

American Government

GOVT-2305

Fall 2020 Sections 55A CRN-19000, 55B CRN-19002 3 Credits 08/24/2020 to 12/10/2020 Modified 09/14/2020

Meeting Times

Lecture

Monday, Wednesday, 10:35 AM to 11:50 AM, A-109

'A' meets on campus on Monday, remotely on Wednesday

'B' meets remotely on Monday, on campus on Wednesday

Room A-109

Contact Information

Instructor: Mr. Michael Burnside

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Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, 11:00 AM to 11:30 AM, via phone or email

Monday, 1:30 PM to 2:00 PM, via phone or email

Tuesday, 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM, via phone or email

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 The primary factors considered relate to the three branches of government - judicial, executive, legislative -- major historical documents, the events that shaped the nation, and current events.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

REQUIRED | *By GINSBERG*

EDITION: 12E

PUBLISHER: NORTON

ISBN: 9780393431261

Course Requirements

Syllabus Quiz (used for bonus points on 1st exam)	
4 Major Exams (lowest grade is dropped) 15% each	45% of total grade
2 Writing Assignments - both required 10% each	20% of total grade
Attendance	10% of total grade
Final Exam - required	25% of total grade

Evaluation

Breakdown

- 895 - 1000 points (89.5% +) = 'A'
- 795 - 894 points (79.5% - 89.4%) = 'B'
- 695 - 794 points (69.5% - 79.4%) = 'C'
- 595 - 694 points (59.5% - 69.4%) = 'D'

< 595 points

= 'F'

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.

Information about the changes Blinn has made to the Fall semester: [Back with Blinn \(https://www.blinn.edu/back-with-blinn/index.html\)](https://www.blinn.edu/back-with-blinn/index.html).

* Course Policies

Please read: Fall 2020 General Course Policies. (<http://www.blinn.edu/back-with-blinn/course-policies.html>)

Attendance

Excused absences are allowed based on Blinn College policy and medical and legal issues that may cause a student to be absent.

Illness, medical treatment or doctor's appointments are considered excused absences. They must be documented by a third party professional (e.g. a note from the Blinn College nurse or a clinic)

Legal issues are also considered excused absences but they must also be documented by a third party professional (e.g. an accident report number issued by a police officer)

Documentation must be submitted via email.

Excused absences do not effect the attendance grade; unexcused absences can effect the attendance grade.

Based on Blinn College policy a student may be dropped from a class if 4 unexcused absences are accumulated during the semester.

Schedule

Week 1	Meeting Details	HRS	W Weekly
Tues., Aug. 25, 2020	Syllabus Overview Assignments for next class: Read the Declaration of Independence	1.5	3

Thur., Aug. 27, 2020	Complete Syllabus Overview; begin Declaration of Independence & its sources Reading assignment for next class: Learn vocabulary "government," [page 5]; page 7 definitions, "Limiting Government"[8]; "pluralism" [9]; "limited government" [23] and pages 43-53	1.5	
Week 2	Meeting Details	HRS	Weekly
Tues., Sept. 1, 2020	Complete DOI & its sources and Ch. 2 – Constitutional Foundations: an overview of the Constitution of 1787 Reading assignment for next class: 53-64; 633-641	1.5	3
Thur., Sept. 3, 2020	Quiz 1 – Syllabus; due by 11:30 PM 9/3 Ch. 2 – Ratification and Adding the Bill of Rights; begin Ch. 16 – Economic Policy – Intro Reading assignment for next class: 641-6; 649-52	1.5	
Week 3	Meeting Details	HRS	Weekly
Tues., Sept. 8, 2020	Ch. 16 -The "Fed" and Monetary Policy; Reading assignment for next class: 652-63	1.5	3
Thur., Sept. 10, 2020	Ch. 16 – Fiscal Policy; Reading assignment for next class: 648-9	1.5	
Week 4	Meeting Details	HRS	Weekly
Tues., Sept. 15, 2020	Ch. 16 – The Great American Real Estate Meltdown and the "Great Recession"	1.5	3
Thur., Sept. 17, 2020	ONLINE EXAM 1 (Political Theory and the DOI, Ch. 2, and Ch. 16) Reading assignment to begin next class (unit): 677-89	1.5	
Week 5	Meeting Details	HRS	Weekly

