

# Course Syllabus

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Political Science: **1113**

American Federal Government Rose State College

POLS1113 (2181)

Tuesday/Thursday 11am-12:15pm

Social Sciences Building, Room 228

Spring 2024

## **Rose State College Mission Statement:**

As a public and open admission institution that grants associate degrees, Rose State College provides higher education programs and services intended to foster lifelong learning for a diverse population.

Professor Emily Stacey, Ph.D.

Division Name and Location: Division of Social Sciences, Office: Room 115

Campus Phone: 405-733-7522

Personal Phone: 405-642-7580 (feel free to call or text me)

Email Address: [estacey@rose.edu](mailto:estacey@rose.edu)

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday: 8:30-9:30am; 12:15-2pm; Fridays upon request

Twitter: @politikphd (It is helpful to follow me – or at least consult the list of those that I follow to get an idea of what news sources are going to be helpful to you in the course and in the future).

**E-Text:** American Democracy Now, Author: Harrison, Harris, Deardorff, Publisher: McGraw-Hill, Edition: 8th, Year Published: 2021. ISBN: 9781264423330.

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU PURCHASE YOUR CONNECT CODE AND REGISTER ON CONNECT BEFORE JANUARY 29TH OTHERWISE DR. STACEY MAY TAKE AS A LACK OF PARTICIPATION AND ADMINISTRATIVELY WITHDRAW YOU FROM THE COURSE. YOU MUST HAVE **THE CONNECT CODE** (this will give you access to an e-book) FOR THIS COURSE.

**About your Instructor:** Dr. Emily Stacey is a full professor at Rose State College and an adjunct at Oklahoma City Community College. I was born and raised in Norman, Oklahoma (Boomer Sooner)! I

have two Bachelors of Arts, one in Political Science – International Relations; and Philosophy. I also have a Master of Arts in Political Science, with an emphasis on International Relations. While getting my M.A., I worked for six years as an Oklahoma State Capitol Reporter for a for-profit legislative tracking service in Oklahoma City. I worked through 5 legislative sessions and 4 election cycles in Oklahoma politics – it was certainly eye-opening, and many stories I will tell during the course will come from my direct experience working in the legislature. I recently completed my Ph.D. in Political Communication and Digital Media Studies. I research (predominately) modern revolutions and movements and the role that social media/new digital technologies are playing in them. I was a panelist at The Media and Arab Spring conference in Ifrane, Morocco, and then studied at Oxford University's Internet Institute in July 2014.

I am a political wonk and an unashamed dork (I watch more C-SPAN and Jeopardy than any healthy grown woman should). Some of my other outside interests include: not working on my dissertation, binge-watching House of Cards, and my bratty Scottish Terrier, Agnes (Aggie).

**Instructor Invitation:** My goal this semester is to make the American Government interesting, and to provide you with an exciting and challenging classroom environment. In order to achieve this, I will make myself available to you via email, Twitter, phone and in-person meetings via office hours. Furthermore, it is my job to ensure that you succeed not only in my class but in college as well. Due to this aspect of my job I am here to help you as much as possible as long as you are willing to work with me. If you ever feel you are falling behind or need more time on an assignment or work topic, please come see me.

**Discussion Thread/Engagement Behavior:** Rude and disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Please be respectful of others opinions and come to discussion threads with an open mind and facts to back up your statements!


**Expectation of Student (Conduct):**

This course is required for all degrees at Rose State, it is important that you respect both the professor as well as your peers. If you need to have a conversation, please take it outside the classroom, as you have all paid for this course and deserve to get your monies worth out of it. I will ask for you to remove yourself from my classroom if there are multiple instances of disruption; after I have communicated with you regarding the behavior and it persists, I will then involve Rose State Student Conduct. Please be respectful of your peers and myself – it is a requirement.

