

American Government

GOVT-2305

Fall 2020 Sections 55C CRN-19026, 55D CRN-19029 3 Credits 10/19/2020 to 12/10/2020 Modified 10/18/2020

Meeting Times

Mon - Wed 12:00 to 1:15 - Room A106 and Remote Via Zoom Mtg

Contact Information

Cheri Hobbs cheri.hobbs@blinn.edu 979-209-7462

virtual office hours: 10 - 12:00 Tues and Thurs or after class at Rudder.

All office hours are virtual please contact by phone or email to set a time up. I will plan on being available outside of class times between 9am and 4 pm Mon thru Thurs and Fridays by appointment. I will however be available to answer questions evenings and weekend as my schedule permits. The office number will ring to my cell phone so please be considerate of the time you call.

** All phone messages much contain your name and class of attendance and a detailed message with a call back number. The number that shows on my phone is my office.

** All emails must contain a salutation and closing. I consider this formal communication and will not answer those that do not contain my name, your name and a way to contact you.

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 The primary factors considered relate to the three branches of government - judicial, executive, legislative -- major historical documents, the events that shaped the nation, and current events.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

Exams: There will be THREE unit exams opportunities offered consisting of objective multiple choice, matching and some short answer questions. As well as, a cumulative Final Exam given at the end of the course. All Exams will be online through HonorLock. Please familiarize yourself with that with that program prior to testing.

Supreme Court Briefing: Each student will choose a Supreme Court case from a provided list and complete a brief. There are 2 parts to this assignment: Part 1 a full written brief with the Supreme Court Decision citation on the date scheduled and Part 2 a presentation (not reading) of a synopsis of your full case orally to the class on the date scheduled. You may prepare an overhead presentation or other written notes of the case for the presentation if desired. This will count the same as an Exam

Make-Up Exams: Well be given with instructor permission only and must be scheduled in advance or within one class period of the original date. Make-Up exams will not be the same as the original, they will be in essay form

Quizzes/Homework: Quizzes will be given to ensure that students complete the assigned readings. There will be an online quiz prior to the class day in which the chapter is discussed. It will be only open for 24 hours prior to that class date for student to take the quiz. Quizzes will not be reopened for any reason due to the fact that they only count for participation and extra credit. Homework will be occasionally assigned and due the next class period. If you are not present for class in either capacity (in person or via Zoom) you will not be eligible the assignment. This too will count as participation and extra credit. Each assignment and quiz will be eligible for 1 point of participation and a grade that will help to accumulate extra credit points for you.

Participation: One goal of this course is to encourage participation in our political system. This is a discussion based class, content will be given and questions will be asked in class or online. Therefore, you are expected to respond. Your knowledge will be furthered in this course depending on how much you add to the topic being covered, current events discussed and other pertinent content. At all times your participation should be constructive and respectful, both to the instructor and other student.

Since this is a course in government, you are expected to keep up with current political events and other events that may effect our political system. Please take the time to review current event either online, in a print source of through television/radio. If you are uncertain how to find sources please see the instructor. Some good sources are: The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, etc. no blogs or other strictly opinion pieces.

Presentation: Each student will be expected to work in a group to complete a presentation on a public policy topics to be chosen by the class. See assignment sheet for details.

Literature Review: Each student will choose one of the assigned Federalist Papers and review it in writing. These will be submitted through a Dropbox and Turnitin. This is not to be a research paper but rather your own academic reviews of a work. See assignment sheet for details.

Extra Credit: There is one opportunity for extra credit through the quizzes and homework.

1) Your quiz and homework scores will be added and average with a final possible extra credit of 5 points added to your final grade. Do not ask for any other opportunities.

✓ Evaluation

Your grade will be determined by how well you complete each of the following:

Assignment	Detail	Points	Percent of Final Average
Exam 1	Unit 1 The Founding	100	10%
Exam 2	Unit 2 the Institutions	100	10%
Exam 3	Unit 3 the Election Cycle	100	10%
Final Exam	Cumulative	100	10%
Supreme Court Brief	Written preparation 60% and Oral class presentation 40%	100	10%
Presentation	Group public policy policy	60	20%
Literature Review	Review meaning and interpretation of a Federalist Paper	50	20%
Participation	Class discussions, quizzes and homework	50	10%

Letter Grade	Final Average in Percent
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-59
F	59 or below

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: You are **strongly encouraged** to attend every class session either by coming to class or Via Zoom. You will not be penalized for merely being absent, but you will miss various quizzes, homework assignments, and extra credit opportunities that **cannot be made up**. Additionally, if you miss the college maximum of 2 week you could be dropped from the course, which in this 8 week class mean Two days. You are responsible for obtaining notes that you miss from **other students**.

Classroom Conduct: Students are expected to treat each other and the professor with respect and courtesy. Side conversations during lectures and discussions should not be held, if they are, instruction will stop until it concludes.

Students should be attentive and engaged at all times. Cell phones and other electronics or distracting items should not be visible or audible (keep them in your bags and on silent). Indiscriminate use of them during class is disrespectful toward the instructor and your fellow students. If the instructor sees students using cell phones in class instruction will stop until they are again put away.

Studies have shown that you do not learn more by using a computer or Tablet to take notes, therefore, unless you have accommodations to do so please do not ask to use them. Tablets and laptops can be used for note taking with instructor permission only.

