

**Course Syllabus for Government 2305 (Web/Internet)**

*"If men were angels, no government would be necessary."* – James Madison

**Instructor:** Dr. Thomas Heiting  
**Office:** Deaderick Hall 207  
**e-mail:** [theiting@odessa.edu](mailto:theiting@odessa.edu)

**Office Phone:** 335-6589  
**Office hours:** by appointment

**Course objective:** Since 1947, the Texas state legislature required that public college and university students complete six semester-hours in American national, state, and local government. The survey course in national government is designed not only to meet that requirement but also to provide you with the basic knowledge and understanding of government activity at the federal level. This course should also give you a better understanding of certain germane disciplines such as history, sociology, philosophy, literature, and economics while preparing you for careers in teaching, public service and the law. You may also benefit from taking a course such as this by not only learning how government affects your life but how you can affect public policy.

**Course outcomes:** Upon completion of this course, the student should have some basic understanding of

- 1) the meaning of politics at the national level
- 2) the U.S. Constitution and federalism
- 3) the political process
- 4) the policy making institution
- 5) civil liberties and civil liberties

**Textbook:** Dye, Thomas R. and Sparrow, Bartholomew H., *Politics in America*, 8<sup>th</sup> ed.

**Assignments:** The examinations will begin with Chapter Three and continuing through Chapter Eighteen with an exam posted weekly.

The first exam will open on Tuesday, January 24, 2012, at 1:00 pm and will remain open until 1:00 pm that Saturday, January 28, 2012. You may take your exam at any time during the window, but once the exam closes, it will not be re-opened. The next chapter exam will open the following Tuesday (at the same time) and remain open until that Saturday (at the same time). This will be the pattern for the entire semester.

These assignments will consist of some type of multiple choice questions, fill in the blank, true/false, essays or possibly an a combination of these formats.

All course work will be submitted through the blackboard system and each assignment will be announced through the announcement icon on the course website. Your final exam will be a modified, comprehensive exam consisting of various questions from previous exams and will

have twenty-five questions. Your final will be made available at 1:00 pm on May 7, 2012 and will remain open until 1:00 pm on May 10, 2012. All exams weigh equally.

Grading Policy: All assignments weigh equally. Final semester grades will be based on the following averages: 90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, below 60 = F.

General Guidelines: As with any "cyber-space class" there can be glitches in the system. Power failures, storms, viruses, spilled drinks, personal emergencies can all interfere with our success. Hopefully, none of these things will occur, but if they do, simply contact me through one of the contact points provided in this syllabus and we will attempt to fix the problem. It is always my intention to respond to you within 24 hours of your contact, but emergencies happen for me as well and I will respond to your contact as soon as possible. It is always a good idea to check your email daily for any course you are taking.

Odessa College complies with Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have any special needs or issues pertaining to your access to or participation in this class, please feel free to talk with me about your concerns.

All of the material in the assigned readings is testable.