

**COURSE SYLLABUS
GOVERNMENT 2305
FEDERAL (AMERICAN) GOVERNMENT
ODESSA COLLEGE**

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Hours: As posted and appt.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Dye, Thomas R. *Politics In America*. Ninth Edition, Pearson Publishing, N.Y. 2010

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION and OBJECTIVE:

This course is intended to survey and interpret the institutions of American government including: the Executive, Congress, the judiciary and bureaucracy. It will also include the study of domestic and foreign policy issues such as the nation's defense, managing the economy, welfare state, Civil Liberties and Civil Rights.

The primary objective of the course is to introduce new members (students) of society into the American political and civic culture. Additionally, the course is designed to develop and strengthen students' writing, analytical and critical thinking skills to enhance the preservation and perpetuation of American constitutional government.

II. EXAMINATIONS and GRADING PROCEDURES:

Grades will be based on four (4) scheduled exams composed of twenty-five (25) multiple choice questions and one (1) essay question. Each exam will count 20% of the student's final course grade.

Grading will be in traditional form: 90 + = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, and below 60 = F.

There are NO "make-up" exams without consultation with the professor.

III. ATTENDANCE and GENERAL CLASS CONDUCT POLICIES:

Attendance is **strongly** recommended and expected during the semester. The roll will be taken during each class and absences recorded. Should there be excessive absences, the student will be consulted by the professor to discuss reasons. Consistent attendance is for the student's benefit as lectures will not ordinarily duplicate the reading assignments but will assume a familiarity with them and offer interpretations and hypotheses of the various topics discussed in class.

STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR BOTH THE LECTURES AND READINGS FOR FOR THE EXAMS!!

During the semester and while in class, students MUST, and are expected to, conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen for the good of the whole group. Information cannot be comprehended and synthesized if one is not listening or is talking out of order. Simply put, it is important that students are mannerly toward one another and respectful of other's thoughts, comments and positions/points of view. A disregard for these regulations will result in a review of the student's commitment to the class and learning.

THE FOLLOWING VIOLATIONS WILL RESULT IN DISMISSAL (DROPPED) FROM THE CLASS BY THE INSTRUCTOR, TO WIT:

CONSISTENT TARDINESS (LATE)

CELL PHONE USE OF ANY SORT e.g. PLAYING, READING, OR TEXTING

LAYING HEADS ON DESKS – SLEEPING – NAPPING

ILL BEHAVIOR TOWARD PROFESSOR OR STUDENTS

PROFANITY OR OTHER LANGUAGE THAT OFFENDS IN DISCUSSION OF TOPICS

LEAVING CLASS EARLY OR "COMING AND GOING"

SITTING IDLY WITHOUT NOTES OR TAKING NOTES, MINDLESSLY UNOCCUPIED

IV. WRITING/RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT:

During the semester students will have the opportunity to undertake a research assignment/paper. The topic and format will be discussed in detail and the professor will hand out a writing guide to each student which will include all of the details and a list of possible topics for research.

THE PAPER WILL COUNT 20% OF THE STUDENTS FINAL GRADE!

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V. REACTION PAPERS (optional):

At the end of each unit and after the exam, students will have an opportunity to submit a Reaction Paper. Reacting to whatever the student chooses, for example: presentation of the material in lectures, critique of the textbook and the chapters studied, the exam and its questions for clarity, etc. The papers are due one week after the exam and are worth **10 extra points on each exam!**

VI. WEB ASSIGNMENT FOR EACH UNIT (optional):

After each exam, students may request a web assignment for that unit and one will be provided by the professor. The assignment will include the details and must be typed double spaced and turned in with the Reaction Paper. The web assignment will be worth **10 extra points on the exam.**

VII. ACADEMIC DISHONESTY and GRIEVANCE POLICIES/PROCEDURES:

Students who engage in academic dishonesty in any form, to wit: research, writing, or examinations, will be dealt with swiftly and harshly. The penalties for such behavior are immediate and automatic failure in the course and expulsion from the College. Please be advised and forewarned—**there is no toleration nor exception for intellectual and/or academic fraud!**

Grievances must follow the due process procedures set forth in the College Board Policy manual. The following is a diagram of the initial process to file a student grievance:

Instructor > Department Chairperson > Division Dean > V.P. for Instruction > College President > Odessa College Board of Trustees.

