanding of federalism and how the United States Constitution and the Texas Constitution affect civil liberties and civil rights.



Learning Objectives:

1. Students will demonstrate their ability to evaluate and synthesize knowledge of judicial review and due process at both the federal and state level.
 2. Students will demonstrate an ability to explain the affect of the U.S. Constitution and the Texas Constitution on civil liberties.
 3. Students will demonstrate their ability to interpret and express ideas about the impact of the U.S. Constitution and the Texas Constitution on civil rights.
 4. Students will be able to distinguish where their rights are guaranteed.
 5. Students will be able to describe the role that the legislature and the judiciary play in Civil Rights and Civil Liberties policy.
-

Click Next to proceed to Assigned Readings.

Federalism Defined and Compared

Federalism is only one system of government; there are other systems of government. The United States is one of very few nations that have a federal system.

Optional: Read more on the powers given to the government in [Federalist No. 41](https://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/fed41.asp)  (https://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/fed41.asp) and [Federalist No. 45](https://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/fed45.asp)  (https://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/fed45.asp).

A system of government represents the larger view of political organization that illustrates how different levels of government within a nation interact. We can explore this interaction in terms of how power and authority are distributed within the system. Intergovernmental relations refer to the entire set of interactions between and among national, state, and local governments. There are three major systems of government:

Unitary

- Formal authority rests with the national government
- Power in lower levels of government is prescribed by national directive
- Most governments in the world today have a unitary system

Confederation

- National government is created by and derives its authority from the member states
- Prior to ratification of the United States Constitution, the US system of government was a confederation
- A contemporary example of this type of system would be the European Union with its 27 member nations. The institutions of the EU perform specific functions based on agreement by its members

Federal

- A constitutional division between the nation and the states in which each level of government enforces its laws directly on the citizens
- The US has a federal system

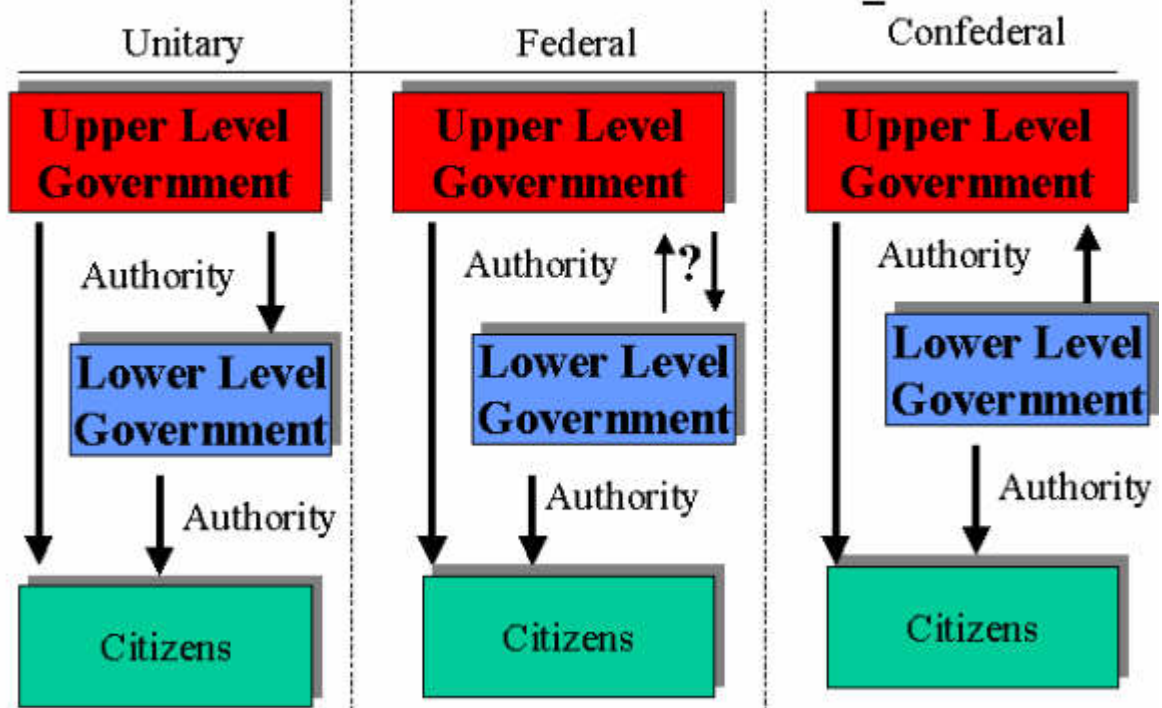
Required: Watch the video below: *Federalism: Crash Course Government and Politics #4*

