

American Government

GOVT-2305

Fall 2020 Section N43 CRN-20344 3 Credits 10/19/2020 to 12/10/2020 Modified 08/18/2020

Meeting Times

Internet Class

12:00 AM to 11:59 PM, URL: <https://ecampus.blinn.edu>

This is an online distance education course. All assignments are available for at least ten days before they are due with the exception of the Orientation Quiz, Introduction Discussion and Final Exam. It is expected that students work on this class every daily.

Contact Information

Instructor: Mr. Tyler Young

Email: tyler.young@blinn.edu (preferred)

Phone: 512-587-3753 (only for emergency, no texting)

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 The primary factors considered relate to the three branches of government - judicial, executive, legislative -- major historical documents, the events that shaped the nation, and current events.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

Assignments:

Orientation Quiz: 1% of overall grade

Learning Goal and Chapter Quizzes: 22% of overall grade.

There are 4-6 of these for each chapter (15 total chapters) including By The Numbers, Simulations, Chapter Quizzes, etc.

Discussions and Worksheet: 15% of overall grade

There is an introduction discussion, two unit discussions and a Worksheet due throughout the term. Follow the instructions for each one. For this category the Introduction Discussion is worth 10% and the two unit discussions and worksheet are worth 30% each.

Term Paper: 17% of overall grade

Students will complete a substantial term paper of 750-100 words as well as a brief proposal. The Proposal is worth 20% of the grade for this category and the Final Term Paper is worth the remaining 80%.

Unit Exams: 30% of overall grade

There is an exam for each of the three units in this class. The questions will come from the readings and exercises done for the chapters within the unit. All exams are done online within the course. You may use your book. You may NOT use a friend. At the end of the term, if your Final Exam grade is higher than any of your Unit Exam grades, I will replace your lowest unit exam score with a value equal to that of the Final Exam; this includes a grade of zero. We will be using Honorlock to proctor all Unit Exams. Please see Course Policies for more on how to use this program.

Final Exam: 15% of overall grade

This exam will have questions from the entire semester. The questions will come from the readings and exercises. We will be using Honorlock to proctor the Final Exam. Please see Course Policies for more on how to use this program.

Please refer to the Schedule at the bottom of this syllabus for a complete listing of all deadlines in the class. These are all also visible from eCampus.

Papers will be graded within seven days and other assignments (including Discussions and Exams) within three.

✓ Evaluation

Criteria

Your grade will be calculated as follows:

90% or higher will be an A

80-89.99% will be a B

70-79.99% will be a C

60-69.99% will be a D

Less than 60% will be an F

Individual assignments within categories have point values that comprise the total score for that category. For example, Exam 1 is worth 25% of the "Exams" category; that category is worth 40% of your overall grade. So if a student got the following exam scores: 90, 80, 95, 75 they would have 340 or 85% of the possible 400 points in that category. So of the possible 50% they will have 42.5 go towards their final average.

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

It is expected that you will continually work on this class throughout the term and you must achieve the deadlines for all assignments. It is expected that you will devote 3-6 hours per week to learning the material and doing the assignments. It is the opinion of the instructor that 3-6 solid hours on each chapter will be sufficient for most students to read the chapter, review the key terms and complete the host of assignments for that chapter. This of course may vary by student. Failure to login and attempt any assignment for an entire week will be considered one week of absences and it will be reported in MyBlinn. Failure to login in and attempt any assignment for a second week at any time during the semester will be considered two weeks of absences and it will be reported in myblinn and you will be dropped from the course.

I will not be sympathetic to a computer/internet issue the day assignments are due; you will find that we have many more options if you attempt something more than 24 hours before the deadline. It is your responsibility to procure reliable computer access to complete this course. I would suggest having a backup plan such as the school or a neighbor/friend's computer/internet that you can use just in case you run into trouble. As a rule, the instructor does not accept late work. Students have from the first day to work on the entire course; so waiting until the moment before something is due is simply not a reason for it not to be done; that is to say there are no "make-ups." With that said, in the event of a "catastrophe" exceptions may be granted with supporting documentation.

The instructor checks his email regularly and students can expect a response within 24 hours during the week and by noon on Monday if sent after noon on the prior Friday. Virtual "Office" hours are everyday from 4-5PM wherein students can feel free to call or email and will likely get a prompt response.

Papers will be graded within seven days and other assignments (Including Discussions and Exams) within three.

Honorlock Test Proctoring: Honorlock will proctor your exams this semester. Honorlock is an online proctoring service that allows you to take your exam from the comfort of your home. You DO NOT need to create an account, download software, or schedule an appointment in advance. Honorlock is available 24/7 and all that is needed is a computer, a working webcam, and a stable Internet connection.

