**HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM**

**SYLLABUS: GOVT 2305 American Government Nat.**

**Mon-Fr. 8:00-10:00 am. Mini-Summer 2017. CRN: 12435.**

West Loop – Campus

TEL: (713) 718-8400

Instructor: Dr. Amir Ilkhan. JD. Tel: (713) 320-2130,

e-mail:**amir.ilkhan@hccs.edu****,**

Total course is 96 hours. The course length is 12 weeks.

Classes are in-person.

This is 3 credit hours course.

Students can contact me via e-mail 24/7 or call me from 12:00 am – 10:00 pm.

Students can find the Course Description at HCC Catalog at [www.hcc.edu/district/above-us/catalog/course-description](http://www.hcc.edu/district/above-us/catalog/course-description)

Course Prerequisite: Students must have passed ENGL 1301 or co-enrolled in ENGL 1301 as a co-requisite.

Student may contact the Department Chair Evelyn Ballard for additional information or concerns. Evelyn.ballard@hccs.edu. 713-718-2490

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**: Government 2305 is one of the two courses designed to

Introduce students to the politics of national, civil rights,

civil liberties, social welfare policy, and foreign & military policy.

GOVT 2305 is fully transferable to other colleges and universities,

and together meet the legislative requirement for government.

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, each student will be able to:

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.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**:

O’Connor, Sabato, Haag and Keith; **American Government: Roots and Reform**

This book can be purchased from local college bookstores.

**GRADING**:

90-100 = A

80 - 89 = B

70 - 79 = C

60 - 69 = D

0 0 - 68 = F

4 Tests (20% each) = 80%

Total other Assignments and Quizzes = 10 %

Class attendance = 5%

Class participation = 5%

Total Score = 100%

There will be four tests each covering both the reading material and material discussed

in class. Each will include multiple choice or short answer or essay or combination thereof.

If you miss a test, contact me immediately to arrange for a make-up test. There will be other assignments throughout the session to help improve your grade, including periodic quizzes to cover the previous lectures and/or discussions. The chosen method of instruction will vary throughout the semester to include mostly lecturing and classroom discussions. Lecturing will be used to emphasize or reiterate

important points covered during class. Classroom discussions will be used in such a way to promote class participation and to discuss thought-provoking topics related to the course. Special research assignments will be given to amplify many of the topics discussed in the textbook.

Students are expected to attend all class sessions. The instructor has the authority to drop

a student for excessive absences. A student may be dropped from a course for absenteeism after the student has accumulated absences in excess of 12.5 percent of the hours of instruction .For a three credit-hour course a student may be dropped after six hours of absents.

It is important that all electronic devices (cell phones, pagers, etc.) be turned off, or put

in the „ silent „ or „vibrate‟ mode prior to entering class to avoid disrupting class dis-

cussions, etc.

**Make-ups:** There will be no make-ups for missed assignments. There will be adequate

time given for students to complete each assignment.

**All assignments should be typed or written legibly**.

**Late assignments:** If late assignments are accepted, points will be deducted.

**Scholastic Dishonesty:** “This includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Possible punishment for academic dishonesty may include a grade of 0 or F

On the particular assignment, failure in the course, and/or recommendation for probation

or dismissal from the College System.” ( For details, see your Student Handbook.)

**ADA Statement: Any** student with a documented disability (e.g. physical, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc, who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the

appropriate Disability Support Counselor (DSSC) at the beginning of the semester. The

Faculty is advised to provide only the accommodation requested by the DSSC. Kim Ingram is the Northeast College’s DSS Counselor. Her telephone number is

713.718.8420.

**Changes**: The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus as needed as needed during the term. Students will be notified in writing of such changes in advance.

**Withdrawals:** If a student wants to withdraw from any class, he or she must do so before the deadline. The instructor can withdraw a student for non-performance or excessive absences.

**Research Paper:** The paper should be 4-5 pages in length, typed and double-spaced.

**Government 2305 Reading Assignments**

Reading assignments are to be completed before class and lecture.

**Introductory Lecture**

Chapter 2- U.S Constitution

Chapter 3- Federal System

Chapter 6- Congress

Chapter 8- Executive Branch

Chapter 9- The Judiciary

Chapter 4-Civil Liberties

Chapter 5- Civil Rights

Chapter 11- Political Parties and Interest Groups

Chapter 12- Campaigns, Elections, and Voting

Chapter 10- Public Opinion and the News Media

Chapter 17**-** Social Welfare Policy

Chapter 18- Economic Policy

Chapter 19**-** Foreign and Military Policy

**Assignments for Government 2305**

1) Know Your Elected Officials.

2) Identify the leadership of the United States Senate and House of Representatives.

3) Identify the President’s Cabinet.