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# American Government

## GOVT-2305

Spring 2019 Section 312 CRN-24876 3 Credits 01/14/2019 to 05/09/2019 Modified 01/24/2019

### Meeting Times

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#### Lecture

10:00-10:50 AM, MWF  
A-109

### Contact Information

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#### Instructor: Mr. Michael Burnside

Email: [Mike.Burnside@blinn.edu](mailto:Mike.Burnside@blinn.edu)  
Office: Academic 276  
Phone: 209-8985  
Website: [mike.burnside@blinn.edu](mailto:mike.burnside@blinn.edu)

#### Office Hours

Office: A-276  
  
MW: 1:30-2:30 PM  
  
TU: 8:00-8:30 AM

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 The primary factors considered relate to the three branches of government - judicial, executive, legislative -- major historical documents, the events that shaped the nation, and current events.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

### Scantron

AccuScan 882-E or compatible - at least 5

## Course Requirements

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### Major Exams

Four (4) major exams as noted on the schedule

Lowest grade will be dropped

### Writing Assignments

Two (2) as noted on the schedule

Both will be counted for the final grade

### Participation

Based upon attendance; "excused absences" do not count against the grade

### Final Exam

Will account for 20% of the grade; it cannot be dropped and it must be cumulative

## Evaluation

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### Criteria

Major Exams - 15% each (or 150 points of 1000) - 4 exams - top 3 are counted      Total grade 45%

Writing assignments - 12.5% each (125 of 1000) 2 assignments      Total grade 25%

Participation - 10% (100 of 1000)      Total grade 10%

## Breakdown

90% (900+ points of 1000) = A

80% (800-899 points of 1000) = B

70% (700-799 points of 1000) = C

60% (600-699 points of 1000) = D

< 60% (< 600 points) = 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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### Exams

**Students who arrive after the tests have been distributed may be given a different exam that will consist largely, if not exclusively, of short answers.**

Scantrons - Students will submit their answers on the "narrow" Scantron (Scantron 882-E or 882-E compatible). **Students who do not use the correct Scantron will lose 5 points**

The Scantron must be capable of being graded by the machine. **If a scantron cannot be graded by the machine, then five (5) points will be deducted from the overall test grade.**

Every student will also provide their name, the test form, and their class section on the scantron.

**Scantrons without a name will not be graded.** However, in the rare instance where it can be determined with absolute certainty that an 'unnamed' Scantron belongs to a particular student, the exam will be graded, but **5 points will be deducted from the grade.**

An exam **without the correct test form** will receive an **automatic deduction of 3 points**, and the final grade for the exam will be based upon the key used in the grading process.

If a student asks for their exam to be graded by hand, **there will be a further deduction of 5 points** and the re-grade by hand will be final grade (minus the deductions) There is one exception. If a student's exam is marked wrong in error (by the key), the student may request a review of specific questions without fear of any deductions.

**Failure to provide the correct section** will also be a **deduction of 3 points**, and a possible delay in the return of the exam.

### Absences

If a student is not present when roll is taken, then the student is assumed to have an unexcused absence. Any student who arrives in class after roll has been taken must meet with the instructor after class to assure that their attendance is recorded.

Four types of excused absences are recognized by Blinn College. In addition, students who are absent for medical or legal reasons may also receive an excused absence when documentation from a third party professional is provided.

It is the student's responsibility to initiate the request for an excused absence.

## Make-Up Exams

Make-up exams are allowed for excused absences only. The student must provide documentation to support a request for an excused absence **no later than the second class meeting after returning to class**. Unless otherwise approved, students must complete any make-up exam no later than 7 days after the original test date.

If, under extraordinary circumstances, a student is allowed to take an exam later than 7 days after the original test date, the student will be given a short answer exam.

