

# American Government

## GOVT-2305

Spring 2019 Section 431 CRN-24013 3 Credits 01/14/2019 to 05/09/2019 Modified 01/16/2019

### Meeting Times

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#### Lecture

Tuesday, Thursday, 4:15 AM to 5:30 AM, A109

### Contact Information

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#### Instructor: Dr. Katie Scofield

Email: [katie.scofield@blinn.edu](mailto:katie.scofield@blinn.edu)

Office: B104

#### Office Hours

Tuesday, Thursday, 5:30 PM to 6:00 PM, b104

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 The primary factors considered relate to the three branches of government - judicial, executive, legislative -- major historical documents, the events that shaped the nation, and current events.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

The Final Course Grade will be composed of the following:

Participation 10%

Reading Quizzes 5%

Podcast Quiz 15%

Class Journal 20%

Midterm 15%

Test 1 10%

Test 3 10%

Final 15%

### Participation

The participation grade will be comprised of two components.

1) Participation in Class Discussion Groups- Each student will be assigned a class discussion group at the beginning of the semester. Discussion groups will engage in a variety of activities and written in-class group exercises. This portion of the grade will largely be based on student's engagement with the group, ability to stay on task, and completion of in-class exercises.

2) Attendance and Class Participation- This portion of your participation grade will be based on attendance and engagement in class. More than three absences, use of electronic devices for activities other than taking notes, and disrespectful behavior towards other students during class discussion will negatively impact your grade.

### Reading Quizzes

I will give "pop" quizzes over the assigned reading for that day (as shown on the syllabus). I will not give make-up quizzes even for excused absences. However, the two lowest quiz grades will be dropped.

### Podcast Quizzes

Each student will complete take-home electronic quizzes based on assigned podcasts. Late quiz grades will not be accepted. The lowest Quiz Grade will be dropped.

### Journal Grade

Each student will be responsible for keeping a class journal. Journal entries will be based on in-class discussion, as well as a few short out of class assignments. Each journal entry will be posted on e-campus after class. If you miss a class you are responsible for pulling the journal questions off of e-campus. Students will lose 20 points for every day the journal is late.

### Tests 1 and 3

While the midterm and the final exam are cumulative, students will also take two shorter tests. These will only be over a limited amount of material. The first test will cover Chapters 1, 2 and 3. The third test will cover chapters 4, 5, and 7. Make-up tests will only be given for excused absences.

### Midterm

The midterm will consist of short answer and multiple-choice questions. It will be cumulative.

### Final Exam

The final exam will consist of short answer, essay and multiple-choice questions. It will be cumulative for the entire semester.

### Extra Credit Movie Project

Students may watch movies and answer the essay prompt posted on e-campus. Students may earn up to 1 point on their final grade depending on the grade they receive on each essay (an essay that scores a 70 will be worth 0.7 points on the final grade). You may earn up to 5 extra points in total through the movie project. Essays for each movie must be submitted on e-campus by the due date on the syllabus (you can not wait until the end of the year to turn in all of the essays). No other extra credit will be given in this class.

## ✓ Evaluation

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### Criteria

Grades will be calculated as follows: Each assignment will be given a grade, and grades will be averaged according to the percentages listed above. Students will then receive a final semester grade.

A= 90-100  
B= 80-89  
C= 70-79  
D= 60-69  
F= Below 60

If there are extenuating, documented circumstances, a grade of "I" may be assigned, following current Blinn policies. If a student withdraws (drops) from class a grade of "Q", "QP", or "QF" will be given, depending on the date of the student's withdrawal and their current grade.

## 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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### Absences

Students are expected to attend class. It is the student's responsibility to see the instructor concerning absences. Students will NOT be dropped from the course by the instructor. If a student chooses to drop the course, it is the student's responsibility to do so at the Office of Admissions and Records. Failure to do so will result in a grade of "F" for the course.

You must be present in class the day of the scheduled classroom day. You must answer roll call or sign in on the sign-in sheet to be counted as present. You will be considered tardy if you sign in after class is scheduled to begin, unless arrangements have been previously made with the instructor. Depending on consistency, you may lose grade points for being tardy.

It is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor of any known absence in advance. If an unexpected absence does occur, it is expected of the student to contact the instructor at the earliest possible time to inform them of their situation.

### Course Work

The instructor will provide specific information on how homework assignments are to be completed and the deadline for their completion. It is the student's responsibility to keep themselves mindful of all approaching dates related to class events.

Late assignments: Late quizzes and extra credit assignments will not be accepted. Late journals will be deducted 20 points for every day that they are late. Assignments are due by class time of the date listed on the syllabus. Students will only be allowed to make up a test for an excused absence with the proper documentation.

### Classroom Etiquette

No food or drinks in the classroom without the express authorization of the instructor. Students are expected to clean-up after themselves at the end of each class.

Cell phones must be turned off before entering the classroom. Laptops are allowed for purposes of taking notes only. They are not to be used for extra-curricular activities not directly associated with course subject matter and permitted by the instructor.

Blinn College does not tolerate cheating, plagiarism or collusion. Procedures for dealing with these acts are outlined in the Scholastic Dishonesty Policy.

