

American Government

GOVT-2305

Fall 2020 Sections 59E CRN-19136, 59F CRN-19137 3 Credits 10/19/2020 to 12/10/2020 Modified 10/19/2020

Meeting Times

In Class

Weekly - 59E

Tuesday, 12:00 PM to 1:15 PM, A 106

This is the meeting time for these students. This is done via Zoom.

In Class

Weekly - 59F

Thursday, 12:00 PM to 1:15 PM, A 106

This is the meeting time for these students. This is done via Zoom.

Contact Information

Andrew Anderson

Virtually 10-11:30 am Tuesday/Thursday

Request via email for weekends

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 The primary factors considered relate to the three branches of government - judicial, executive, legislative -- major historical documents, the events that shaped the nation, and current events.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

There will be 4 exams after every couple of chapters with a 45-50 questions. You will get 60 mins to complete the exams. The Final Exam is 100+ questions and you have 2 hours.

Writing: The Papers

There will be a writing portion to this course. There will be 2 paper due before the end of the course, 1 5-page paper, double spacing and 1 2-3 page paper 1.5 spacing. All papers are expected to be in Time New Roman, 14pt font. Also, all require a cover page, no headings allowed. The first one is a 2-3 page paper on a local official in government. (This will be a writing assignment. 14pt font, Times New Roman, 1.5 spacing) You will pick these randomly on the first day of the course. Your paper will be written as if it's the speech you would have given. Guidelines listed online along with rubric. The 5-page paper will be on a topic randomly drawn from the professor. You will research it, explain it and give an overview on its impact in the modern day. **Work cited and Proper Citation needed.** The page limit is strictly enforced; changes to this format require prior approval from the professor in writing. There is a rubric, which are provided as well. Cover page and Work cited do not count towards overall total. Further instructions on opening day powerpoint.

Writing: Project

A project is required during this course. It is a solo project. You will be assigned into a new "Think Tank" for governmental policy making. You are to come up with ideas to improve your areas of policy, and present to a House sub-committee to have them funded. At the end of the course, your group will give a presentation on over your suggestions.. A rubric will cover everything needed for this project.

Online: Activities

I will be posting an activity for every chapter that students are required to complete and turn in to the dropbox called "Activities."

Each one will be worth 10 points each based upon quality. Just doing a minimum job will get you a minimum grade, but not always full credit. Each one is due by the day after the chapter. You can complete them as early as you wish and I will grade them as I get to them.

Online: Discussions

Since we won't be meeting as a class this term, I have set up discussion threads for students to complete and interact with one another. Every chapters have discussions. Each one will close at the end of the following day. You will be given a prompt to answer and expand upon. Start a new post and answer the prompt with you thoughts and questions for classmates. Everyone is expected to interact with at least 3 other student's posts during the week. The more the better. Your main post must be at least 4-6 sentences in length and your interactions must be at least 2-3 sentences each. Like the activities, just doing a minimum job will get you a minimum grade, but not always full credit. I will grade them as I get to them. You can start as soon as you wish. Each week will be graded on a 10 point scale.

✓ Evaluation

Criteria

Graded Items		Grading Scale	
Exams (1-4)	25%	89-100	A
Papers (3)	30%	79-88	B
Activities and Discussions	20%	69-78	C
Final Exam	25%	59-68	D
		Below 59	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>)

Grading and Evaluation

Attendance is required. However, students who miss several classes generally fall behind in their course work and subsequently do poorly in the course. After all, debate is what makes the political world go around (It makes the class much more interesting). Grading will be done weekly for all assignments that week.

Absences & Extra Credit Absences

Attendance is taken to gauge your interaction with the class. As long as you post each day, you receive credit. You can get credit by emailing, uploading, doing an activity, being part of the discussion, completing an exam or turning in work. As long as you work every day, you will receive 2 pts on your final average. An extra credit is be discussed in opening powerpoint.

Make-up Policy

All makeup tests are given on the week before final exams unless you make other arrangements with the professor. It should be understood that the make-up exams are much more difficult than the original exam. All papers will lose 10 points per day late. After 1 week, the paper will be a Zero (0).

Plagiarism and Cheating

Neither plagiarism nor cheating (claiming that words and ideas of others are your own) will be tolerated in this class. A grade of zero "0" will be given for any such assignment. This will be strictly enforced! If in doubt, make it a point to come see me or cite your source. I will run them through online searches if it does not look right or sound like yourself. Especially on exams.

Class Conduct

I extend civil behavior to students in my classroom, and in return, I expect the same. The topics covered can push people buttons at times, but I expect you to be honest and civil in all discussions, assignments and interactions with myself and other students.

Schedule

When	Topic	Notes
Assignments Week 1 - 10/19-23		Introduction, Overview and Drawing Ch. 1, 2
Assignments Week 2 - 10/26-30		Ch. 3,4 Exam 1 - (Ch. 1-4)
Assignments Week 3 - 11/2-6		Ch. 5,6 Government Official paper Due - 11/6 - Via Dropbox
Assignments Week 4 - 11/9-13		Ch. 7,8 Exam 2 - Ch. 5-8
Assignments Week 5 - 11/16-20		Ch. 9,10 5 page Paper Due - 11/20 Via Dropbox
Assignments Week 6 - 11/23-29		Ch. 11,12 Exam 3 - Ch. 9-11 Thanksgiving Holidays - 11/25-27
Assignments Week 7 - 11/30-12/4		Q drop date - Nov 30 Ch. 13,14 Exam 4 - Ch. 12-14
Assignments Week 8 - 12/7-11		Make-ups and Finals week Think Tank Project Due - 12/9 Via Dropbox Final Exam - 9 am -9 pm by 12/11