

[↪ Get Started](#)[☰ Syllabus](#)

Welcome to Political Science 2310: Principles 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.**

Meet Your Instructor

Dr. Sherri Mora

Office: **UAC 355K**

Email: sm43@txstate.edu (<mailto:sm43@txstate.edu>)

Phone: **512.245.7427**

Read about Dr. Mora's background below.

Faculty Profiles



Dr. Sherri L Mora

Associate Professor of Practice — Political Science
UAC 355

📞 phone: (512) 245-2143

✉️ sm43@txstate.edu

Scholarly/Creative Work	Awards
Grants	Service

Selected Scholarly/Creative Work

- Mora, S. L. (2022). *The State of Texas: Government, Politics, and Policy*. New York, New York, USA: McGraw Hill.
- Varacalli, T. F. X., & Mora, S. L. (2021). *Invitation to Political Science* (Preliminary Edition). Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt.
- Mora, S. L. (2019). *The State of Texas: Government, Politics, and Policy*. New York, New York: McGraw-Hill.
- Mora, S. L. (2019). *Political Science: Institutions and Public Policy*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt.
- Mora, S. L., & Ruger, W. (2017). *The State of Texas: Government, Politics, and Policy*. New York, New York, USA: McGraw Hill Higher Education.

■ [View all Scholarly/Creative Work](#)

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.

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 **Chrome** 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.

Free Tutoring Resources

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

Academic Integrity

Texas State Academic Honor Code

The [Texas State Academic Honor Code](#) applies to all Texas State students, including correspondence students. The [Honor Code](#) 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](#), [Violation of the Honor Code](#) 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.

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.

Tips for Success

1. Pace yourself in the course, giving yourself plenty of time to CAREFULLY READ each chapter and complete each assignment.
2. Highlight or underline key terms, important facts, results of relevant studies, and repeated names as you read. You should expect to recognize or use these in an assessment.
3. Be sure you are focused on the material when you are reading. If you are worried or thinking about something else, you aren't concentrating and reading won't help you learn.
4. Carefully read the information related to your mid-course and final exams (if you have them).
5. Ask for help! Contact your instructor if you have any questions or concerns. Remember, you can also use the free tutoring resources that have been provided to you through Texas State University.

More tips are available on the [Tips for Online Success](#) page.

Click Next to proceed to Syllabus.

Syllabus

To help ensure your success in this course, click [Syllabus](#) and read carefully to understand course expectations and requirements.

Submission 1: Course Pacing Guide

 Published

 [Edit](#)



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.

Points 0

Submitting a file upload

Due	For	Available from	Until
-	Everyone	-	-

+ [Rubric](#)

Topic One Objectives


Topic Goal:

The goal of this topic is for students to analyze the theoretical influences on the American founding using primary source documents and to demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the Constitution of the United States and its federal structure.

Learning Objectives:

1. Students will synthesize their understanding of the philosophical foundations of the American founding using select primary source documents.
 2. Students will analyze the development of the U.S. Constitution.
 3. Students will identify the parts of the Constitution and define the powers and major provisions of each branch of government.
 4. Students will evaluate and synthesize knowledge of the federal system of government and the relationship between the federal, state, and local systems.
 5. Students will understand the separation of powers and checks and balances in practice at the national level.
-

Click Next to proceed to Assigned Readings.

 Topic
One
Assigned
Readings

Topic One Assigned Readings

Be sure to go through the material for Topic One in the following order:

eBook Chapters, Reading Activities, and Quiz

1a) Read the eBook (Connect) chapters listed below and completed the reading activities in these chapters (guided questions as discussed in the syllabus), which will help you master the material. As a reminder, here is a short video on how the Connect reading works: [McGraw-Hill - LearnSmart - Adaptive Learning Technology](#).

If you have not received an email with Connect access information, [contact Professor Mora](#) to receive instructions as soon as possible.

For this topic, the required Connect chapters are as follows:

1. US Chapter 1. Political Thinking and Political Culture: Becoming a Responsible Citizen
2. US Chapter 2. Constitutional Democracy: Promoting Liberty and Self-Government
3. US Chapter 3. Federalism: Forging a Nation
4. TX Chapter 2. The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System

1b) Once you've completed the chapter readings and activities, do the Topic 1 Quiz in Connect.

Canvas Readings and Quiz

2) Read through the course content for Topic One here on the Canvas site. This reading is broken up into units with links to additional content. Some links are required reading or viewing, some are optional.

Here is a list of the required links, which you will find repeated on the following pages.

Required: Video introduction to Plato's philosophy [PHILOSOPHY - Plato](#) 

Required: Video introduction to Aristotle's philosophy [PHILOSOPHY - Aristotle](#)

Required: Read [Articles of Confederation](#).

Required: Read James Madison's concerns about the Articles of Confederation in his [Vices of the Political System of the U. States](#)

[09-02-0187](#))

Required: Read [more on the Connecticut Compromise](#) 

Required: Video on constitutional compromises - [Constitutional Compromises: Crash Course Government and Politics #5](#)

Required: Read [the Constitution](#)

Required: Read [the Federalist Papers](#) (No. 10, No. 46, No. 51)

Required: Video on federalism - [Federalism: Crash Course Government and Politics #4](#)

Click Next to proceed to Introduction to Topic One.

Summing Up

So, what's the point?

Take a moment to reflect upon what you have learned in this topic. Does the theoretical foundations and the structure of our government explain the complexity of politics in our society? The more we understand about the way our system was designed and the way it works, it becomes apparent that politics and policy occur as a result of competing ideas and conflicting goals that arise from compromise in the spirit of community.

Moving forward...

The next topic will examine each branch of government, the authority each branch exercises, and how the branches have been structured to check each other's power.

Click Next to proceed to the Topic One Quiz.

Topic One Quiz

Due No due date

Points 100

Questions 25

Time Limit None

This quiz is part of the module **Topic One: Theoretical Foundation, The Constitution & Federalism** and hasn't been unlocked yet.

Completion Prerequisites

The following requirements need to be completed before this page will be unlocked:

Course Pacing Guide

[Submission 1: Course Pacing Guide](#)

must submit the assignment
