Federal Government-12509

GOVT-2305

RT 2022   Section 0022   3 Credits   01/18/2022 to 05/15/2022   Modified 01/17/2022

🕐 Course Meetings

Course Modality

This is an Online Anytime class - a traditional online course without scheduled meetings.

👤 Welcome and Instructor Information

Professor: Andrew Teas

Email: andrew.teas@hccs.edu
Office: Room 900B; Spring Branch Campus
Phone: (713) 718-5528
Website: https://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/andrew.teas (https://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/andrew.teas)

What's Exciting About This Course

This is a fascinating time to study the federal government, what it does during times of national emergency and crisis, how it shares responsibility with local governments, and how critical decisions are made.

My Personal Welcome

Welcome to Govt 2305, Federal Government! Along with Govt 2306 (Texas Government), this is one of two required government courses every student needs to complete as part of every degree plan.
My class consists entirely of online quizzes and online assignments. There are no "live" exams, nothing to memorize and nothing to study for. BUT, there is a lot of writing - generally a short quiz and a 2 - 5 page college-level essay due each Saturday.

Preferred Method of Contact

The best way to reach me is through email. My email goes to my phone and I'm borderline obsessive about checking it, although I'm trying to do better.

Office Hours

We can arrange to meet at your convenience. Just email me with several date and time choices that work for you and we'll set up a phone call, virtual meeting or try to meet in person. I like meeting with students in person, but bear in mind that the shifting pandemic rules may complicate this.

🖥 Course Overview

GOVT 2305 - Federal Government

Origin and development of the U.S. Constitution, structure and powers of the national government including the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, federalism, political participation, the national election process, public policy, civil liberties, and civil rights.

Requisites

You must have passed ENGL 1301 (Composition I) or be co-enrolled in ENGL 1301 as a corequisite.

Government Department

https://learning.hccs.edu/programs/government

🎯 Core Curriculum Objectives (CCOs)

This course satisfies the Government/Political Science requirement in the HCCS core curriculum. The HCCS Government Program Committee has specified that the course addresses the following core objectives:

Critical Thinking Skills—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information

Communication Skills—to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication

Empirical/Quantitative Skills—to include manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions

Teamwork—to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal

Personal Responsibility—to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making

Social Responsibility—to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

📊 Student Learning Outcomes and Objectives

Course Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

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.

Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs)

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

- Define and relate critical course concepts to contemporary issues in government and politics.
- Describe and assess the importance of civic engagement in the representative democratic structures of national, state, or local governments.
- Evaluate different kinds of data used in the study of government and politics.
- Articulate their own positions on contemporary issues in government and politics.

☰ Departmental Practices and Procedures

Program-Specific Student Success Information

Expect to spend at least twice as many hours per week outside of class as you do in class reading, studying the course content, and preparing discussions and assignments. Additional time will be required for written assignments. The assignments provided will help you use your study hours wisely. Successful completion of this course requires a combination of the following:

- Reading the textbook
- Attending class in person or online
- Completing assignments
- Participating in class activities, including discussions

Success in this course requires reading (and re-reading) and studying the material using the course objectives as a guide. Time management is important because on time completion and submission of your work is expected.

📙 Instructional Materials and Resources

Instructional Materials

This course uses the OpenStax American Government textbook ([https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-3e (https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-3e)](https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-3e)), Third Edition. It's an excellent book, and it's totally free to you, courtesy of the Kinder Institute at Rice University.

✔ Course Requirements

Assignments, Exams, and Activities

Type	Weight	Topic	Notes
Written Assignment	60%		Assignments are explained in each module. They are generally 2 - 5 page essays you'll submit in Canvas.
Quizzes and graded discussion	40%		Quizzes are included in each module. They are generally 10-question, multiple choice quizzes. They're open-book, open-notes, open-internet, but there's a time limit (usually one hour), and the clock starts once you open the quiz, so don't open a quiz until you're ready to take it. I think of my quizzes as scavenger hunts. They're more about proving you can find information that about proving you've memorized anything. We have one "graded discussion" the fourth week. It counts like a quiz grade. Just follow the directions.

Grading Formula

Grade	Range	Notes
A	90/100	
B	80-89	
C	70-79	
D	60-69	
F	0-59	Also, note that you can end up with an "FX" if you just abandon the course without dropping it. It's like an F, but it also screws up your financial aid. If you need to drop a course, it's ok, just make sure you go online and drop it before the withdrawal deadline. Talk to a counselor if you need help.

✳ Instructor's Practices and Procedures

Incomplete Policy

An Incomplete ("I"), is for emergency circumstances where something beyond a student's control happens <u>after the withdrawal</u>

deadline that prevents a student from completing the course after it's too late to drop. In order to receive a grade of Incomplete ("I"), a student must have completed at least 85% of the work in the course. In all cases, the instructor reserves the right to decline a student's request to receive a grade of Incomplete.

