

**United States Government and Politics**  
**Government 2305 Dual Credit**  
**Kingwood High School**  
**Fall 2018**

**Instructor Contact Information:**

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**Government Department Contact Information:**

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**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.

**Lone Star College Academic Freedom Statement:** On college campuses, the free exchange of ideas is encouraged and expected. Censorship of ideas or opinions runs counter to the openness of the learning environment and inhibits the development of critical thinking skills. It is important to understand that you will be exposed to, and will be expected to participate in, an open exchange of ideas, discussions, debates, and even class assignments concerning subject matter that is challenging, mature and/or representative of differing worldviews.

**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.

**Primary Text:**

*We the People*. Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, and Tolbert. Eleventh Edition. W.W. Norton & Company, 2016. ISBN-13: 978-0393283624. (hard copy provided by KHS).

**Secondary Texts (required):**

**This class includes two required secondary books. Students are responsible for acquiring a digital or hard-copy of both texts. You may purchase the texts new or used, or rent them.**

*Who's Counting: How Fraudsters and Bureaucrats Put Your Vote at Risk*. Fund, John and Hans von Spakovsky. Encounter Books, 2012. ISBN: 978-159403618-7.

*Give Us the Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America*. Berman, Ari. Picador, 2015. ISBN: 978-1-250-09472-8.

**Dropping the Class:** Any student who desires to drop the course must contact Lone Star College – Kingwood. The instructor will not do so for the student.

**Make-up Work:** Make-up work is the student's responsibility. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to obtain any missed notes from another student in class. All assignments and handouts distributed during your absence will be available for you to pick up in your class period's bin. It is your responsibility to check the bin and obtain what you missed. If you miss school and return on the day of a quiz or test, you must be prepared to take it on the scheduled day. I may CHOOSE to allow you to take a quiz or test at a later date. If you miss a scheduled quiz or test, you have ONE WEEK to complete the assignment.

**Make-up Days:** All make-up assignments must be completed on the scheduled make-up days. The Make-up/Tutoring Schedule will be posted in the classroom. Please inform me when you plan to complete a make-up assignment. Individual appointments outside of the make-up schedule can be made, but you must ask.

**Tutoring:** Tutoring is available during the make-up schedule or upon request. Please inform me when you would like to come in for tutoring.

**Mentoring/Conversation:** My door is typically open and you may feel free to visit. I will politely (hopefully) tell you if I am too busy to chat.

**Cell Phones/Tablets:** All cell phones should be in your backpacks or pockets during class. All cell phones must be silenced during class (your phone should not disrupt class by ringing or vibrating). You may NOT text during class. You must receive permission in order to use a tablet for note-taking purposes.

**Syllabus/Website:** Students are expected to consult the syllabus and website regularly in order to be prepared for class and know when assignments are due. The class website is [www.bryanjhenry.com](http://www.bryanjhenry.com), which can also be accessed through Mr. Henry's teacher page on the KHS website.

**Late Work Policy:** Late formative assignments (daily grades) will receive the following grade penalty:

1 day late	-20 points
2 days late	-40 points
3 days late	-60 points
4 days late	-80 points
5 days late	automatic zero

Late summative assignments (essays, projects) will receive the following grade penalty:  
-20 points per day

**Grade Distribution:** Each of the two Grading Periods will have three summative assessments (test grades) worth 70% of that Grading Period's points. Each of the two Grading Periods will have formative assessments (daily grades and quiz grades that count as two daily grades) worth 30% of that Grading Period's points.

<b>Grading Scale: Lone Star</b>	<b>KHS</b>
90-100 A	90-100 A
80-89 B	80-89 B
70-79 C	75-79 C
60-69 D	70-74 D
<60 F	<70 F

**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](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](http://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](http://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:** <http://www.lonestar.edu/ferpa.htm>

### 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](http://www.lonestar.edu/oem).

### Course Schedule

#### First Grading Period

Week 1: August 20-24 (*We the People* Chapter 1)

M	8/20	Class: Course Syllabus and Expectations HW: Read "In Defense of Intellectual Life"
T	8/21	Class: Current Events and Secondary Readings HW: Read "Power Basics" (pdf on website)
W	8/22	Class: Assemblies
Th	8/23 7:25	Class: Introduction to U.S. Government and Politics
F	8/24 PR	Class: Introduction to U.S. Government and Politics HW: Read "Introduction to Political Philosophy and Ideologies"

Week 2: August 27-31 (*We the People* Chapters 6 and 9)

M	8/27	Class: Political Philosophy and Ideologies
T	8/28	Class: Political Socialization
WTh	8/29-30	Class: Political Parties
F	8/31	Class: <b>Current Event #1 Due</b> ; Enlightenment HW: Read Gordon Wood "Republicanism"

Week 3: September 3-7 (*We the People* Chapter 2)

		Reading: <i>Give Us the Ballot</i> "Prologue" and Chapter 1 pp. 3-38
M	9/3	<b>No School</b>
T	9/4	Class: Analysis of <i>Declaration of Independence</i>
W	9/5	Class: Articles of Confederation and State Constitutions
Th	9/6 7:25	Class: Constitutional Convention (three options) HW: Read <i>U.S. Constitution</i> and complete Outline
F	9/7	Class: <b>Current Event #2 Due</b> ; Constitutional Convention (types of democracy) HW: Read <i>U.S. Constitution</i> and complete Outline