To get started, you will need Google Chrome and the Honorlock Chrome Extension. You can download the extension at www.honorlock.com/extension/install (<https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.honorlock.com%2Fextension%2Finstall&data=02%7C01%7Ctyler.young%40blinn.edu%7C7738f8d3da5f4ad21a5008d721bf4e50%7C60448a85d0074d57a583bfec98e99c29%7C1%7C0%7C637014977846603433&sdata=vY8YOe%2BQP8bBMBWp1wS33J5Lhm0gR9zBSaEKFr1Gp8%3D&reserved=0>).

When you are ready to test, log into D2L, go to your course, and click on your exam. Clicking "Launch Proctoring" will begin the Honorlock authentication process, where you will take a picture of yourself, show your ID, and complete a scan of your room. Honorlock will be recording your exam session by webcam, as well as recording your screen. Honorlock also has an integrity algorithm that can detect search-engine use, so please do not attempt to search for answers, even if it's on a secondary device.

Schedule

Calendar Week: Topic(s) Credit Hours (per week)

October 19-25: Syllabus, CH.1 American Political Culture, CH. 2 The Founding and the Constitution. HRS: 6

- Orientation Quiz, Introduction Discussion due by 11:30pm on October 22.
- Chapter 1 Learning Goal Quizzes, Pre-Test and Post-Test Due by 11:30pm on Oct 24.
- Chapter 2 Learning Goal Quizzes, Pre-Test and Post-Test Due by 11:30pm Oct 25.

October 26-November 1: CH. 3 Federalism, CH. 4 Civil Liberties, CH. 5 Civil Rights, HRS: 6

- Chapter 3 Learning Goal Quizzes, Pre-Test and Post-Test Due by 11:30pm on Oct 27.
- Chapter 4 Learning Goal Quizzes, Pre-Test and Post-Test Due by 11:30pm on Oct 29.
- Chapter 5 Learning Goal Quizzes, Pre-Test, Post-Test Due by 11:30pm on Oct 31.

November 2-8: CH. 6 Public Opinion, CH. 8 Political Participation and Voting HRS: 6

- Unit 1 Discussion and Unit 1 Exam Due by 11:30pm on Nov 3.
- Chapter 6 Learning Goal Quizzes, Pre-Test and Post-Test Due by 11:30pm on Nov 5.
- Chapter 8 Learning Goal Quizzes, Pre-Test and Post-Test Due by 11:30pm on Nov 7.

November 9-15: CH. 9 Political Parties, CH. 10 Campaigns and Elections. CH. 11 Groups and Interests. HRS: 6

- Chapter 9 Learning Goal Quizzes, Pre-Test and Post-Test Due by 11:30pm on Nov 9.
- Chapter 10 Learning Goal Quizzes, Pre-Test and Post-Test Due by 11:30pm on Nov 11.
- Chapter 11 Learning Goal Quizzes, Pre-Test, Post-Test Due by 11:30pm on Nov 13.
- Unit 2 Discussion and Unit 2 Exam Due by 11:30pm on Nov 15..

November 16-22: CH. 12 Congress, CH. 13 The Presidency. HRS: 6

- Term Paper Proposal due by 11:30pm on Nov 17.
- Chapter 12 Learning Goal Quizzes, Pre-Test and Post-Test Due by 11:30pm on Nov 19.
- Chapter 13 Learning Goal Quizzes, Pre-Test and Post-Test Due by 11:30pm on Nov 21.

November 23-29: CH. 14 Bureaucracy, CH. 15 Federal Courts. HRS: 6

- Chapter 14 Learning Goal Quizzes, Pre-Test and Post-Test Due by 11:30pm on Nov 22.
- Chapter 15 Learning Goal Quizzes, Pre-Test and Post-Test Due by 11:30pm on Nov 23.

November 30-December 6: CH. 16 Government and the Economy. HRS: 6

- Chapter 16 Learning Goal Quizzes, Pre-Test, Post-Test Due by 11:30pm on Dec 1.
- Unit 3 Worksheet Due by 11:30pm on Dec 2.
- Unit 3 Exam Due by 11:30pm on Dec 3.
- Term Paper due by 11:30pm on Dec 6.

December 6-10: Final Exam. HRS: 6

- Final Exam due by 11:30pm on Dec 8.

Total Contact Hours	48
<p><i>NOTE: Online classes are aligned with their counterpart classes offered in all other modalities – i.e. F2F. They include the same objectives and learning outcomes. The Master Course Syllabus aligns course objectives and learning outcomes. Moreover, these are reviewed and verified through the division (using the Division Online/Blended Course Pre-Review Form) and through the Distance Learning Course Review Team procedures. Furthermore they conform to the guidelines established by Texas Administrative Code Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter A, Rule 4.6 (e).</i></p>	

The last day to drop with a "Q" is November 30.