

# American Government

## GOVT-2305

Spring 2019 Section 346 CRN-24885 3 Credits 01/14/2019 to 05/09/2019 Modified 01/11/2019

### Meeting Times

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#### Lecture

Monday, Wednesday, 4:15 PM to 5:30 PM, A106

### Contact Information

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#### Professor: Mrs. Lena Noel Denman

Email: [lena.denman@blinn.edu](mailto:lena.denman@blinn.edu)

Office: A262

Phone: 979-224-6738

#### Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, 10:15 AM to 10:45 AM, A262

### 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 The primary factors considered relate to the three branches of government - judicial, executive, legislative -- major historical documents, the events that shaped the nation, and current events.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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### WE THE PEOPLE 2017 PKG

**REQUIRED** | By GINSBERG

EDITION: 11E

ISBN: 9780393622850

PUBLISHER: NORTON

## Course Requirements

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### Exams

You will have four exams and a comprehensive final over the course of this semester. The first four exams will be all multiple choice. You need the AcuScan 28980 Scantron for all exams in my class. Each exam will be weighted as 100 points of the 1,000 points available to earn of the course grade. The final will be 100 questions. The final is cumulative and will consist of 25 questions from each of the preceding examinations for a total of one hundred questions you have already seen and attempted. The final will be weighted as 200 points out of 1,000 points possible in the class.

### Research Case Studies

You will be assigned a role in a case study simulation. Your performance in this role and written memo turned in pertaining to this role will determine your grade on this section of the course.

### Quizzes

Online quizzes are assigned for each chapter. Quizzes will consist of 10 questions over the assigned readings, documentaries or lecture. Quizzes cannot be made up or taken afterwards, unless a school approved trip or religious activity interferes that you have proper documentation for to present to me prior to that activity occurring. Grades will be made available immediately after submission through the "Progress" tab on ecampus, underneath "grades."

### Extra Credit

Students will be given an opportunity to earn five extra points for each unit by successfully completing the game assigned for that unit from the [www.icivics.org](http://www.icivics.org) (<http://www.icivics.org/>) website. Students will obtain credit by submitting a saved copy of the completion certificate to the ecampus email by the end of each unit.

## Evaluation

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### Criteria

Exams	600 Points	There will be four exams worth a maximum of one hundred points each. There will also be a cumulative final examination worth 200 points.
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Research Case Studies	200 Points	Rough Draft of Memo: 50 points Final Draft of Memo: 75 points Presentation: 50 points Participation: 25 points
Quizzes	200 points	There will be ten quizzes worth a maximum of twenty points per quiz.
Extra Credit	20 points	There will be four extra credit assignments worth a maximum of five points per assignment.

## Breakdown

A	900-1,000 points
B	800-899 points
C	700-799 points
D	600-699 points
F	0-599 points

## 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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### Q Drop Date

The last date to drop this course with a "Q," is Friday, April 26, 2019.

### Make Up Examinations

Make up exams will be given for school organization trips, religious activity with documentation and family emergencies with the proper documentation. They will not be in the same format as the original exam. **Those needing to take a make up exam will have one week from the original exam date to arrange the make up exam. School trips and religious activities documentation must be provided to me at least one day prior to the activity.**

# Schedule

Week One	Meeting Details	Lecture Minutes	Weekly Hours
Monday, Jan. 14, 2019	Review of Syllabus	75	3
Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2019	American Political Culture	75	
Week Two		LEC	Weekly
Monday, Jan. 21, 2019	Martin Luther King - Holiday	75	3
Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019	American Political Culture	75	
Week Three		LEC	Weekly
Monday, Jan. 28, 2019	The Founding and the Constitution	75	3
Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019	The Founding and the Constitution	75	
Week Four		LEC	Weekly
Monday, Feb. 4, 2019	Federalism	75	3
Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2019	Federalism Group Project; Rough Draft of Memo Due	75	
Week Five		LEC	Weekly
Monday, Feb. 11, 2019	Public Opinion	75	3
Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2019	The Media	75	
Week Six		LEC	Weekly
Monday, Feb. 18, 2019	Exam One	75	3
Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2019	Participation and Voting	75	
Week Seven		LEC	Weekly
Monday, Feb. 25, 2019	Political Parties	75	3
Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2019	Campaigns and Elections	75	

<b>Week Eight</b>		<b>LEC</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
<b>Monday, Mar. 4, 2019</b>	Groups and Interests	75	3
<b>Wednesday, Mar. 6, 2019</b>	Exam Two	75	
<b>Week Nine</b>		<b>LEC</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
<b>Monday, Mar. 11, 2019</b>	Spring Break		
<b>Wednesday, Mar. 13, 2019</b>	Spring Break		
<b>Week Ten</b>		<b>LEC</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
<b>Monday, Mar. 18, 2019</b>	Civil Liberties	75	3
<b>Wednesday, Mar. 20, 2019</b>	Civil Liberties	75	
<b>Week Eleven</b>		<b>LEC</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
<b>Monday, Mar. 25, 2019</b>	Civil Rights	75	3
<b>Wednesday, Mar. 27, 2019</b>	Civil Rights; Final Draft of Memo Due	75	
<b>Week Twelve</b>		<b>LEC</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
<b>Monday, Apr. 1, 2019</b>	Congress	75	3
<b>Wednesday, Apr. 3, 2019</b>	Congress	75	
<b>Week Thirteen</b>		<b>LEC</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
<b>Monday, Apr. 8, 2019</b>	Judiciary	75	3
<b>Wednesday, Apr. 10, 2019</b>	Exam Three	75	
<b>Week Fourteen</b>		<b>LEC</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
<b>Monday, Apr. 15, 2019</b>	The Presidency	75	3
<b>Wednesday, Apr. 17, 2019</b>	Russia And Ukraine: A Case Study	75	
<b>Week Fifteen</b>		<b>LEC</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
<b>Monday, Apr. 22, 2019</b>	Frontline: Putin's Way Film	75	3

Wednesday, Apr. 24, 2019	Exam Four	75	
Week Sixteen		LEC	Weekly
Monday, Apr. 29, 2019	Class Presentations of Case Study	75	3
Wednesday, May 01, 2019	Review Day	75	
Week Seventeen – Finals Week		LEC	Weekly
Monday, May 06, 2019			3
Tuesday, May 07, 2019			
Wednesday, May 08, 2019	Final Exam (5:45PM-8:00PM)		
Thursday, May 09, 2019			
	<b>Total Contact Hours</b>		<b>48 hr.</b>