## Writing Assignments

**LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

If it is not possible for a student to make it to class because of "dire circumstances," the paper may be submitted via e-mail (**through blinn.edu only**). The paper will **NOT BE GRADED** until the student has provided documentation from a 3rd Party professional that substantiates their inability to appear in class on the due date for legal or medical issues.

Note that this policy does not extend the due date; it only permits an alternate means of submitting the paper in extraordinary circumstances.

## Schedule

When	Topic	Notes																								
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date of Class</th> <th>Topic or Activity</th> <th>LEC</th> <th>Weekly</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Monday, Jan. 14, 2019</td> <td>Syllabus Review</td> <td>50</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2019</td> <td>Syllabus Review <i>continued</i>; <i>1st Paper Handout</i></td> <td>50</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Friday, Jan. 18, 2019</td> <td>DOI &amp; Its Theory (read Declaration of Independence before class)</td> <td>50</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Week Two</td> <td>Topic or Activity</td> <td>LEC</td> <td>Weekly</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Monday, Jan. 21, 2019</td> <td>HOLIDAY – NO CLASS</td> <td>50</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Date of Class	Topic or Activity	LEC	Weekly	Monday, Jan. 14, 2019	Syllabus Review	50	3	Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2019	Syllabus Review <i>continued</i> ; <i>1st Paper Handout</i>	50		Friday, Jan. 18, 2019	DOI & Its Theory (read Declaration of Independence before class)	50		Week Two	Topic or Activity	LEC	Weekly	Monday, Jan. 21, 2019	HOLIDAY – NO CLASS	50	3
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Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019	DOI and Political Theory: Aristotle to Locke		50	
Friday, Jan. 25, 2019	DOI as applied theory; (Ch. 2: 41-45)		50	
<b>Week Three</b>	<b>Topic or Activity</b>		<b>LEC</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
Monday, Jan. 28, 2019	<u>Ch. 2</u> – America's Two Constitutions (pages 45-51)		50	3
Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019	Basic Constitutional Principles (51-9)		50	
Friday, Feb. 1, 2019	Principles & Ratification of the Constitution (Articles V, VI, and VII of the US Constitution; 60-65)		50	
<b>Week Four</b>	<b>Topic or Activity</b>		<b>LEC</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
Monday, Feb. 4, 2019	EXAM 1: Syllabus, DOI, Political Theory, Chapter 2		50	3
Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2019	<u>Ch. 3</u> - Federalism: Origin and Nature of Federalism (77-82, Article IV and the Tenth Amendment)		50	
Friday, Feb. 8, 2019	The Impact of the Civil War on Federalism (82-9 and the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments)		50	
<b>Week Five</b>			<b>LEC</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
Monday, Feb. 11, 2019	1st Paper Accepted for bonus points; Federalism: The Impact of Progressivism on the Constitution (Amendments 16-21)		50	3
Wed., Feb. 13, 2019	Transforming Federalism through the Supreme Court and "Cooperative Federalism" (89-100)		50	
Friday, Feb. 15, 2019	<u>Ch. 4</u> – Civil Liberties – Incorporation; 1st Amendment: Freedom of religion (117-23, 1st Amendment)		50	

