

American Government 2305: Federal Government

Lone Star College – Kingwood
Summer I 2017
Section 2153 (1705)
Monday – Thursday 10:10 AM – 12:10 PM
Classroom Building A 209

Instructor Contact Information:

Instructor: Bryan J Henry, M.Ed., M.A.
Email: Bryan.J.Henry@lonestar.edu; bryanjameshenry@gmail.com
Course website/content: www.bryanjhenry.com
Officer hours: By appointment in LSK library

Government Department Contact Information:

Department Dean:

Dr. Cassandra Rincones – Cassandra.Rincones@LoneStar.edu; phone 281.312.1677

Department Chair:

Dr. Anthony Carreras – Anthony.Carreras@LoneStar.edu; phone 281.312.1763

Department Assistant:

Isabel Torres – Isabel.G.Torres@lonestar.edu; phone 281.312.1651

Catalog Description: 3 Credits (3 hours lecture) Origin and development of the U.S. Constitution, structure and powers of the national government including the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, federalism, political participation, the national election process, public policy, civil liberties and civil rights. (4510025125)

Prerequisite: College Level Readiness in Reading AND Writing.

Course Expectations and Format: Government 2305 is the first of two state-required courses designed to give students a general view of the U. S. system of government at the national level. This course will focus upon the U.S. Constitution, democratic theory, federalism, political culture, political socialization, public opinion, political participation, electoral behavior, political parties, interest groups, and the role of the media in U.S. politics. In short, we will study the institutional and legal framework supporting our current system and the many links between Americans and their government. This course emphasizes the development of intellectual, academic, social, and civic skills. The specific course expectations include: 1) To nurture the student's ability to read critically, think rationally, and communicate effectively, 2) To provide problem-solving opportunities that will challenge students to think analytically, while encouraging intellectual risk-taking, 3) To encourage student responsibility for learning, 4) To foster civic participation, 5) To develop a commitment to civil dialogue and willingness to express ideas and consider opposing viewpoints.

Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Explain the origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the federal system.
3. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government.
5. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in the political system.
6. Analyze the election process.
7. Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens
8. Analyze issues and policies in U.S. politics.

Required Text:

We the People. Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, and Tolbert. Eleventh Edition. W.W. Norton & Company, 2016.
ISBN-13: 978-0393283624

Assignments: There will be three tests, one final exam, and four current event analyses. There will also be pop quizzes for reading assignments. The first two tests will be multiple-choice and short-answer. The multiple-choice questions will come from the textbook *We the People*, class lecture notes, and other reading assignments. The short-answer prompts will pertain to primary and secondary sources. The third test will be a Socratic Seminar dialogue that requires the student to prepare paragraph-length responses to prompts and discuss them in class. 70% of the Socratic Seminar is written and 30% is oral participation. The final exam will be comprehensive and multiple-choice only. The current event analyses will be weekly and will generate informal discussion that contributes to the participation grade in the course. Pop quizzes will also contribute to the participation grade in the course.

Grades: Assignments are worth the following:

Participation	10%
Current Events Analysis	20%
Test #1	15%
Test #2	15%
Socratic Seminar	20%
Final Exam	20%

Grades are distributed based on the following calculations: A 90-100, B 80-89, C 70-79, D 60-69, F 59-0

Attendance and Participation: Students are expected to attend class, arrive on time, and not leave early. Students with excessive attendance problems (as defined by the instructor) may lose points on their participation grade.

Classroom Etiquette: The instructor intends to begin class on time each day and students should be ready for class when it begins. If a student arrives late they should enter the classroom as quietly as possible. If a student needs to leave class early they should inform the instructor. Students should not be using computers or cell phones for non-academic reasons during class. Students should use academic language in written assignments and oral participation. Students should show respect, compassion, and patience toward their peers in class discussions. The instructor intends to facilitate civil dialogue and cultivate a commitment to free speech.

Missed and Late Assignments: Students wishing to re-schedule a missed test must do so within 48 hours of the assignment and have no more than 3 class days to complete the assignment. If the student fails to schedule the make-up and/or fails to complete the assignment within 3 class days, they may receive partial or no credit at the instructor's discretion. Assignments that are submitted late will have 10 points deducted per day.

Dropping the Class: The last day to drop this class is June 29. Please note that the instructor will not drop students with excessive absences, or those who simply quit coming to class.

Academic Integrity:

The Lone Star College upholds the core values of learning: honesty, respect, fairness, and accountability. The system promotes the importance of personal and academic honesty. The system embraces the belief that all learners—students, faculty, staff, and administrators—will act with integrity and honesty and must produce their own work and give appropriate credit to the work of others. Fabrication of sources, cheating, or unauthorized collaboration is not permitted on any work submitted with the system.

The consequences for academic dishonesty are determined by the professor, or the professor and academic dean, or the professor and chief student services officer and can include but are not limited to:

1. Having additional class requirements imposed
2. Receiving a grade of zero or "F" for an exam or assignment
3. Receiving a grade of "F" for the course
4. Being withdrawn from the course or program
5. Being expelled from the college system

Any alleged violation or flagrant disregard of LSC rules and regulations shall be brought to the attention of the chief student services officer, who will initiate an investigation of the situation. After a complete and thorough investigation, the chief student services officer will determine the course of action. Discipline may result in expulsion. The decision of the administrator may be appealed to the college discipline committee. The complete discipline policy may be found online at

http://www.lonestar.edu/departments/advising/LSCS_Student_Handbook_Web.pdf

Equal Opportunity Statement:

Lone Star College is committed to the principle of equal opportunity in education and employments. Lone Star College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, age, sexual orientation, religion, ethnic or national origin, disability, veterans' status, nationality or ethnicity in its programs and activities. The LSC Associate Vice Chancellor, Student Success is designated as the LSC Equal Opportunity Officer and title IX Coordinator. All inquiries concerning LSC policies, compliance with applicable laws, statutes, and regulations (such as Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504), and complaints may be directed to Associate Vice chancellor for student Success and can be reached at 832-813-6841. Inquiries about the laws and compliance may also be directed to Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education. For further information, visit www.ed.gov for the address and phone number of the office that serves your area, or call 1-800-421-3481.

Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Statement:

LSC recognizes and supports the principles set forth in federal and state laws designated to eliminate discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities. LSC believes in equal access to educational opportunities for all individuals and is committed to making reasonable accommodations, including furnishing auxiliary aids and services, for qualified individuals with disabilities are required by law. Please review LSC's Board Policy and Procedures on Students with Disability Rights to find more information including how to request accommodations. See www.lonestar.edu/disability-services

Veteran Statement:

For more information on Veterans' Affairs click here [Veterans' Affairs Office](#) or visit the Veteran's Office on campus.

FERPA Statement:

In compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, the Lone Star College gives notice that the following types of information will be released upon request and may require approval of the appropriate administrator, unless the student desires to withhold all or any portion of it: student's name, address, LSC email address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, semesters enrolled, degrees, certificates and awards received, photograph, enrollment status, student classification, and the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student. Any student objecting to the release of all or any portion of such information must complete the FERPA release at <http://www.lonestar.edu/consumer-safety> in the online Student Center under Personal Information – Security/FERPA Restrictions. Release of any additional information pertaining to student records must be authorized by the student (i.e., grades, transcripts). The student's parents may authorize release of information if the student is younger than 18 years of age and a dependent as defined by the Internal Revenue Service. A student or parents of a student under the age of 18 may request to view the student's educational records with a written request to the student services office at the college(s) attended.

Emergency Procedures:

Lone Star College is committed to providing a safe environment in which to learn, study, and work. Knowing what to do is your best protection and your responsibility. In the event of a health, safety, or environmental emergency while on campus, students should immediately contact LSCS police at 281-290-5911 or the administrator on duty. If you know you will need assistance to evacuate during an emergency, please register by calling 281-290-5911 at any time. Detailed information on LSC emergency procedures is available at www.lonestar.edu/oem.

Course Schedule:

Week 1: June 5-8

M	6/5	Class: <i>WTP Chapter 1</i> American Political Culture HW: Read “The Collapse of American Identity” and “The Four American Narratives” (on website)
T	6/6	Class: <i>WTP Chapter 9</i> Policymaking, Political Parties, and Partisanship HW: Read “Political Philosophy and Ideologies” (on website)
W	6/7	Class: <i>WTP Chapter 2</i> The Enlightenment, Liberalism, and Republicanism HW: Read <i>Declaration of Independence</i> (on website)
Th	6/8	Class: <i>WTP Chapter 2</i> Current Event #1 Due; Analyze <i>Declaration of Independence</i> and Articles of Confederation HW: Read <i>U.S. Constitution</i> and <i>Federalist 51</i> (on website)

Week 2: June 12-15

M	6/12	Class: <i>WTP Chapter 3</i> Analyze <i>U.S. Constitution</i> and <i>Federalist 51</i> ; Ratification Debates
T	6/13	Class: <i>WTP Chapter 3</i> Federalism and Policymaking
W	6/14	Class: Test #1: Multiple-Choice and Short Answer
Th	6/15	Class: <i>WTP Chapter 12</i> Current Event #2 Due; Congress HW: Read “Filibuster” by Wawro and Schickler (on website)

Week 3: June 19-22

M	6/19	Class: <i>WTP Chapter 12</i> Congress
T	6/20	Class: <i>WTP Chapter 13</i> The Presidency HW: Read “The Imperial Presidency Triumphant” by Cairo (on website)
W	6/21	Class: <i>WTP Chapter 14 and 15</i> Federal Bureaucracy and Federal Judiciary HW: Read “Constitutional Amendments” (on website)
Th	6/22	Class: <i>WTP Chapter 4</i> Current Event #3 Due; Bill of Rights and Civil Liberties HW: Read Free Speech articles (on website)

Week 4: June 26-29

M	6/26	Class: <i>WTP Chapter 4</i> Civil Liberties HW: Read “Introduction” from <i>Give Us the Ballot</i> and “Texas’s Jim Crow Voting Laws” (on website)
T	6/27	Class: <i>WTP Chapter 5</i> Civil Rights
W	6/28	Class: Test #2: Multiple Choice and Short Answer HW: Read “Where Do Our Tax Dollars Go?” (on website)
Th	6/29	Class: <i>WTP Chapter 16 and 17</i> Economic and Social Policy HW: Watch Frontline: <i>Sick Around America</i> (on website)

Week 5: July 3-6

M 7/3

Class: *WTP Chapter 16 and 17*

Social Policy; Watch Frontline: *Obama's Deal* (in-class)

T 7/4

Holiday

W 7/5

Class: *WTP Chapter 8 and 10*

Campaigns and Elections

HW: Read "Every State a Swing" (on website)

Th 7/6

Class: *WTP Chapter 6 and 7*

Current Event #4 Due; Public Opinion and Mass Media

HW: Prepare for Socratic Seminar

Week 6: July 10-11

M 7/10

Class: **Socratic Seminar**

T 7/11

Class: **Final Exam**