Tues., Sept. 22, 2020	FIRST WRITING ASSIGNMENT "HANDOUT" Ch. 17 – Social Policy: The Welfare State; Reading assignment for next class: 689-98; 717-20	1.5	3
Thur., Sept. 24, 2020	The "War on Poverty," Education Policy, and National Health Care; Ch. 18-Intro to Foreign Policy Reading assignment for next class: 720-32; 734-8	1.5	
Week 6	Meeting Details	HRS	Weekly
Tues., Sept. 29, 2020	Ch.18– <i>Foreign Policy and Democracy</i> –From Isolationism to the Fall of the Wall; RA for Next Class: Begin Ch. 14, 553-70	1.5	3
Thur., Oct. 1, 2020	Ch. 14- <i>The Federal Bureaucracy</i> . Its Growth and Power	1.5	
Week 7	Meeting Details	HRS	Weekly
Tues., Oct. 6, 2020	ONLINE EXAM 2 – Ch. 14, 17 & 18 (Social Policy, Foreign Policy, and the Federal Judiciary) RA to begin next class (unit): 593-603	1.5	3
Thur., Oct. 8, 2020	FIRST WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE, NO LATE PAPERS ACCEPTED; Ch. 15–The Federal Judiciary-Organization of the Court System RA:604-618; 117-8	1.5	
Week 8	Meeting Details	HRS	Weekly
Tues., Oct. 13, 2020	Ch. 15-The Supreme Court-Arriving at Decisions; Begin Ch. 4- <i>Civil Liberties</i> -Incorporation; RA: 118-22;	1.5	3

Thur., Oct. 15, 2020	Ch. 4 – <i>Civil Liberties</i> –Justice Cardozo and Selective Incorporation; RA: 125-7	1.5	
Week 9	Meeting Details	HRS	Weekly
Tues., Oct. 20, 2020	2 ND WRITING ASSIGNMENT “HANDOUT”; 1st Amendment: ‘Free exercise of religion’; read each amendment when it is the assigned; RA: 127-33	1.5	3
Thur., Oct. 22, 2020	Complete ‘Free exercise’ clause; begin the Establishment’ clause; Freedom of Speech (‘symbolic’ speech) RA: 133-43, all of page 143	1.5	
Week 10		HRS	Weekly
Tues., Oct. 27, 2020	Second, Fourth and Fifth amendments; RA: 144-51; 161-77	1.5	3
Thur., Oct. 29, 2020	Sixth, Eighth, and Ninth amendments; begin Ch. 5-Civil Rights: Laying the Groundwork; RA: 177-97	1.5	
Week 11	Meeting Details	HRS	Weekly
Tues., Nov. 3, 2020	Complete Civil Rights: The Basic Pattern (for almost all groups)	1.5	3
Thur., Nov. 5, 2020	ONLINE EXAM 3-Ch. 4, 5, and 15 (Civil Liberties, Civil Rights and Judicial Branch) RA to begin next class (unit): 469-89	1.5	
Week 12	Meeting Details	HRS	Weekly
Tues., Nov. 10, 2020	Second Writing Assignment Due, Bonus Points; Ch. 12- <i>Congress</i> –Qualifications, Organization & Legislation; RA: 489-505	1.5	3
Thur., Nov. 12, 2020	Congress: Other Influences & Powers RA: 515-529; PAPERS ACCEPTED	1.5	
Week 13	Meeting Details	HRS	Weekly

Tues., Nov. 17, 2020	Second Writing Assignment Due, No Bonus Points, No Late Papers; Ch. 13- <i>The Presidency</i> —Characteristics and Expressed Powers of the President; RA: 529-43	1.5	3
Thur., Nov. 19, 2020	The Modern Presidency	1.5	
Week 14	Meeting Details	HRS	Weekly
Tues., Nov. 24, 2020	ONLINE EXAM 4-Ch. 12-13 (Congress & the Presidency) RA to begin next unit: 79-88	1.5	3
Thur., Nov. 26, 2020	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – NO CLASS ASSIGNMENTS	1.5	
Week 15	Meeting Details	HRS	Weekly
Mon., Nov. 30, 2020	LAST DAY FOR AUTOMATIC 'Q' DROP		
Tues., Dec. 1, 2020	FULLY ONLINE CLASS Federalism: The Nature of Federalism and Why it is in Decline RA: 89-99	1.5	3
Thur., Dec. 3, 2020	FULLY ONLINE CLASS Federalism: Since the Civil War	1.5	
Week 16- Finals Week	Meeting Details	HRS	Weekly
M-TH, Dec. 7-10, 2020	Check the Finals Week Schedule FINAL EXAMS WILL BE TAKEN ONLINE		3
	TOTAL CONTACT HOURS		48

