

American Government

GOVT-2305

Spring 2019 Section N09 CRN-25108 3 Credits 01/14/2019 to 05/09/2019 Modified 01/11/2019

Meeting Times

Internet Class

12:00 AM to 11:59 PM, URL: <https://ecampus.blinn.edu>

Course runs January 14 - May 9

This is an online distance education course. All assignments are available for at least ten days before they are due with the exception of the Orientation Quiz, Introduction Discussion and Final Exam. It is expected that students work on this class every week.

Contact Information

Instructor: Mr. Tyler Young

Email: tyler.young@blinn.edu (preferred)

Phone: 512-587-3753 (only for emergency, no texting)

Virtual Office Hours: 11am-Noon on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Description

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 The primary factors considered relate to the three branches of government - judicial, executive, legislative -- major historical documents, the events that shaped the nation, and current events.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

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)

Outcomes

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

WE THE PEOPLE 2017 PKG

REQUIRED | By GINSBERG

EDITION: 11E

ISBN: 9780393622850

PUBLISHER: NORTON

Course Requirements

Assignments:

Orientation Quiz: 1% of overall grade

Chapter Pre-Tests: 3% of overall grade

These are over the material for the given for each of the 15 chapters and will be multiple choice. Each chapter will have one.

Learning Goal Quizzes: 15% of overall grade.

There are 4-6 of these for each chapter (15 total chapters) including By The Numbers, Simulations, etc.

Post-Tests: 5% of overall grade

These are over the material for the given 15 chapters and will be multiple choice; each chapter will have one post-test.

Discussions: 15% of overall grade

There is an introduction discussion board and three unit discussions due throughout the term. Follow the instructions for each one. For this category the Introduction Discussion is worth 10% and the three unit discussions are worth 30% each.

Long Essays: 16% of overall grade

Students will complete two long essays of approximately 500-1000 words. Please see the full description of this assignment including rubric in eCampus.

Unit Exams: 30% of overall grade

There is an exam for each of the three units in this class. The questions will come from the readings and exercises done for the chapters within the unit. All exams are done online within the course. You may use your book. You may NOT use a friend. At the end of

the term, if your Final Exam grade is higher than any of your Unit Exam grades, I will replace your lowest unit exam score with a value equal to that of the Final Exam; this includes a grade of zero.

Final Exam: 15% of overall grade

This exam will have questions from the entire semester. The questions will come from the readings and exercises.

Please refer to the Schedule at the bottom of this syllabus for a complete listing of all deadlines in the class. These are all also visible from eCampus.

Papers will be graded within seven days and other assignments (including Discussions and Exams) within three.

✓ Evaluation

Criteria

Your grade will be calculated as follows:

90% or higher will be an A

80-89.99% will be a B

70-79.99% will be a C

60-69.99% will be a D

Less than 60% will be an F

Individual assignments within categories have point values that comprise the total score for that category. For example, Exam 1 is worth 25% of the "Exams" category; that category is worth 40% of your overall grade. So if a student got the following exam scores: 90, 80, 95, 75 they would have 340 or 85% of the possible 400 points in that category. So of the possible 50% they will have 42.5 go towards their final average.

Blinn College Policies

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

It is expected that you will continually work on this class throughout the term and you must achieve the deadlines for all assignments. It is expected that you will devote 3-6 hours per week to learning the material and doing the assignments. It is the opinion of the instructor that 3-6 solid hours on each chapter will be sufficient for most students to read the chapter, review the key terms and complete the host of assignments for that chapter. This of course may vary by student. Failure to login and attempt any assignment for an entire week will be considered one week of absences and it will be reported in MyBlinn. Failure to login in and attempt any assignment for a second week at any time during the semester will be considered two weeks of absences and it will be reported in myblinn and you will be dropped from the course.

I will not be sympathetic to a computer/internet issue the day assignments are due; you will find that we have many more options if you attempt something more than 24 hours before the deadline. It is your responsibility to procure reliable computer access to complete this course. I would suggest having a backup plan such as the school or a neighbor/friend's computer/internet that you can use just in case you run into trouble. As a rule, the instructor does not accept late work. Students have from the first day to work on the entire course; so waiting until the moment before something is due is simply not a reason for it not to be done; that is to say there are no "make-ups." With that said, in the event of a "catastrophe" exceptions may be granted with supporting documentation.