When	Topic	Week Six	LEC	Weekly	
		<b>Monday, Feb. 18, 2019</b>	<b>1st Paper Due, no bonus points, no late papers</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>3</b>
			<b>1st Amendment – The Establishment clause, and free speech (123-31)</b>		
		Wed., Feb. 20, 2019	2nd, (3rd) and 4th Amendments (131-6)	50	
		Friday, Feb. 22, 2019	5th Amendment (136-8 Fifth Amendment)	50	
		<b>Week Seven</b>		<b>LEC</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
		<b>Monday, Feb. 25, 2019</b>	<b>6th Amendment; (138-9, 6th Amendment)</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>3</b>
		Wed., Feb. 27, 2019	8th and 9th Amendments (139-45, Amendments 7, 8 and 9)	50	
		<b>Friday, Mar. 1, 2019</b>	<b>EXAM 2: Ch. 3 (Federalism) and Ch. 4 (Civil Liberties)</b>	<b>50</b>	
		<b>Week Eight</b>		<b>LEC</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
		<b>Monday, Mar. 4, 2019</b>	<b>Handout for Second Paper; Ch. 5 - Civil Rights (155-74, "Civil War Amendments")</b>	<b>50</b>	
		Wed., Mar. 6, 2019	Civil Rights - Extending Civil Rights (174-91)	50	3
		Friday, Mar. 8, 2019	Ch. 15 - Federal Judiciary: The Legal System & Org. of the Courts (587-94, include SC, Article III)	50	
		<b>Week Nine</b>		<b>LEC</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
		<b>Monday, Mar. 18, 2019</b>	<b>Selection of Judges, Judicial Review and Activities of the Court (594-602, 606-14)</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>3</b>
		Wed., Mar. 20, 2019	Ch. 6 - Public Opinion and Ideology (201-8)	50	

When	Topic	Notes	LEC	Weekly
Monday, Mar. 22, 2019	Ch. 8 – Voting Participation (299-310)		50	
<b>Week Ten</b>			<b>LEC</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
Monday, Mar. 25, 2019	Second Papers Accepted for Bonus Points; <u>Ch. 12</u> - Congress - Composition & Organization; Creating Laws (459-70; 472-80)		50	3
Wed. Mar. 27, 2019	Congress: Creating Laws (480-91)		50	
Friday, Mar. 29, 2019	Congress - Other Powers & Responsibilities (495-7)		50	
<b>Week Eleven</b>			<b>LEC</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
Monday, Apr. 1, 2019	Second Papers Due; no bonus points, no late papers  Exam 3 (Ch. 5, part of 6, part of 8, 12 and 15)		50	3
Wednesday, Apr. 3, 2019	<u>Ch. 13</u> -The President - Characteristics; Powers of the President (509-16)		50	
Friday, Apr. 5, 2019	"Delegated Powers" and Relationship to the Other Branches (516-26)		50	
<b>Week Twelve</b>			<b>LEC</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
Monday, Apr. 8, 2019	<u>Ch. 14</u> - Federal Bureaucracy - Nature of the federal bureaucracy; the "fourth branch" of government		50	3
Wed., Apr. 10, 2019	Federal Bureaucracy: Challenge to the Republic (556-61, 573-8)		50	
Friday, Apr. 12, 2019	<u>Ch. 16</u> – Economic Policy - Basic Concepts, the Federal Reserve and Monetary Policy (629-33, 645-8)		50	
<b>Week Thirteen</b>			<b>LEC</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
Monday, Apr. 15, 2019	The Great American Real Estate Meltdown (642-4)		50	3

When	Topic	Notes	LEC	Weekly
Wed, Apr. 17, 2019	Economic Policy - Fiscal Policy (648-57)		50	
Friday, Apr. 19, 2019	Holiday		50	
Week Fourteen			LEC	Weekly
Monday, Apr. 22, 2019	Ch. 18 - Foreign & Defense Policy - Creating Policy; Isolationism (713-24)		50	3
Wed., Apr. 24, 2019	Foreign & Defense Policy - The US as an International Power (725-38)		50	
Friday, Apr. 26, 2019	EXAM 4 (Chapters 13, 14, 16 and 18)  LAST DAY FOR AUTOMATIC 'Q' DROP		50	
Week Fifteen			LEC	Weekly
Monday, Apr. 29, 2019	Ch. 17 - Social Policy - The Welfare State (673-84)		50	3
Wed., May 1, 2019	Social Policy -Education Policy (685-9)		50	
Friday, May 3, 2019	Political "Animals"		50	
Week Sixteen - Finals Week			LEC	Weekly
Wed., May 8, 2019	10:15 AM - 12:30 Noon			3
	Total Contact Hours			48.0