**Syllabus Addendum:** For additional information on campus-wide classroom expectations & resources, please review the information on the following link: [https://library.rose.edu/ld.php?content\\_id=46332488](https://library.rose.edu/ld.php?content_id=46332488)

**Title IX Statement**

Title IX makes it clear that violence, harassment, and discrimination based on sex and gender are civil rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources, both on and off campus,

at <https://www.rose.edu/content/about-us/our-college/policies-regulations/title-ix/title-ix-procedures/>  (<https://www.rose.edu/content/about-us/our-college/policies-regulations/title-ix/title-ix-procedures/>). As a faculty member, I am required by federal law to report incidents of sexual misconduct and thus cannot guarantee confidentiality. However, I can assure you that whatever you tell me will be kept as PRIVATE as possible and will only be relayed to the necessary officials on campus. Please consider my mandatory reporter status as you consider whether you want to speak to me about your experiences, or if you would prefer to speak directly with a Title IX team member.

**Course Description:** This Course is a study of the principles, structures, processes, and functions of the United States federal government. We will examine where we came from and how we got to where we are. We will discuss the nature of the U.S. Constitution and why we have one. We will also discuss how the different branches and levels of government interact with one another and the role we as citizens play in the governmental process. Students should have a firm grasp of current political issues that are occurring in

**Course Topics:**

Who Gets What, Where and How: Politics and Political Culture

The Cornerstones of our Government: The Constitution and Federalism

We Hold These Truths: Civil Liberties, Civil Rights

We The People: Voting, Political Parties, and Elections

e-Politics: Technology, the Internet and Modern American Politics

Institutions: the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Congress, the President, and the Courts

**Course Objectives:**

What will all of these provide you? At the end of this course students should be able to do the following:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of fundamental constitutional principles, such as democracy, federalism, separation of powers, and checks and balances, determining the extent to which the U.S. conforms to the definition of democracy.
2. List and describe the characteristics of the major political institutions of the U.S.; legislative, executive and judicial, including the roles and powers of each. Analyze the functions of each political institution and their relationship to each other.

3. Identify and discuss the roles of political parties, interest groups, and political action committees. Demonstrate how the public's demands are conveyed to the political system, and how they provide opportunities for public representation. Demonstrate knowledge of the election process and the role citizens in the process.
4. Describe the process by which government policies are produced in the U.S., and analyze the impact of major policies on citizens and on society.
5. Demonstrate an ability to conduct light research and critically analyze government issues – notably current political issues.
6. Identify the role of the internet in modern politics and current debates surrounding the net in the U.S.
7. Identify current political events in the U.S. and be able to articulate an opinion or discuss the event intelligently.

Class time provides an opportunity for you to ask questions, clarify issues, and deepen your understanding of the concepts covered in the text. If you are absent, you are responsible for getting any notes, assignments, and schedule changes made on that day from your base group. If you know you are going to have to miss a class you should let your base group know in advance what day(s) you will not be able to attend. This will allow them to prepare for in class work and homework assignments in advance. If you come in late, you are responsible for seeing that the attendance record is correct.

### **Assessment and Grading:**

**Total Points Available For This Course: 1000 (See Canvas for Point Distribution)**

### **Course Assessment:**

During this semester your understanding of the material and progress in this course will be assessed in the following manner:

**Current Events Discussion/Participation:** Students will be responsible being prepared to discuss (through threads) and share their opinion on the literature as well as current events, both within the U.S. and internationally. Students will consult their favorite news source at least once a week, and be prepared to summarize a news article and comment on at least two others each week. It is important for you to not only become knowledgeable about the foundational aspects of the American political system, but also grasp modern politics and the political issues that shape our futures. Professor reserves the right to play clips from a variety of news sources (Fox News, MSNBC, CNN, BBC, possibly some C-SPAN if you are lucky) to spark discussion.

**Homework:** Over the course of the semester there will be several homework assignments that will vary from work you do on the individual level, to work you will do on your own but share with your groups. The assignments are briefly explained below.

- **Connect Homework:** For each chapter you will be given an assignment that you will only be able to access using the Connect feature for your textbook, which includes key terms and concepts. These

concepts will be drawn from material presented in class and in your textbook. They are designed so that you are attending class and utilizing your textbook to engage in the learning process. These will be due at the beginning of each class period (or as the schedule below notes).