Federalism: Crash Course Governme...



Required: Read the [Articles of Confederation](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/artconf.asp) (http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/artconf.asp) and the [The United States Constitution](#) and compare the language between a unitary system and a federal system.

UNITARY - CONFEDERAL - FEDERAL FORMS GOVERNMENT *



Three Forms of Government

Image source: wilidot.com

Click Next to proceed to The Evolution of Federalism.

Topic One Quiz

Due No due date

Points 100

Questions 25

Time Limit None

Instructions

IMPORTANT:

This quiz is to be taken AFTER completing the following Topic One assignments:

1. Connect eBook readings
2. Connect LearnSmart reading assessments
3. Connect LearnSmart topic quizzes
4. Canvas Module pages and required links

[Take the Quiz](#)

63 **You are currently logged into Student View**

Resetting the test student will clear all history for this student, allowing you to view the course as a brand new student.

[Reset Student](#)

[Leave Student View](#)

Correspondence Course Information

As a correspondence studies student, it is your responsibility to be familiar with correspondence-related policies and services. To this end, I encourage you to review the [Correspondence Course Information page](#) as well as the [Correspondence Studies website](#).

Orientation Video

Please view [this orientation video](#) to help you get started in this correspondence course. This video addresses many topics such as Bobcat Mail, navigating this course site, test requests, and more.

Online Student Resources

[This webpage](#) contains multiple resources for online students at Texas State University. Note: Some resources are only available to students who pay a student service fee.

Click Next to proceed to Technical Requirements and Support.

Students Requiring Accommodation Through the Office of Disability Services

The Office of Distance and Extended Learning is committed to helping students with disabilities achieve their educational goals.

A disability is not a barrier to correspondence study, and we provide reasonable accommodations to individuals in coursework and test taking.

Students who require special accommodations need to provide verification of their disability to the [Office of Disability Services](#), Suite 5-5.1 LBJ Student Center, 512.245.3451 (voice/TTY).

Students should then notify the [Office of Distance and Extended Learning](#) at corrstudy@txstate.edu of any disability-related accommodation needs as soon as possible to avoid a delay in accommodations.

Click Next to proceed to Tips for Success.

Free Tutoring Resources

A variety of [free tutoring resources](#) are available for students enrolled in Texas State correspondence courses.

Free Tutoring Resources

A variety of [free tutoring resources](#) are available for students enrolled in Texas State correspondence courses.



FREE TUTORING



University Writing Center

The Texas State University Writing Center's online tutoring service allows Texas State correspondence, self-paced study students, to work with a writing tutor in real time in an online environment. During the online tutorial, both the student and the tutor are

Academic Integrity

Texas State Academic Honor Code

The [Texas State Academic Honor Code \(https://www.txstate.edu/honorcodecouncil/\)](https://www.txstate.edu/honorcodecouncil/) applies to all Texas State students, including correspondence students. The [Honor Code \(https://policies.txstate.edu/university-policies/07-10-01.html\)](https://policies.txstate.edu/university-policies/07-10-01.html) serves as an affirmation that the University demands the highest standard of integrity in all actions related to the academic community. As stated in the [Texas State Student Handbook \(https://studenthandbook.txstate.edu\)](https://studenthandbook.txstate.edu), [Violation of the Honor Code \(https://studenthandbook.txstate.edu/rules-and-policies/academic-honor-code.html\)](https://studenthandbook.txstate.edu/rules-and-policies/academic-honor-code.html) includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials.

