

GOVT 2305: Federal Government Course Syllabus

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Office Hours: By appointment only

Times: MTWTh 9:20-11:35am **Location:** DH 216 **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/lectures is testable and it is your responsibility to read the chapters. SCANS 6 and 9.

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 an understanding of our 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
6. Analyze the election process.
7. Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens
8. Analyze issues and policies in U.S. politics.

Text: *Politics in America*, OC Edition, by Dye, ISBN # 978-0-205-82609 (9th), ISBN # 978-1-256-32047)

Grading Policy: Tests (4: Test 1-3 = 17% each; Test 4/Final = 15%) = 66%, Current Event (2 @ 8.5% each) = 17%, Research Project = 17%

Grading Scale: A = 90-100 B = 80-89 C = 70-79 D = 60-69 F = below 60

Attendance & Participation: Regular attendance and participation is essential to achieving satisfactory progress, therefore it is the student's responsibility to attend class and to keep up with the assigned readings so that participation in class discussions and proper understanding of the material can occur. Attendance is taken every class meeting- If tardiness becomes a problem further action may occur. Please let me know if you require special accommodations.

Tests & Final Exam: There will be a total of three tests, with the third exam being your Final. The tests will consist of multiple choice, identification and essay questions. All exams will cover multiple chapters, and the Final is a Departmental/Comprehensive version. It is imperative that students complete the reading assignments in order to be better prepared for the exams. I do not drop any test grades. Make-up exams will only be allowed with permission from the instructor and are a different version comprised of the textbook's test bank- Exceptions could be made at the Professor's discretion. No study guides will be provided although students will be allowed to use one index card on the test. If the material on the index card is typed, only one side of a 3x5 card can be used; if it is hand-written you may use both sides of a 4x6 card (Index card must be turned in with the exam and with your name on it).

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 assignment should include: 1) URL, 2) date accessed, 3) author and/or organization that maintain the site, and 4) 2-3 sentences on your opinion of the webpage. **The extra credit assignment due dates are by 10pm of the next class meeting after the exam date**, and only one extra credit assignment can be turned in per test. The assignment must be posted in the proper Discussion Board thread.