## Schedule

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When	Topic	Notes												
		<table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Week One</th><th>Meeting Details</th><th>Lecture Minutes</th><th>Weekly Hours</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2019</td><td>Lecture Chapter One American Culture</td><td>75</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019</td><td>Chapter 2 The Founding and The Constitution · Reading Pages 44-52 and 60-63</td><td>75</td><td></td></tr></tbody></table>	Week One	Meeting Details	Lecture Minutes	Weekly Hours	Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2019	Lecture Chapter One American Culture	75	3	Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019	Chapter 2 The Founding and The Constitution · Reading Pages 44-52 and 60-63	75	
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Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019	Chapter 2 The Founding and The Constitution · Reading Pages 44-52 and 60-63	75												

When	Topic	Week	LEC	Weekly	
		<b>Week Two</b>			
		<b>Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019</b>	Chapter 2 The Founding and The Constitution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Podcast Quiz One Due</li> </ul>	75	3
		<b>Thursday, Jan. 24, 2019</b>	Chapter 3 Federalism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading Pages 75-88 and 106-107</li> <li>· Extra Credit Move One (Lincoln Due)</li> </ul>	75	
		<b>Week Three</b>		<b>LEC</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
		<b>Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2019</b>	Chapter 3 Federalism/ Chapter 13 The Presidency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Podcast Quiz Two Due</li> </ul>	75	3
		<b>Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019</b>	Chapter 13 The Presidency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Reading Pages 507-526 and 535-538</li> </ul>	75	
		<b>Week Four</b>		<b>LEC</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
		<b>Tuesday, Feb. 05, 2019</b>	<b>Test Number One</b>  Chapter 12 Congress	75	3
		<b>Thursday, Feb. 07, 2019</b>	Chapter 12 Congress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Reading 472-491 and 495-497</li> </ul>	75	
		<b>Week Five</b>		<b>LEC</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
		<b>Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019</b>	Chapter 15 The Federal Courts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Reading 587-606 and 615-620</li> <li>· Extra Credit Move2 Due (Mr. Smith Goes to Washington)</li> </ul>	75	3
		<b>Thursday, Feb. 14, 2019</b>	Chapter 15 The Federal Courts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Podcast Quiz 3 Due</li> </ul>	75	
		<b>Week Six</b>		<b>LEC</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
		<b>Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2019</b>	Chapter 14 The Bureaucracy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Reading 547-564</li> <li>· Extra Credit Movie 3 Due (12 Angry Men)</li> </ul>	75	3

When	Topic	Notes		
		Monday, Feb. 21, 2019	Chapter 14 The Bureaucracy	75
			· Podcast Quiz 4 Due	
		<b>Week Seven</b>		LEC Weekly
		Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2019	Midterm Exam	75 3
		Thursday, Feb. 28, 2019	Chapter 7 Media	75
		<b>Week Eight</b>		LEC Weekly
		Tuesday, Mar. 05, 2019	Chapter 7 Media  • Reading 264-281  Extra Credit Movie Four Due (Spotlight or Wag the Dog)	75 3
		Thursday, Mar. 07, 2019	Chapter 7 Media  · Podcast Quiz 5 due  · First Half of Journals Due	75
		<b>Week Nine</b>		LEC Weekly
		Tuesday, Mar. 12, 2019	Spring Break	
		Thursday, Mar. 14, 2019	Spring Break	
		<b>Week Ten</b>		LEC Weekly
		Tuesday, Mar. 19, 2019	Chapter 4 Civil Liberties  • Reading 133-141	75 3
		Thursday, Mar. 21, 2019	Chapter 4 Civil Liberties  · Podcast Quiz 6 Due	75
		<b>Week Eleven</b>		LEC Weekly
		Tuesday, Mar. 26, 2019	Chapter 5 Civil Rights  • Reading 153-176	75 3

When	Topic	Notes	75	
Wednesday, Mar. 28, 2019	Chapter 5 Civil Rights		75	
		· Extra Credit Movie 5 Due Selma		
<b>Week Twelve</b>			<b>LEC</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
<b>Tuesday, Apr. 02, 2019</b>	<b>Test Number 3</b>		75	3
	Chapter 8 Participation and Voting			
<b>Thursday, Apr. 04, 2019</b>	Chapter 8 Participation and Voting		75	
	· Reading 287-299 and 314-320			
<b>Week Thirteen</b>			<b>LEC</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
<b>Tuesday, Apr. 09, 2019</b>	Chapter 9 Political Parties		75	3
	• Reading 329-344 and 350-356			
<b>Thursday, Apr. 11, 2019</b>	Chapter 9 Political Parties		75	
	· Podcast Quiz 7 Due			
<b>Week Fourteen</b>			<b>LEC</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
<b>Tuesday, Apr. 16, 2019</b>	Chapter 10 Campaigns and Elections		75	3
	• Reading 371-382 and 391-395			
<b>Thursday, Apr. 18, 2019</b>	Chapter 10 Campaigns and Elections		75	
	· Podcast Quiz 8 Due			
<b>Week Fifteen</b>			<b>LEC</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
<b>Tuesday, Apr. 23, 2019</b>	Chapter 11 Groups and Interests		75	3
	· Class Journal Due Reading 421-430 & 436-440			
<b>Thursday, Apr. 25, 2019</b>	Chapter 11 Groups and Interests		75	
	· Podcast Quiz 9 Due			
<b>Friday April 26, 2019</b>	<b>Last Day to "Q" Drop</b>			
<b>Week Sixteen</b>			<b>LEC</b>	<b>Weekly</b>

When	Topic				
		<b>Monday, Apr. 30, 2019</b>	<b>Good Night and Good Luck</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>3</b>
			<b>Journals Due</b>		
		<b>Tuesday, May 02, 2019</b>	<b>Good Night and Good Luck/Review</b>	<b>75</b>	
		<b>Week Seventeen - Finals Week</b>		<b>LEC</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
		<b>Tuesday May 7, 2019</b>	<b>3:15-5:30</b>		
			<b>Total Contact Hours</b>		<b>48 hrs.</b>