

# American Government

## GOVT-2305

Spring 2019 Section 018 CRN-25640 3 Credits 01/14/2019 to 05/09/2019 Modified 01/10/2019

### Meeting Times

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#### Lecture

Tuesday, Thursday, 1:25 PM to 2:40 PM, Old Main 302

### Contact Information

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#### Instructor: Mr. Michael Beauregarde Smith

Email: [Michael.Smith@blinn.edu](mailto:Michael.Smith@blinn.edu)

#### Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM, Old Main 113

### Description

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Government 2305 is a study of the organization, functions, and administration of the several branches and agencies of the national government, including a study of the federal constitution. The primary factors considered relate to the three branches of government - judicial, executive, legislative -- major historical documents, the events that shaped the nation, and current events. Emphasis will be placed on the interaction of these subsystems. 48 contact hours. Credit: Three semester hours.

#### Requisites

Student must be college reading ready according to Texas Success Initiatives Standards (TSI). Please see the Catalog section under Texas Success Initiative.

### ★ Core Curriculum Statement

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Through the Texas Core Curriculum, students will gain a foundation of knowledge in human cultures and the physical and natural world, develop principles of personal and social responsibility for living in a diverse world, and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning. For details relating to this core course, please see:

[http://www.blinn.edu/academics/core\\_curriculum.html](http://www.blinn.edu/academics/core_curriculum.html) ([http://www.blinn.edu/academics/core\\_curriculum.html](http://www.blinn.edu/academics/core_curriculum.html))

### Outcomes

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Explain the origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States.

Demonstrate knowledge of the federal system.

Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice.

Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government.

Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in the political system.

Analyze the election process.

Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens.

Analyze issues and policies in U.S. politics.

## Materials

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ALL:

Ginsberg, Lowi and Weir. We The People, 11th full edition. Norton Publishing, 2017. Special custom edition for Blinn College.

## Course Requirements

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### Evaluation

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The student will take three (3) exams, one (1) cumulative final exam, and four (4) class participation writing exercises exercises.

Each student will be responsible for providing a Scantron (Form 882, small scantron with 50 answers on each side), #2 pencil(s), and eraser for each exam. It is highly recommended that the student bring the textbook, paper, and writing instrument for class lectures and discussions.

### Criteria

This course will consist of three (3) 50 question exams. Each exam will consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank, and true/false types of questions. Each exam will count 50 points towards your final grade.

There is a 100 question cumulative final. The final exam will count towards a maximum of 100 points towards your final grade.

The four (4) participation writing assignments will count as a maximum of 40 points toward your final grade. The assignments will be posted on E-campus. The assignments must be typed (Double spaced, 12 font), printed, and turned in when class starts on the date due.

### Breakdown

Three (3) 50 question exams: 150 points

One 100 question final: 100 points

Four Participation assignments 40 points

There are a total of 290 points available for you to earn this semester in this course. The breakdown for final grades is as follows:

261 - 290 points = A

232 - 260 points = B

203 - 231 points = C

174 - 202 points = D

Less than 174 = F

## Blinn College Policies

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All policies, guidelines, and procedures in the [Blinn College Catalog \(http://catalog.blinn.edu/\)](http://catalog.blinn.edu/), [Blinn College Board Policies \(http://pol.tasb.org/Home/Index/1204\)](http://pol.tasb.org/Home/Index/1204), and the [Blinn College Administrative Regulations \(https://www.blinn.edu/administrative-regulations/\)](https://www.blinn.edu/administrative-regulations/) are applicable to this course.

[Specific information on civility, attendance, add/drop, scholastic integrity, students with disabilities, final grade appeal, alternative retailers, campus carry and proctoring arrangements and cost. \(http://www.blinn.edu/syllabus-policies/\)](http://www.blinn.edu/syllabus-policies/)

Notice of any action taken under these protocol and procedures, by Blinn College or its employees, may be delivered by hand, through the U.S. Postal Service, or electronically to the student's Blinn Buc e-mail account. Notice shall be deemed received upon actual receipt, on deposit in the U.S. Mail, or upon entering the information processing system used by Blinn College for Blinn Buc e-mail accounts, whichever first occurs.

## \* Course Policies

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### Attendance

Blinn requires attendance to be taken on a daily basis. To meet this requirement I will call roll at the beginning of each day. If you are not in class when the roll is called, you are considered absent for the day.

You must stay for the whole class. If you leave early without getting permission from me, you will be counted absent for the day.

The only excused absences are those recognized by Blinn. I do not accept notes from the doctor or anything of this sort. If you miss a day you should get the lecture notes from a classmate.

Remember, this is a T/TH class. After 4 unexcused absences you can be dropped from the course.

### Electronics

There are no laptops, I phones, I pads, or anything like that allowed in the classroom. All notes must be handwritten.

### Reviewing test

I will not return tests, only the scantron. If you wish to review your old exams you may do so during office hours. In an effort to prevent numerous students from waiting until the last minute to review their exams (and therefore not allow me to give individual attention to the students who would like to ask questions) I am limiting the time frame in which you can review your old exams. You can only review your old exams before the next exam takes place. For example, you can only review test 1 after you complete test 1 but before you complete test 2. After you complete test 2, you may not review test 1, but can review test 2 as long as we have not completed test 3.

