

## GOVT 2305: Federal Government Course Syllabus

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Ph.D.: Texas Tech University; M.A. in History and B.A. in Political Science: UT Permian Basin;  
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Office Hours: MWF: 8-9am; W: 11am-12pm; TTh: 10-11am; M: 6-7pm; and Th: 6-7pm

Course: GOVT 2305

Times: Web

Location: Web

Credit Hours: 3

**Objective:** The student will disseminate information and interpret the development of American political thought, the origins and development of the U.S. Constitution, federalism, public opinion, and the political process of American Democracy. Additionally, the student will gain an understanding on the institutions of government including the presidency, Congress, the courts, the bureaucracy of the U.S. government, the study of domestic and foreign policy issues such as civil rights, national defense, managing the economy and welfare. All material in the textbook is testable and it is your responsibility to read the chapters. SCANS 6 and 9.

**Text:** *Politics in America*, 8th Edition, by Dye & Sparrow. ISBN # 978-0-13-602718-8

### Grading Policy:

Quantity	Description	Points per item	Total Points
4	Exam	100	400
1	Current Event Review	100	100
1	Discussion Posts	10 Original Posts (10 points each)=100 points	100
Total			600

**Grading Scale:** A = 540 pts and above B = 480-539 pts C = 420-479 pts D = 360-419 pts F = 359 pts and below

**Attendance & Participation:** This is an internet course therefore there will not be any classroom meetings, participation in the discussion posts and completion of all assignments is essential to achieving satisfactory progress, therefore it is the student's responsibility to keep up with the assigned readings so that proper understanding of the material can occur. Please let me know if you require special accommodations.

**Course Assistance:** If you need technical assistance with the course you can contact the Student Success Center at 432-335-MORE (6673) or e-mail them at [dlujan@odessa.edu](mailto:dlujan@odessa.edu). You can also visit these links: <http://www.odessa.edu/OCGlobal/blackboard/> or <http://blackboardsupport.calpoly.edu/> and/or go to the "Tools" tab and click "User Guide."

If you have a question about the material you may contact me via e-mail, phone, or visit me in my office; You can also check the course chat room (Go to the "Tools" tab, then click "Collaboration," then "Chat Room") to see if I am, or another student is, in it and ask a question that way as well. You may also visit the OC Student Success Center website for tutoring information <http://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/tutoring.htm>

**Chapter Info:** The Chapter Info tab on the web course will provide the student a downloadable Power Point presentation, outline, and summary for each chapter. This material is supplemental and it is highly advised that a student review the information and complete the readings to gain a better understanding of the material which in essence will make posting to the discussion board and exams easier.

**Tests & Final Exam:** There will be a total of four tests, with the fourth exam being your final exam. The tests will consist of 50 multiple choice questions valued at two points each. All exams will cover 4 chapters, including the Final Exam which is not comprehensive. It is imperative that students complete

reading assignments in order to be better prepared for the exams. I do not drop any test grades. No study guides will be provided and the exams will be taken via Blackboard from any location with internet access. The exam will only be available on one day for a specified time period and you will have 3 hours to take the examination- The exam can only be taken one time and once the time has expired the exam will no longer be available. This is an open-book test and all test questions will come out of the textbook.

**Extra Credit:** In this age of technology it is imperative that college students master the art of internet research, therefore for every exam up to ten extra credit points can be earned if the student submits to me a summary describing a website they found pertinent to the test material. DO NOT use websites such as Wikipedia, Dictionary.com, etc.- Actually research a site related to the material. The summary should include the URL, the date accessed, author and/or organization that maintain the site, a brief description of the website, and why or why not you found it useful. The extra credit is optional and due dates are posted; only one extra credit assignment can be turned in per exam. The assignment must be 50-100 words in length and submitted via the appropriate Discussion Board thread.

**Current Event News Article Review:** The student will be responsible for submitting a review on their chosen current event news article pertinent to American Government (Current meaning no more than a month old)- Students should e-mail the instructor to have their current event news article approved. Current Event news articles are at a "First Come First Serve" basis meaning that no two students can complete their review on the same news article. The review will be 500-600 words (1 single-spaced typed page). The review will be a brief summary and opinion of a current event news article chosen by the student, and should include possible solutions and consequences that can occur- It will be graded on topic, content, and grammar. You will post your Current Event News Article review (Properly cited) at the designated discussion post thread. Late reviews will be penalized 5% of the final grade for every day that it is late. Below are some items to consider to help your grade:

- 1) Was your review mostly a summary? If it was it should have been mostly your opinion.
- 2) Was your review 500-600 words in length?
- 3) Did you submit your assignment on time (Remember, 5% for every day it was late)?
- 4) Did you cite your assignment (Link/Title of Article)?
- 5) Did you proofread (How many typos, etc. did your assignment contain)?

**Discussion Posts:** The student will be responsible for posting ten original posts on the discussion board for this course (If a resource other than the textbook is utilized, then the post and/or reply needs to be properly cited). Original posts must be 200-250 words in length and should respond to the questions posed for each section. When posting, it is ok to disagree with someone's comments (that is what higher education is all about), although please be considerate and polite to your fellow classmates- Rude and derogatory comments will not be tolerated and will result in 0 points for that assignment.

**Scholastic Dishonesty:** Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated and will be handled in accordance to the OC Student Code of Conduct/Board Policy Manual. The Professor has the right to, at his discretion, add or alter any assignments, exams, and or methods.

### **Special Needs**

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 and participation in this or any other class at Odessa College, please feel free to contact me to discuss your concerns. You may also call the Office of Disability services at 432-335-6861 to request assistance and accommodations.

### **Learning Resource Center (The Library)**

The Library, known as the Learning Resources Center, provides research assistance via the LRC's catalog (print books, videos, e-books) and databases (journal and magazine articles). Research guides covering specific subject areas, tutorials, and the "Ask a Librarian " service provide additional help.

**Student Email**

Please access your Odessa College Student E-mail, by following the link to either set up or update your account: <http://www.odessa.edu/gmail/>. **All assignments or correspondence will be submitted using your Odessa College email.**

**Technical Support**

For Blackboard username and password help and for help accessing your online course availability and student email account contact the Student Success Center at 432-335-6878 or online at [https://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/helpdesk\\_form.htm](https://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/helpdesk_form.htm).

**Important School Policies** For information regarding student support services, academic dishonesty, disciplinary actions, special accommodations, or students' and instructors' right to academic freedom can be found in the Odessa College Student Handbook.