

American Government

GOVT-2305

Summer II 2021 Section R12 CRN-40834 3 Credits 07/12/2021 to 08/09/2021 Modified 07/09/2021

Meeting Times

All class participation takes place via live videoconference. Ours will happen from 10:05 am to 12:00 pm on Mondays through Fridays from July 12th through August 9th.

Contact Information

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During this Summer II class, all office hours will be virtual and by appointment

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 The primary factors considered relate to the three branches of government - judicial, executive, legislative -- major historical documents, the events that shaped the nation, and current events.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 2019

REQUIRED | *By GINSBERG*

EDITION: 12E

PUBLISHER: NORTON

ISBN: 9780393644326

I don't require InQuizitive, though you are welcome to use it if you buy it. Don't buy the "essentials" version of the book. It is missing entire chapters that we will cover.

Course Requirements

A) Please read this section very carefully and be aware of the implications for your successful progress in this course. Government 2305 is designed to allow you a successful and enjoyable introduction to the many facets of Government at the college level. It is designed to challenge you as well as keep you stimulated. In spite of this, Government 2305 should not be too difficult for you if **YOU KEEP UP WITH THE ASSIGNED READINGS!**

Class lectures and discussions will **NOT** necessarily cover the same material as in the text. Periodically, handouts will be used to present concepts, applications and examination of selected materials to achieve course learning outcomes. However, examinations will be derived from class lectures, handouts, assignments and the text.

B) Examinations: It is the instructor's policy that all students take the exams at the scheduled time. All deviations must be excused in advance. In instances of emergencies, the **STUDENT MUST** inform the instructor as soon as possible. It is the instructor's decision whether an absence is excused. **Failure to take an exam at the scheduled time without and excuse will result in a score of zero (0).** Exams (including the comprehensive final) will be primarily multiple choice, true false and fill-in-the-blank. However, if the instructor decides to allow a makeup exam, the student should expect an essay exam.

Evaluation

Grading Method:

Three Major Exams (15% each)-	44%
Comprehensive Final	30%
8 quizzes (top 7 grades)	14%
Essay	7%
8 forum posts	6%

Total 100%

Grading scale (out of 660 possible points):

594 or more: A

528-593: B

462-527 C

397-461: D

Less than 396 points: 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 May Minimester, Summer I, and Summer II semesters: [Back with Blinn \(https://www.blinn.edu/back-with-blinn/index.html\)](https://www.blinn.edu/back-with-blinn/index.html).

* Course Policies

When you take quizzes or exams, you are to use only your memory. So use of books, notes, phones, computers, other people are all prohibited. If I can't proctor your quizzes and exams in person, you will take them online using Honorlock.

When you write assignments, you are not allowed to plagiarize. If you are not certain how to use sources or citations, please ask me for guidance. The Blinn Writing Center will also help if you give them time to work with you.

Any violation of these rules will result in severe grade penalties, up to and including a 0 on the assignment.

Statement on Group Messaging Apps (GroupMe, Slack, WhatsApp, etc.) and File Sharing (dropbox, google docs, etc.):

Can your use of group messaging apps get you in trouble? The answer is YES. Participating in or joining a Group Messaging App is not an academic misconduct violation; however, the exchange of answers to graded work and the exchange of copyrighted materials (instructors' exams are considered copyrighted material) are examples of academic misconduct.

Examples of appropriate group messaging activities are questions related to due dates or specific instructions about assignments or where to find materials on eCampus. Again, if you distribute answers to quizzes/tests to everyone in a group chat, that is academic

misconduct. If you upload answers to quizzes/tests to a file-sharing service and then allow people to access those notes, then that is academic misconduct."

Attendance

I won't allow makeups for non-excused absences on the forum posts. I will assess unexcused absences for quizzes and exams on a case by case basis. If I do allow a makeup on a quiz or exam for an absence, expect an essay exam or a different quiz.

If you have to drop the class for ANY reason, do it by **JULY 30th**, that is the last day to drop a class.

Schedule

Tentative class calendar

Monday, July 12, 2021	Constitutional history			11.25
Tuesday, July 13, 2021	Constitution			
Wednesday, July 14, 2021	Constitution			
Thursday, July 15, 2021	Federalism			
Friday, July 16, 2021	Federalism			
Week Two		LEC	LAB	Weekly
Monday, July 19, 2021	Quizzes and Exam I due, start unit II			11.25
Tuesday, July 20, 2021	Amendments			
Wednesday, July 21, 2021	Electoral College			
Thursday, July 22, 2021	President			
Friday, July 23, 2021	Cabinet			
Week Three		LEC	LAB	Weekly
Monday, July 26, 2021	Quizzes and Exam II due, start unit III			11.25
Tuesday, July 27, 2021	Congress			
Wednesday, July 28, 2021	Congress,			
Thursday, July 29, 2021	Politics, Public opinion			
Friday, July 30, 2021	Politics, Last Day to Drop with a "Q"			

Week Four		LEC	LAB	Weekly
Monday, August 2, 2021	Quizzes and Exam II due, start unit III			11.25
Tuesday, August 3, 2021	Court System			
Wednesday, August 4, 2021	Court System			
Thursday, August 5, 2021	Taxes and spending			
Friday, August 6, 2021	Theories of government			
Week Five -Finals Week		LEC	LAB	Weekly
Monday, August 9, 2021	Last quizzes and Final Exam due			3
	Total Contact Hours			48