

American Government

GOVT-2305

Fall 2020 Section N15 CRN-20977 3 Credits 08/24/2020 to 12/10/2020 Modified 08/19/2020

Meeting Times

This class is online and will be available to students round the clock. Assignments will have set due dates. Check the schedule in the course calendar inside eCampus for each one.

The class is online at <https://ecampusd2l.blinn.edu/d2l/home/171931>

Contact Information

Blinn isn't allowing face to face meetings with students at this time. If that changes, I will notify you.

Until then, you can reach me at alehmann@blinn.edu

My campus phone is 979 830-4226. If I am not at my desk, please leave a message and I will contact you as soon as possible.

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 The primary factors considered relate to the three branches of government - judicial, executive, legislative -- major historical documents, the events that shaped the nation, and current events.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

A) Please read this section very carefully and be aware of the implications for your successful progress in this course. Government 2305 is designed to allow you a successful and enjoyable introduction to the many facets of Government at the college level. It is designed to challenge you as well as keep you stimulated. In spite of this, Government 2305 should not be too difficult for you if **YOU KEEP UP WITH THE ASSIGNED READINGS!**

Class lectures and discussions will **NOT** necessarily cover the same material as in the text. Periodically, handouts will be used to present concepts, applications and examination of selected materials to achieve course learning outcomes. However, examinations will be derived from class lectures, handouts, assignments and the text.

B) Examinations: It is the instructor's policy that all students take the exams at the scheduled time. All deviations must be excused in advance. In instances of emergencies, the **STUDENT MUST** inform the instructor as soon as possible. It is the instructor's decision whether an absence is excused. **Failure to take an exam at the scheduled time without and excuse will result in a score of zero (0).** Exams (including the comprehensive final) will be primarily multiple choice, true false and fill-in-the-blank. However, if the instructor decides to allow a makeup exam, the student should expect an essay exam.

C) your quizzes and exams will be proctored through Honorlock. Students will **NOT** be allowed to use anything other than their memory to take the final. So no student may use books, notes, phones, computers, other people or other resources while taking a quiz or exam.

D) do your own work on essays. If you plagiarize, you should expect a severe penalty to your grade, with the possibility of a 0 if the offense is serious enough. If you are not sure of how to cite a source, please ask me or contact the Blinn Writing Center.

Evaluation

Grading Method:

Three Major Exams (13% each)- 40%

Comprehensive Final	27%
8 quizzes (top 7 grades)	10%
2 Essays	13%
15 forums	10%
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Total	100%

Grading scale (745 possible points):

670 or more: A

596-669: B

521-595 C

447-520: D

Less than 447 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

Attendance

I won't allow makeups for non-excused absences on the note quizzes. I will assess unexcused absences for quizzes and exams on a case by case basis. If I do allow a makeup on a quiz or exam for an absence, expect an essay exam or a different quiz.

If you have to drop the class for ANY reason, do it by **November 30th** that is the last day to Q drop a class.

Schedule

Week One (Aug 24-Aug 30, 2020)	Online Assignment Details	Weekly
		3
Constitutional History		
Week Two (Aug 31-Sept 6, 2020)	Labor Day Holiday (Monday, Sept. 3)	Weekly
		3
Constitution		
Week Three (Sept 7-Sept 13, 2020)	Online Assignment Details	Weekly
		3
Federalism		

Week Four (Sept 14-Sept 20, 2020)	Online Assignment Details	Weekly
		3
Thursday, 9-17-20- Exam I and quizzes due		
Week Five (Sept 21-Sept 27, 2020)	Online Assignment Details	Weekly
		3
Changing the Consitution		
Week Six (Sept 28-Oct 4, 2020)	Online Assignment Details	Weekly
		3
Amendments		
Week Seven (Oct 5-Oct 11, 2020)	Online Assignment Details	Weekly

		3
Presidency		
Week Eight (Oct 12-Oct 18, 2020)	Online Assignment Details	Weekly
		3
Thursday, 10-15-20: Exam II and quizzes due		
Week Nine (Oct 19-Oct 25, 2020)	Online Assignment Details	Weekly
		3
Congress		
Week Ten (Oct 26-Nov 1, 2020)	Online Assignment Details	Weekly
		3

Congress		
Week Eleven (Nov 3-Nov 8, 2020)	Online Assignment Details	Weekly
		3
Politics		
Week Twelve (Nov 9-Nov 15, 2020)	Online Assignment Details	Weekly
		3
11-12-20: Exam III and quizzes due		
Week Thirteen (Nov 16-Nov 22, 2020)	Online Assignment Details	Weekly
		3

Week Fourteen (Nov 23-Nov 29, 2020)	Thanksgiving Holiday (Wednesday-Friday, Nov 21-23)	Weekly
		3
Judiciary		
11-25 Thanksgiving		
11-26 Thanksgiving		
11-27 Thanksgiving		
Week Fifteen (Nov 30-Dec 6, 2020)	Online Assignment Details	Weekly
<u>Monday, November 30: Last day to drop</u>		3
Government theories; Revenue and spending policies		
Week Sixteen - Finals Week		Weekly
		3
Thursday, December 10, 2018	Final Exam and quizzes due	

	Total Contact Hours	18