### E-mails

E-mails have become very important and one of the main ways of communicating with others. This means we need all e-mails to be professional. To this end if you send me an e-mail there are certain things I expect this e-mail to have. **If the e-mail does not meet these requirements, I will not respond.**

The first thing that should be in your e-mail is something in the re: or subject line. Provide a short description of what the e-mail is about.

The second thing is a greeting. Mr. Smith, Prof. Smith, or something to this extent is appropriate. Howdy is not an appropriate greeting for a professional e-mail.

I have approximately 200 students. This means I may or may not know you by name. Help me help you and tell me your name and what class you are in.

In the body of your e-mail, please be succinct. Do not send me a 4 paragraph e-mail stating you are going to miss class tomorrow. If you are going to send me an e-mail, please just say something to the extent of "I am going to miss class tomorrow, thank you".

Sign your e-mails. Sincerely, Thank you, or something to this extent and type your name.

These may seem like simple things but there are many people who do not know to follow these rules. Remember, for some people the only contact (and the only way you make an impression on them) is through e-mails. Look professional and always give a good impression of yourself.

Please allow up to 48 hours for an e-mail response.

## Late work

Late work is not accepted.

## Exams

Exams are expected to be completed on the day they are scheduled. There will be no make up exams.

## Leaving class early

I understand there may be days when you need to leave early. This is not a problem as long as you tell me before hand. Letting a professor know you need to leave early before hand is just common courtesy.

If you leave early without letting me know you will be counted absent for the class period.

## Schedule

Week One	Meeting Details	Lecture Minutes	Weekly Hours
Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2019	Introduction to Class	75	3
Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019	Begin Types of Government	75	
Week Two		LEC	Weekly
Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019	Finish Types of Government	75	3
Thursday, Jan. 24, 2019	Begin The Constitution	75	
Week Three		LEC	Weekly
Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2019	Finish the Constitution	75	3
Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019	Begin Federalism	75	

<b>Week Four</b>		<b>LEC</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
<b>Tuesday, Feb. 05, 2019</b>	<b>Finish Federalism</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Thursday, Feb. 07, 2019</b>	<b>Begin Congress</b>	<b>75</b>	
<b>Week Five</b>		<b>LEC</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
<b>Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019</b>	<b>Finish Congress</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Thursday, Feb. 14, 2019</b>	<b>Test 1 over Types of Government, The Constitution, Federalism, and Congress</b>	<b>75</b>	
<b>Week Six</b>		<b>LEC</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
<b>Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2019</b>	<b>Begin The Executive Branch</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Thursday, Feb. 21, 2019</b>	<b>Finish The Executive Branch</b>	<b>75</b>	
<b>Week Seven</b>		<b>LEC</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
<b>Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2019</b>	<b>Begin Political Parties</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Thursday, Feb. 28, 2019</b>	<b>Finish Political Parties</b>	<b>75</b>	
<b>Week Eight</b>		<b>LEC</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
<b>Tuesday, Mar. 05, 2019</b>	<b>Begin Interests Groups</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Thursday, Mar. 07, 2019</b>	<b>Finish Interest Groups</b>	<b>75</b>	
<b>Week Nine</b>		<b>LEC</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
<b>Tuesday, Mar. 12, 2019</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>		
<b>Thursday, Mar. 14, 2019</b>	<b>Sring Break</b>		
<b>Week Ten</b>		<b>LEC</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
<b>Tuesday, Mar. 19, 2019</b>	<b>Begin Public Opinion</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Thursday, Mar. 21, 2019</b>	<b>Finish Public Opinion</b>	<b>75</b>	
<b>Week Eleven</b>		<b>LEC</b>	<b>Weekly</b>

Tuesday, Mar. 26, 2019	Test 2 over The Executive Branch, Political Parties, Interests Groups, Public Opinion	75	3
Thursday, Mar. 28, 2019	Begin Modern Bureaucracy	75	
Week Twelve		LEC	Weekly
Tuesday, Apr. 02, 2019	Finish Modern Bureaucracy	75	3
Thursday, Apr. 04, 2019	Begin The Judiciary	75	
Week Thirteen		LEC	Weekly
Tuesday, Apr. 09, 2019	Finish The Judiciary	75	3
Thursday, Apr. 11, 2019	Begin Civil Liberties	75	
Week Fourteen		LEC	Weekly
Tuesday, Apr. 16, 2019	Continue Civil Liberties	75	3
Thursday, Apr. 18, 2019	Finish Civil Liberties	75	
Week Fifteen		LEC	Weekly
Tuesday, Apr. 23, 2019	Begin Civil Rights	75	3
Thursday, Apr. 25, 2019	Finish Civil Rights	75	
Friday, Apr. 26, 2019	Drop Date		
Week Sixteen		LEC	Weekly
Tuesday, Apr. 30, 2019	Exam 3 over Modern Bureaucracy, The Judiciary, Civil Liberties, and Civil Rights	75	3
Thursday, May 02, 2019	Review Day	75	
Week Seventeen – Finals Week		LEC	Weekly
Tuesday, May 07, 2019	12:45 PM – 3:00 PM cumulative final		
	<b>Total Contact Hours</b>		<b>48 hrs.</b>