The instructor checks his email regularly and students can expect a response within 24 hours during the week and by noon on Monday if sent after noon on the prior Friday. Virtual "Office" hours are everyday from 4-5PM wherein students can feel free to call or email and will likely get a prompt response.

Papers will be graded within seven days and other assignments (Including Discussions and Exams) within three.

Schedule

Calendar Week: Topic(s) Credit Hours (per week)

Jan 14-20: Syllabus, CH.1 American Political Culture. HRS: 3

- Orientation Quiz, Introduction Discussion due by 11:30pm on January 21.

Jan 21-27: CH. 2 The Founding and the Constitution. HRS: 3

- Chapter 1 Learning Goal Quizzes, Pre-Test and Post-Test Due by 11:30pm on January 28.
- Chapter 2 Learning Goal Quizzes, Pre-Test and Post-Test Due by 11:30pm January 28.

Jan 28 – Feb 3: CH. 3 Federalism. HRS: 3

- Chapter 3 Learning Goal Quizzes, Pre-Test and Post-Test Due by 11:30pm on February 4.

Feb 4 - 10: CH. 4 Civil Liberties. HRS: 3

- Chapter 4 Learning Goal Quizzes, Pre-Test and Post-Test Due by 11:30pm on February 11.

Feb 11-17: CH. 5 Civil Rights. HRS: 3

- Chapter 5 Learning Goal Quizzes, Pre-Test, Post-Test, Unit 1 Discussion and Unit 1 Exam Due by 11:30pm on February 18.

Feb 18-24: CH. 6 Public Opinion. HRS: 3

- Chapter 6 Learning Goal Quizzes, Pre-Test and Post-Test Due by 11:30pm on February 25.

Feb 25 – March 3: CH. 8 Political Participation and Voting. HRS: 3

- Chapter 8 Learning Goal Quizzes, Pre-Test and Post-Test Due by 11:30pm on March 4.

Mar 4-10: CH. 9 Political Parties. HRS: 3

- Chapter 9 Learning Goal Quizzes, Pre-Test and Post-Test Due by 11:30pm on March 18.

March 11-17: SPRING BREAK

Mar 18-24: CH. 10 Campaigns and Elections. HRS: 3

- Chapter 10 Learning Goal Quizzes, Pre-Test and Post-Test Due by 11:30pm on March 25.

Mar 25 – Mar 31: CH. 11 Groups and Interests. HRS: 3

- Long Essay 1 due by 11:30pm on March 27.
- Chapter 11 Learning Goal Quizzes, Pre-Test, Post-Test, Unit 2 Discussion and Unit 2 Exam Due by 11:30pm on April 1.

Apr 1-7: CH. 12 Congress. HRS: 3

- Chapter 12 Learning Goal Quizzes, Pre-Test and Post-Test Due by 11:30pm on April 8.

Apr 8-14: CH. 13 The Presidency. HRS: 3

- Chapter 13 Learning Goal Quizzes, Pre-Test and Post-Test Due by 11:30pm on April 15.

Apr 15-21: CH. 14 Bureaucracy. HRS: 3

- Chapter 14 Learning Goal Quizzes, Pre-Test and Post-Test Due by 11:30pm on April 22

April 22-28: CH. 15 Federal Courts. HRS: 3

- Long Essay 2 due by 11:30pm on April 24.
- **The last day to drop with a "Q" is April 26.**
- Chapter 15 Learning Goal Quizzes, Pre-Test and Post-Test Due by 11:30pm on April 29

Apr 29 – May 5: CH. 16 Government and the Economy. HRS: 3

- Chapter 16 Learning Goal Quizzes, Pre-Test, Post-Test, Unit 3 Discussion and Unit 3 Exam Due by 11:30pm on May 6.

May 7-11: Finals Week HRS: 3

- Final Exam due by 11:30pm on May 8.

Total Contact Hours	48
<i>NOTE: Online classes are aligned with their counterpart classes offered in all other modalities – i.e. F2F. They include the same objectives and learning outcomes. The Master Course Syllabus aligns course objectives and learning outcomes. Moreover, these are reviewed and verified through the division (using the Division Online/Blended Course Pre-Review Form) and through the Distance Learning Course Review Team procedures. Furthermore they conform to the guidelines established by Texas Administrative Code Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter A, Rule 4.6 (e).</i>	

The last day to drop with a "Q" is April 26.