

# American Government

## GOVT-2305

Fall 2020 Sections 53G CRN-19146, 53H CRN-19147 3 Credits 10/19/2020 to 12/10/2020 Modified 10/17/2020

### Meeting Times

#### Lecture

Tuesday, Thursday, 2:50 PM to 4:05 PM, A106

### Contact Information

#### Professor: Lena Denman

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

Office: A262

Phone: (979) 209-8968

#### Office Hours

Tuesday, Thursday, 2:15 PM to 2:45 PM, A262

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 The primary factors considered relate to the three branches of government - judicial, executive, legislative -- major historical documents, the events that shaped the nation, and current events.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

You will have four exams and a comprehensive final over the course of this semester. The first four exams will be all multiple choice. You need the AcuScan 28980 Scantron for all exams in my class. Each exam will be weighted as 100 points of the 1,000 points available to earn of the course grade. The final will be 100 questions. The final is cumulative and will consist of 25 questions from each of the preceding examinations for a total of one hundred questions you have already seen and attempted. The final will be weighted as 200 points out of 1,000 points possible in the class.

### Research Assignments

Write a 500-1000 word essay that describes one of the topics assigned for the course. The essay should fully answer the questions with supporting citations in MLA format. The paper should be double spaced with 12 point font and normal alignments.

### Quizzes

Quizzes will be conducted in class. Quizzes will consist of review questions over lecture and your textbook. Quizzes can be made up in my office if you were unable to attend class due to illness and you have a doctor's note. There will be ten quizzes worth a maximum of twenty points per quiz. Quiz grades will be available within 24 hours through the "Progress" tab on e-campus, underneath "grades."

### Extra Credit

Students will be given an opportunity to earn five extra points for each unit by successfully completing the game assigned for that unit from the [www.icivics.org](http://www.icivics.org) (<http://www.icivics.org/>) website. Students will obtain credit by submitting a saved copy of the completion certificate to the e-campus email by the end of each unit.

## Evaluation

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### Criteria

Type	Weight	Topic	Notes
Exams	600 points		There will be four exams worth a maximum of one hundred points each. There will also be a cumulative final examination worth 200 points.
Research Assignment	200 points		You will be assigned four research assignments this semester. I will drop your two lowest scores.
Quizzes	200 points		There will be ten quizzes worth a maximum of twenty points per quiz.
Extra Credit	50 points		There will be seven extra credit assignments worth a maximum of ten points per assignment.

## Breakdown

Grade	Range	Notes
A	900-1,000 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

The last day to drop this course with a "Q" grade is Monday, November 30, 2020.

## 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			
Sunday, October 25, 2020	Chapter 12: Congress			
	InQuizitive Ch. 2 &12			
<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			
Sunday, November 01, 2020	Chapter 9: Political Parties &Exam #1			
	InQuizitive Ch.8,10, 9			
<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			
Sunday, November 08, 2020	Chapter 16: Economic Policy & Chapter 17: Social Policy			
	InQuizitive Ch. 13,14, 16, 17			
<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			
Sunday, November 15, 2020	Chapter 1: Political Culture & Exam #2			
	InQuizitive Ch. 18, 15, 1			
<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			
Sunday, November 22, 2020	Chapter 3: Federalism & Exam #3			
	InQuizitive Ch. 6, 7 & 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>			
Sunday, November 29, 2020	<b>Blinn Holiday</b>			
	Film: <i>Big Sky, Big Money</i> InQuizitive Ch. 4			
<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			
Sunday, December 06, 2020	Film: <i>Freedom Riders</i> & Exam #4			
	Inquisitive Ch. 5, 11			
<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>