

# American Government

## GOVT-2305

Fall 2020 Sections 55E CRN-19124, 55F CRN-19125 3 Credits 10/19/2020 to 12/10/2020 Modified 08/17/2020

### Meeting Times

#### Lecture

Tuesday, Thursday, 10:35 AM to 11:50 PM, A106

### Contact Information

#### Professor: Mr. Joseph Denman

Email: [joseph.denman@blinn.edu](mailto:joseph.denman@blinn.edu)

Office: A-284 (Bryan Campus)

Phone: (979) 209-7540

#### Office Hours

Tuesday, Thursday, 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM, Online

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 The primary factors considered relate to the three branches of government - judicial, executive, legislative -- major historical documents, the events that shaped the nation, and current events.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

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# WE THE PEOPLE

## REQUIRED | *By GINSBERG*

EDITION: 12E

PUBLISHER: NORTON

ISBN: 9780393431261

## Course Requirements

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### Exams

Exams # 1-4 will be multiple choice with 50 questions covering the material covered for each unit. The Final will be cumulative with 100 multiple choice questions. Make-Up exams will be given for school organization trips, religious activities with documentation, medical emergencies with documentation, and family emergencies with documentation and will vary from the original format. Those needing to take make-up exams will have one week to arrange the exam. School trips & religious activities need to arrange at least one day in advance.

### Research Assignments

Study the readings assigned and answer the attached questions. The question and answer should be typed in a word document with Times New Roman, 12 point font. All citations must be cited correctly internally and in the works cited page in MLA format. The paper is due in the e-campus classroom on test day for each unit.

### Quizzes

Quizzes are assigned for each chapter. Quizzes will consist of 5 questions over the assigned readings or lecture. Quizzes cannot be made up or taken afterwards, unless on a school approved trip or religious activity with documentation.

## Evaluation

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### Criteria

Type	Weight	Topic	Notes
Exams	600 points		There will be four regular exams worth a maximum of one hundred points per exam. There will also be a cumulative final exam worth a maximum of two hundred points.
Research Assignment	200 points		There will be four research assignments worth a maximum of one hundred points per assignment. Only the two highest scores will be recorded.
Quizzes	200 points		There will be twenty quizzes worth a maximum of ten points per quiz.

## Breakdown

Grade	Range	Notes
A	900-1000 points	
B	800-899 points	
C	700-799 points	
D	600-699 points	
F	0-599 points	

## 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>)**

### "Q" Drop Date

The last day to drop the course with a "Q" grade is Monday, November 30th.

## Schedule

Week One	Meeting Details	LEC	LAB	Weekly
Monday, October 19, 2020				
Tuesday, October 20, 2020	Welcome & Orientation			
Wednesday, October 21, 2020				
Thursday, October 22, 2020	Chapter 2: Constitutional Development			
Friday, October 23, 2020	Chapter 12: Congress			

<b>Week Two</b>		<b>LEC</b>	<b>LAB</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
Monday, October 26, 2020				
Tuesday, October 27, 2020	Chapter 8: Campaigns			
Wednesday, October 28, 2020				
Thursday, October 29, 2020	Chapter 10: Elections			
Friday, October 30, 2020	Chapter 9: Political Parties & Exam #1			
<b>Week Three</b>		<b>LEC</b>	<b>LAB</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
Monday, November 02, 2020				
Tuesday, November 03, 2020	Chapter 13: Presidency			
Wednesday, November 04, 2020				
Thursday, November 05, 2020	Chapter 14: Bureaucracy			
Friday, November 06, 2020	Chapter 16: Economic Policy & Chapter 17: Social Policy			
<b>Week Four</b>		<b>LEC</b>	<b>LAB</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
Monday, November 09, 2020				
Tuesday, November 10, 2020	Chapter 18: Foreign Policy			
Wednesday, November 11, 2020				
Thursday, November 12, 2020	Chapter 15: Judiciary			
Friday, November 13, 2020	Chapter 1: Political Culture & Exam #2			
<b>Week Five</b>		<b>LEC</b>	<b>LAB</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
Monday, November 16, 2020				
Tuesday, November 17, 2020	Chapter 6: Public Opinion			
Wednesday, November 18, 2020				

Thursday, November 19, 2020	Chapter 7: Media			
Friday, November 20, 2020	Chapter 3: Federalism & Exam #3			
<b>Week Six</b>		<b>LEC</b>	<b>LAB</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
Monday, November 23, 2020				
Tuesday, November 24, 2020	Chapter 4: Civil Liberties			
Wednesday, November 25, 2020	<b>Blinn Holiday</b>			
Thursday, November 26, 2020	<b>Blinn Holiday</b>			
Friday, November 27, 2020	<b>Blinn Holiday</b> Film: <i>Big Sky, Big Money</i>			
<b>Week Seven</b>		<b>LEC</b>	<b>LAB</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
Monday, November 30, 2020				
Tuesday, December 01, 2020	Chapter 5: Civil Rights			
Wednesday, December 02, 2020				
Thursday, December 03, 2020	Chapter 11: Interest Groups			
Friday, December 04, 2020	Film: <i>Freedom Riders</i> & Exam #4			
<b>Week Eight</b>		<b>LEC</b>	<b>LAB</b>	<b>Weekly</b>
Monday, December 07, 2020				
Tuesday, December 08, 2020	<b>Final Exam</b>			
	<b>Total Contact Hours</b>			<b>48</b>