There will be opportunities for use of electronics but they are not for everyday use.

Cheating: The easiest way to fail this class is to cheat. Do not copy any work for another student, and do not plagiarize (defined: using someone else's work without proper documentation). I will recommend that you receive a zero grade for this course and include you name on the database for Plagiarism. Plagiarism is any use of work that is not your own, which includes use of another's language or research without proper citation (see student handbook for more information on plagiarism). Anytime you quote something or refer to a non-obvious fact then you need a citation. If in doubt, cite the source or do not use it.

Schedule

Week One	Meeting Details	Federalist Papers	Lec	Weekly
Unit 1	Introduction to class			
Monday, October 19, 2020	Complete Introduction Unit on ecampus Chapter 1 Political Culture			
Tuesday, October 20, 2020	Read Chapter 1, complete Quiz and study guide submit into Dropbox			

Wednesday, October 21, 2020	Federalist Paper, Supreme Court and Policy Project assignments given	#23		
Thursday, October 22, 2020	Choose a Federalist Paper and a Supreme Court Case, let the teacher know by email which one you want. Begin work on Paper/Brief assignment.			
Friday, October 23, 2020	Read Chapter 2 and complete quiz and study guide submit to Dropbox. Discussion Question response			
Week Two			Lec	Weekly
Monday, October 26, 2020	The Founding and Constitution, Chapter 2 - the philosophy of it all, quiz for Chapter 2 to Be completed prior to class	#s 47, 48, 49, 59, 51		
Tuesday, October 27, 2020	Continue work on Major assignments though out the semester; Read Chapter 3 Federalism, study guide, quiz			
Wednesday, October 28, 2020	Federalism Chapter 3			
Thursday, October 29, 2020	Complete the Federalism Scenarios turn in to Unit 1 Dropbox,	#s 37, 38, 39, 40, 46		
Friday, October 30, 2020	Organize with your Presentation group Federalism video online and Discussion question. Exam 1 online, Due by Oct 31, Due by 9 pm Start on Unit 2 this weekend - Chapters 12, 13, 14, and 15			
Week Three			Lec	Weekly
Unit 2 Monday, November 2, 2020	Chapter 12 - The Legislature, study guide, quiz, Watch Legislature Video - Discussion question	#s 52, 53, 54. 56, 62, 63		
Tuesday, November 3, 2020	Read Chapter 13,quiz and study guide submit in Dropbox			

Wednesday, November 4, 2020	The Presidential Character	#		
Thursday, November 5, 2020	Read Bureaucracy Chapter 14, quiz, study guide, submit into Dropbox			
Friday, November 6, 2020	Complete the Budget and FollowUp, submit in Unit 2 Dropbox. Due by 10 pm Nov 7			
Week Four			Lec	Weekly
Monday, November 9, 2020	Government and the Economy - Budget discussion	#s		
Tuesday , November 10, 2020	Read The Federal Courts, Chapter 15, quiz, study guide, submit in Unit 3 Dropbox			
Wednesday, November 11, 2020	The Federal Courts, Chapter 15	#s		
Thursday, November 12, 2020	Unit 2 Exam - Open Nov 12 10am to Nov 13 10 pm			
Friday, November 13, 2020	Unit 3 Exam Complete Preparation of Policy Presentations Start of reading for Unit 3 Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 10			
Week Five			Lec	Weekly
Monday, November 16, 2020	Policy Presentations	#s 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83		
Tuesday, November 17, 2020	Read Chapter 6, Public Opinion, complete quiz and study guide, submit to Unit 3 Dropbox			
Wednesday, November 18, 2020	Read Chapter 7, The Media, complete quiz and study guide, submit to Unit 3 Dropbox			

Thursday, November 19, 2020	Do Media Analysis, submit to Unit 3 Dropbox - be ready to discuss in class Monday - Must be in Dropbox before class			
Friday, November 20, 2020	Read Chapter 8 Political Participation, complete quiz and study guide, submit to Unit 3 Dropbox			
Week Six			Lec	Weekly
Monday, November 23, 2020	Media Analysis Read Chapter 9 Political Party, study guide and quiz, submit to Unit 3 Dropbox	#s 14, 42, 49, 58, 63		
Tuesday, November 24, 2020	Campaigns and Elections, Chapter 10, study guide and quiz			
Wednesday, November 25, 2020 Holiday	Create Party and Advertisement	#s 52, 54, 68		
Thursday, November 26, 2020 Holiday	Create Party and Advertisement			
Friday, November 27, 2020 Holiday	Create Party and Advertisement			
Week Seven			Lec	Weekly
Monday, November 30, 2020	Present your Party and Advertisement Groups and Interests, Chapter 11, study guide and quiz, Respond to Discussion Last Date to Drop	# 9		
Tuesday, December 1, 2020	Unit 3 Exam Exam will be open for 10 am Dec 1 to 10pm Dec 2			
Wednesday, December 2, 2020	Civil Rights and Liberties	#s		

Thursday, December 3, 2020	Read Chapters 4 and 4, Civil Liberties and Rights, complete quiz and study guide, submit in Dropbox			
Friday, December 4, 2020	Prepare for Final Exam			
Week Eight			Lec	Weekly
Monday, December 7, 8, 9 2020	Final Exam Online Dec 7, 9am to Dec 9 10pm			
	Total Contact Hours			TOTAL HERE