

**University of Arkansas - Fort Smith**  
**5210 Grand Avenue**  
**P. O. Box 3649**  
**Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649**  
**479-788-7000**

**General Syllabus**

**POLS 490V: Political Science- Special Topics**

Credit Hours: 3-9      Lecture Hours: Variable

Prerequisite(s): POLS 2753 American National Government

Effective Catalog: 2019-20

**I. Course Information**

**A. Catalog Description**

Specialized study of selected topics in political science. Topics may include the Constitution, Congress, political parties, Political Theory, the Presidency. May be repeated when topics differ for up to nine hours.

**B. Additional Information**

Student must meet with the instructor regularly. They will prepare an abstract of their project, a bibliography and their results.

**II. Student Learning Outcomes**

**A. Subject Matter**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Analyze complex ideas by the study of the theory of American governance;
2. Communicate through the use of essays and quizzes;
3. Use technology to locate appropriate online sources;
4. Develop a broader, more global perspective through the study of American institutions.

**B. University Learning Outcomes**

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

**Analytical Skills**

**Critical Thinking Skills**

Students will analyze and evaluate both philosophical and non-philosophical arguments.

**Communication Skills (Oral and Written)**

Students will acquire conceptual and linguistic skills necessary to successfully communicate abstract political ideas to a wide audience.

**Ethical Decision Making:**

Students will apply some of the basic normative ethical theories in dealing with moral problems.

**Global and Cultural Perspectives:**

Students will appreciate the role which various philosophers and philosophies have had in molding the culture in which they live and in fashioning other cultures.

**III. Major Course Topics**

Will vary based on the course theme.