Definitions

As stated per [Texas State Honor Code, UPPS No. 07.10.01, Issue no. 8](#).

*Please note that not all activities that constitute academic misconduct are listed in specific detail in [UPPS No. 07.10.10, Honor Code](#). It is expected that students will honor the *spirit* of academic integrity and will not place themselves in the position of being charged with academic misconduct.

Please cite all unoriginal material through the use of [standard bibliographical practice](#) explained through the [Alkek library site](#).

Incidents of [academic dishonesty as outlined by the University](#) will be reported to the administration for disciplinary action. In addition, students will receive a 0 for the assignment or assignments without the opportunity to redo the work.

Academic work signifies outcomes and products such as essays, theses, reports, exams, tests, quizzes, problems, assignments, or other projects submitted for purposes of achieving learning outcomes.

Cheating in general means, but is not limited to, engaging or attempting to engage in any of the following activities:

- Copying from another student's test paper, laboratory report, other report, computer files, data listing, programs, or from any electronic device or equipment;

- Using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- Collaborating, without authorization, with another person during an examination or in preparing academic work;
- Knowingly, and without authorization, using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, soliciting, copying, or possessing, in whole or in part, the content of an unadministered test;
- Substituting for another student—or permitting another person to substitute for oneself—in taking an exam or preparing academic work;
- Bribing another person to obtain an unadministered test or information about an unadministered test;
- Purchasing, or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one's own work, any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm. This section does not apply to the typing of the rough or final versions of an assignment by a professional typist;
- Submitting the same essay, thesis, report, or another project, without substantial revision or expansion of the work, in an attempt to obtain credit for work submitted in a previous course;
- Falsifying data.

Plagiarism in general means, but is not limited to, the appropriation of another's work and the inadequately or inappropriately acknowledged incorporation of that work in one's own written, oral, visual or the performance of an original act or routine that is offered for credit.

Collusion in general means, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing any work offered for credit.

Abuse of resource materials in general means, but is not limited to, the mutilation, destruction, concealment, theft or alteration of materials provided to assist students in the mastery of course content.

Please cite all unoriginal material through the use of **standard bibliographical practice** as explained on the **Alkek Library site**.

Incidents of academic dishonesty as outlined by the University will be reported to the administration for disciplinary action. In addition, students will receive a 0 for the assignment or assignments without the opportunity to redo the work.

Notice of Intellectual Property Rights

The text and images on this page and pages linked to it are protected by **copyright**. Lectures and examination questions are also protected by copyright law. You are authorized to take notes in class and to use the online

materials provided, thereby creating derivative works from my lectures and other materials. However, this authorization extends only to making one set of notes or answers for your own personal use and no other use. You are not authorized to provide copies, notes or examination questions to anyone else, or to make any commercial use of them without prior written consent.

As stated per [Texas State Honor Code, UPPS No. 07.10.01, Issue no. 8](#).

Click Next to proceed to Students Requiring Accommodation Through the Office of Disability Services.

Technical Requirements and Support

This online course requires technical skills and access to certain technology and software that face-to-face courses may not require.

- Learn about [skills and technology](#) you need to be successful in this course.
Also review these [tips](#) and [interaction guidelines](#) to be a successful online learner.

Many users encounter fewer problems when they use **Chrom** to access **Canvas courses**.

Here's how to **get help with Canvas**:

24/7 [Live chat](#)

24/7 Phone support: 245.ITAC (4822)

[Tool-specific help](#)

Click Help in the left navigation of any Canvas course

If you are new to Canvas, click Student Guide in the left navigation of any course site to learn the basics.

Click Next to proceed to Free Tutoring Resources.