



**GOVT 2305
Federal Government
Summer II 2018**

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Department Chair: Stacy Walker – Stacy.A.Walker@LoneStar.edu

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.

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

Course Overview: 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, the institutions of the national government, 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.

Communication Policy: Please use my Lone Star email to communicate questions and concerns. I will regularly check the Lone Star email, but may not see messages sent through D2L as quickly as you would like. Emails sent after 9:00 PM may not receive a response until the following day.

Assignments: There will be three tests, two current event analyses, and weekly discussion prompts. The discussion prompts will require you to demonstrate understanding of course content and evaluate political issues in online discussion with your peers. The current event analyses will require you to evaluate current political commentary, consider media and/or confirmation bias, and develop your own views on current events. The two tests will be short-answer and the final exam will be multiple-choice.

Online Discussion: Discussion questions will typically be posted daily and I strongly encourage you to complete the discussion questions on the date they are assigned. To receive full credit, you must make an original post in response to the discussion prompt AND reply to at least TWO of your classmates' posts. Each post/comment must be *at least four complete sentences* in length to receive full credit. The discussion responses are due each week by 11:59 PM on Thursday. If for some reason you fail to submit responses by this time you may email your responses for partial credit.

Current Events Analysis:

Tests: The two short-answer tests will be posted on Thursday and will be due by 11:59 PM on Sunday. The Final Exam will be posted Friday, August 17 – Sunday, August 19 and will only be available for a specific amount of time once the exam has been started by the student.

Grades: Assignments are worth the following percentages.

Discussion	30%
Current Events Analysis	10%
Test #1	20%
Test #2	20%
Final Exam	20%

Attendance and Participation: It is crucial to be present in class whether online or on campus. If you do not log into the course by Thursday, July 16 it will be reported to the college and ***you will be dropped from the class***. At the midpoint of the course Monday, August 2 if you have stopped completing course assignments, this will also be reported to the college and ***you will be dropped from the class***. Outside of these two dates, it will be your responsibility to withdraw from the course before the date provided below.

An institution of higher education may not permit a student to drop more than SIX (6) courses, including any course a transfer student has dropped at another Texas public institution of higher education. Eligible criteria for a waiver include a) change of work schedule prohibiting attendance, b) active military, c) severe illness or debilitating condition, d) death of a family member, e) class cancellation, and f) complete withdrawal. Developmental Studies courses do not apply to this rule.

Last Day to Withdraw: Tuesday, August 7

Late Work: All assignments need to be turned in on or before their due dates through D2L.

Make-up Work: *Make-up exams are only given in exceptional circumstances.* Exams may be made up if you can provide proof of a ***demonstrated incapacity*** to take the exam as scheduled. Given that this will be a 100% online course, this should not be an issue, as you will have the entire weekend to complete your tests through D2L.

Other Class Policies: This is only a six-week class and we will move through the course content quickly. It is the student's responsibility to engage with the course material daily and to communicate questions or concerns to the instructor in a timely manner. Many resources will be provided to aid and enhance student learning, but it is ultimately the student's responsibility to learn the course content utilizing the required textbook. ***You may find my website www.bryanjhenry.com useful.***

Talk to me *as soon as possible* if you find yourself struggling with the class. The longer you wait, the less likely it will be that we will be able to find solutions to your problem, particularly given the fast pace of this course.

Students with special needs who require reasonable modifications, special assistance, or accommodations should speak with me promptly. All discussions will remain confidential.

All students must abide by the Academic Integrity Policy of Lone Star College which is detailed below. Cheating and plagiarism will be punished to the fullest extent possible. You must write your own papers. Keep in mind that the technology that allows students to retrieve papers from the internet also allows instructors to find those papers. If you are unclear what constitutes plagiarism, please ask.

The instructor has the right and option to add, delete or revise segments of this course or syllabus during this semester.

Online Learning:

The instruction for online learning classes is delivered via the Internet. Students must have access to a computer and Internet services. Students enrolling in online classes are expected to login to their classes before the end of the first day of the class. Student having any difficulties should contact LSC Online helpdesk as soon as possible by calling 832-813-6600 or VTAC chat in the D2L class.

Veteran Statement:

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

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 281-312-1963	 www.lonestar.edu/library/kingwood
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FERPA

Title IX

Academic Integrity

Academic Appeals

Disability Rights - ADA 504/508

Emergency Procedures

Campus Carry

Course Schedule

Week 1: July 12-15

Thurs: Review course syllabus; Read "Introduction to Government" PowerPoint slides

Fri-Sun: Watch Vice News documentary "America First"
Respond to Discussion #1 by 11:59 PM on Sunday, July 15

Week 2: July 16-22

Weekly reading: We the People Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 5

Mon: Read "Introduction to Political Philosophy and Ideologies" pdf.
Complete Political Typology Quiz.

Tues: Read the *Declaration of Independence* and "Intrinsic Equality" excerpt from Robert Dahl's *On Democracy*.
Respond to Discussion #3

Wed: Read the *U.S. Constitution*; Read "Federalist #51" and "Madisonian Federal System" PowerPoint slides.
Respond to Discussion #4

Thurs: Read the “History of Federalism” PowerPoint slides
All Discussion Responses due by 11:59 PM

Fri-Sun: **Current Event Analysis #1 due by 11:59 PM on Sunday, July 22**

Week 3: July 23-29

Weekly reading: We the People Chapters 9, 10, 11, and 12

Mon: Read the “Congress and Presidency” PowerPoint slides
Respond to Discussion #5

Tues: Read the “Congress and Presidency” PowerPoint slides
Respond to Discussion #6

Wed: Read “The Imperial Presidency Triumphant”
Respond to Discussion #7

Thurs: Read the “Federal Bureaucracy” PowerPoint slides;
Read the “Federal Judiciary” PowerPoint slides
All Discussion Responses due by 11:59 PM

Fri-Sun: **Exam #1 due by 11:59 PM on Sunday, July 29.**

Week 4: July 30 – August 5

Weekly reading: We the People Chapters 4 and 5

Mon: Read the “Civil Liberties” PowerPoint slides
Respond to Discussion #8

Tues: Read the “Civil Liberties” PowerPoint slides
Respond to Discussion #9

Wed: Read Prologue from Ari Berman’s *Give Us the Ballot*
Respond to Discussion #10

Thurs: Political Participation
All Discussion Responses due by 11:59 PM

Fri-Sun: **Current Event Analysis #2 due by 11:59 PM on Sunday, August 5**

Week 5: August 6-12

Weekly reading: We the People Chapters 6 and 7

Mon: Read “Introduction to Campaigns and Elections” pdf
Respond to Discussion #11

Tues: Read “Every State a Swing”; utilize www.270towin.com
Respond to Discussion #12

Wed: Read “History and Purpose of Political Parties” pdf
Respond to Discussion #13

Thurs: Mass Media
All Discussion Responses due by 11:59 PM

Fri-Sun: **Exam #2 due by 11:59 PM on Sunday, August 12**

Week 6: August 13-19

Weekly reading: We the People Chapter 12

Mon: Read “Where Do Our Tax Dollars Go?”; watch Minimum Wage video
Respond to Discussion #14

Tues: Health Care Policy
Respond to Discussion #15

Wed: Immigration Policy

Thurs: Environmental Policy
All Discussion Responses due by 11:59 PM

Fri-Sun: **Final Exam due by 11:59 PM on Sunday, August 19**