- **Examinations:** Throughout the course you will take 3 examinations, including your final exam. The exams will consist of 50 questions (a mix of multiple choice and definitions) and each will include extra credit questions (short answer) that are based on current events in U.S. politics. The questions and definitions will be taken directly from your Connect homework.






**Examination Policy:** Examinations are to be taken online within the time frame provided to you in class by your professor, typically you will have a days to complete an examination online. Any student not completing the exam within the given period must provide a reasonable explanation to the professor, and receive permission to submit a late exam.












**AW Policy:** Students wishing to withdraw from a course must do so in accordance with the final withdrawal date (with refund) for the Spring 2024 semester is **January 31**. Administrative withdrawals will also be completed on January 31. If you are not participating in a course, the professor has the ability to administratively withdraw you from the course, removing you from the course (as well as access to the course on Canvas) and assigning you a grade of 'AW' on your transcript for the course. It is important that you are present and sign attendance always, but particularly within the first few weeks of classes to avoid this situation.

















The final date to withdrawal without a refund is April 17, 2024. Failure to withdraw by this date will normally result in a failing grade being posted for the course. A grade of "incomplete" can be given at the discretion of the instructor when the bulk of the coursework has been completed. You must speak with the instructor to arrange an "I" grade, and the remaining coursework must be completed within one semester.

For course schedule, see the Course Summary under the Syllabus tab on Canvas!

## Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Sun Feb 18, 2024	 <a href="https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/552518">Chapter 1 Homework</a> ( <a href="https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/552518">https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/552518</a> )	due by 11:59pm
		
	 <a href="https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/552518">Chapter 2 Homework</a> ( <a href="https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/552518">https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/552518</a> )	due by 11:59pm
		
	 <a href="https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/552518">Chapters 4 &amp; 5 Homework</a> ( <a href="https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/552518">https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/552518</a> )	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Sun Feb 25, 2024	  <a href="#">Exam 1</a> <a href="https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/551438">https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/551438</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="#">Chapter 6 Homework</a> <a href="https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/552519">https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/552519</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="#">Chapter 7 Homework</a> <a href="https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/552520">https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/552520</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 7, 2024	 <a href="#">Chapter 8 Homework</a> <a href="https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/552521">https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/552521</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="#">Chapter 9 Homework</a> <a href="https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/552522">https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/552522</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="#">Chapters 10 &amp; 11 Homework</a> <a href="https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/552523">https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/552523</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="#">Exam 2</a> <a href="https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/551438">https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/551438</a>	due by 11:59pm
Wed Apr 17, 2024	 <a href="#">The Great Debate</a> <a href="https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/551438">https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/551438</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 28, 2024	 <a href="#">Unify Challenge College Bowl</a> <a href="https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/551438">https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/551438</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun May 5, 2024	 <a href="#">Chapter 12 Homework</a> <a href="https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/552524">https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/552524</a>	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
		
	 <a href="https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/552528">Chapter 13 Homework</a> <a href="https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/552528">https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/552528</a>	due by 11:59pm
		
	 <a href="https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/552528">Chapter 14 Homework</a> <a href="https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/552528">https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/552528</a>	due by 11:59pm
		
	 <a href="https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/552527">Chapter 15 Homework</a> <a href="https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/552527">https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/552527</a>	due by 11:59pm
		
	 <a href="https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/552528">Chapter 16 Homework</a> <a href="https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/552528">https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/552528</a>	due by 11:59pm
		
	 <a href="https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/552517">Chapter 3 Homework</a> <a href="https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/552517">https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/552517</a>	due by 11:59pm
		
	 <a href="https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/552528">Chapters 17 &amp; 19 Homework</a> <a href="https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/552528">https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/552528</a>	due by 11:59pm
		
Sun May 12, 2024	 <a href="https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/551437">Final Examination</a> <a href="https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/551437">https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/551437</a>	due by 11:59pm
		
	 <a href="https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/560989">Roll Call Attendance</a> <a href="https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/560989">https://rose.instructure.com/courses/19933/assignments/560989</a>	
	