Week 4: September 10-14 (*We the People* Chapters 2, 3)

		Reading: <i>Give Us the Ballot</i> Chapter 2 pp. 39-64
M	9/10	Class: <b>Constitution Quiz</b> ; Review
T	9/11	Class: <b>Test #1: Chapters 1, 6, 9, and 2</b>
W/Th	9/12-13	Class: Ratification Debates ( <i>Federalist</i> No. 10 and No. 51)
F	9/14 PR	Class: Ratification Debates ( <i>Brutus</i> No. 1)

Week 5: September 17-21 (*We the People* Chapter 3, 12)

		Reading: <i>Give Us the Ballot</i> Chapter 3 pp. 65-99
M	9/17	Class: Federalism
T	9/18	Class: Federalism
W/Th	9/19-20	Class: Congress (Mock Congress activity)
F	9/21 PR	Class: Congress (Mock Congress activity)

Week 6: September 24-28 (*We the People* Chapters 12, 13)

Reading: *Give Us the Ballot* Chapter 4 pp. 100-120  
M 9/24 Class: Congress  
T 9/25 Class: Congress  
W/Th 9/26-27 Class: Presidency; Analysis of (*Federalist* No. 70)  
F 9/28 Class: **Current Event #3 Due**; Presidency

Week 7: October 1-5 (*We the People* Chapters 13, 14)

Reading: *Give Us the Ballot* Chapter 5 pp. 121-158  
M 10/1 Class: Presidency and Environment  
T 10/2 ACT Class: Review  
W/Th 10/3-4 Class: **Test #2: Chapters 2, 3, 12, 13, 14**  
F 10/5 Class: Bureaucracy

Week 8: October 8-12 (*We the People* Chapters 15, 4)

Reading: *Give Us the Ballot* Chapter 8 pp. 207-244  
M 10/8 **No School**  
T 10/9 **No School**  
W 10/10 Class: Judiciary (*Federalist* No. 78)  
Th 10/11 7:25 Class: Judiciary  
F 10/12 Class: **Current Event #4 Due**; Civil Liberties

Week 9: October 15-19 (*We the People* Chapters 4, 5)

Reading: *Give Us the Ballot* Chapters 9-10 pp. 245-314  
M 10/15 Class: Civil Liberties  
T 10/16 Class: Civil Liberties  
W/Th 10/17-18 Class: **Test #3: Chapters 13, 14, and 4**  
F 10/19 PR Class: Civil Rights

### Second Grading Period

Week 10: October 22-26 (*We the People* Chapter 5)

M 10/22 Class: Civil Rights  
T 10/23 Class: Civil Rights  
W/Th 10/24-25 Class: Civil Rights (Letter from a Birmingham Jail)  
F 10/26 Class: Current Event #1 Due; Review: *Give Us the Ballot*

Week 11: October 29 – November 2 (*We the People* Chapter 5)

Reading: *Who's Counting* Chapters 1-2 pp. 1-44  
M 10/29 Class: Review: *Give Us the Ballot*  
T 10/30 Class: Film Analysis: *Selma*  
W/Th 10/31 – 11/1 Class: Film Analysis: *Selma*  
F 11/2 PR Class: **Current Event #2 Due**; Film Analysis: *Selma*

Week 12: November 5-9 (*We the People* Chapters 8, 10)

Reading: *Who's Counting* Chapter 3 pp. 45-74, Chapter 5 pp. 85-100  
M 11/5 Class: Election Process  
T 11/6 Class: Campaign Finance  
W/Th 11/7-8 Class: Electoral College  
F 11/9 Class: **Current Event #3 Due**; Electoral College

Week 13: November 12-16 (*We the People* Chapters 7, 8)

Reading: *Who's Counting* Chapter 6-7 pp. 101-156  
M 11/12 Class: Public Opinion and Mass Media  
T 11/13 Class: Voter Registration and Voting  
W 11/14 Class: **Test #1: Chapters 5, 7, 8, 10**  
Th 11/15 7:25 Class: Essay Workshop

F 11/16 Class: Essay Workshop

Week 14: November 19-23 **Thanksgiving**

Week 15: November 26-30 (*We the People* Chapter 16)

Reading: *Who's Counting* Chapter 9 pp. 167-185, Chapter 13 pp. 227-253

M 11/26 Class: Economic Policy

T 11/27 Class: Economic Policy

W/Th 11/28-29 Class: Economic Policy

F 11/30 PR Class: **Current Event #4 Due**; Review: *Who's Counting?*

Week 16: December 3-7 (*We the People* Chapter 17)

M 12/3 Class: Social Policy

T 12/4 Class: Social Policy

W/Th 12/5-6 Class: Social Policy

F 12/7 Class: **Test #2 Voting Rights Essay Due**

Week 17: December 10-14

M 12/10 Class: Review

T 12/11 Class: **Test #3: Comprehensive Exam (50%)**

W/Th 12/12-13 Class: **Test #3: Perfecting Democracy Seminar (50%)**

F 12/14 Class: Review

Week 18: December 17-20

M 12/17 Class: Review

T 12/18 Class: Final Exams

W 12/19 Class: Final Exams

Th 12/20 Class: Final Exams