Missed Assignments/Make-Up Policy

Quizzes must be completed by the quiz deadline for you to receive credit. Missing a quiz deadline results in a grade of zero for that quiz. Assignments and the graded discussion, other than the assignment due the final week, can be submitted up to a week late, but with a loss of 10 points for each day or part-of-day late. The final assignment must be submitted on time for you to receive credit.

Academic Integrity

Assignments are submitted through turnitin. Plagiarism will result in a zero for the assignment. Multiple instances of scholastic dishonesty will result in an F for the course.

Scholastic Dishonesty will also result in a referral to the Dean of Student Services.

Here's the link to the HCC information about academic integrity (Scholastic Dishonesty and Violation of Academic Scholastic Dishonesty and Grievance):

https://www.hccs.edu/studentprocedures (https://www.hccs.edu/studentprocedures)

Attendance Procedures

This is an "online anytime" class that doesn't meet, but that means it's even more important that you log in frequently and keep up with our discussions, quizzes and assignments.

If something's going on that's impacting your ability to keep up with our coursework, please let me know as soon as you can. Problems like this are easier to solve early in the semester.

Student Conduct

Behave like a civilized adult in the classroom and online. We can discuss issues, and we can disagree, but be civil in class and don't post anything offensive in Canvas. You cannot harass other students or HCC's faculty or staff. Real bullying or cyber-bullying will not be tolerated.

Instructor's Course-Specific Information

This class consists entirely of online quizzes and assignments. Assignments count 60% of your semester grade. Quizzes count 40%. Each written assignment is explained in its file under "Modules." Unless the directions say otherwise, they are 2 –5 page college-level essays (double-spaced, with a normal font no bigger than 12 and normal margins) with sources cited. Submit in Microsoft Word before the deadline using the Eagle Online Canvas system.

Canvas seems to work best in the Google Chrome browser.

The deadlines for assignments and quizzes are at 11:30 p.m. I know it may say "11:59" in the settings, but the Canvas clock may not match yours, so use 11:30 as your personal deadline, just to be safe.

Devices

To be successful in this course, you'll need a laptop or desktop computer with internet access. Do not try to take quizzes or write essays on your phone.

Need a computer? HCC has loaner laptop computers and wifi hotspots available for you to use. Information here: https://library.hccs.edu/laptops (https://library.hccs.edu/laptops)

Don't have Microsoft Word? No problem. HCC makes all the Microsoft Office tools available to you free of charge through your email. Just click that little square of nine dots in the top, left corner of your HCC email, then click the icon to open a Word document.

Faculty Statement about Student Success

Here's the deal: This class requires some work, but there are no surprises and there is nothing to memorize. It's deadline-driven. There is a list of things you have to do and dates by which you have to do them. If you want to pass, take all the quizzes and turn in all the assignments on time. If you want to make an A, put some thought into your essays, follow the directions carefully, write clearly and proofread thoroughly. Stay ahead of the due dates instead of waiting until the last minute.

Faculty-Specific Information Regarding Canvas

This course section will use Canvas (https://eagleonline.hccs.edu (https://eagleonline.hccs.edu)) to supplement in-class assignments, exams, and activities.

HCCS Open Lab locations may be used to access the Internet and Canvas. For best performance, Canvas should be used on the current or first previous major release of Chrome, Firefox, Edge, or Safari. Because it's built using web standards, Canvas runs on Windows, Mac, Linux, iOS, Android, or any other device with a modern web browser.

Canvas only requires an operating system that can run the latest compatible web browsers. Your computer operating system should be kept up to date with the latest recommended security updates and upgrades.

Social Justice Statement

Houston Community College is committed to furthering the cause of social justice in our community and beyond. HCC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender identity and expression, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or veteran status. I fully support that commitment and, as such, will work to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. In this course, we share in the creation and maintenance of a positive and safe learning environment. Part of this process includes acknowledging and embracing the differences among us in order to establish and reinforce that each one of us matters. I appreciate your suggestions about how to best maintain this environment of respect. If you experience any type of discrimination, please contact me and/or the Office of Institutional Equity at 713-718-8271.

🏛 HCC Policies and Information

HCC Grading System

HCC uses the following standard grading system:

Grade	Grade Interpretation	Grade Points
A	Excellent (90-100)	4
B	Good (80-89)	3
C	Fair (70-79)	2
D	Passing (60-69), except in developmental courses.	1
F	Failing (59 and below)	0
FX	Failing due to non-attendance	0
W	Withdrawn	0
I	Incomplete	0

Grade	Grade Interpretation	Grade Points
AUD	Audit	0
IP	In Progress. Given only in certain developmental courses. A student must re-enroll to receive credit.	0
COM	Completed. Given in non-credit and continuing education courses.	0

Link to Policies in Catalog and Student Handbook

Here's the link to the HCC Catalog and Student Handbook: https://catalog.hccs.edu/ (https://catalog.hccs.edu/)

In it you will find information about the following:

- Academic Information
- Academic Support
- Attendance, Repeating Courses, and Withdrawal
- Career Planning and Job Search
- Childcare
- disAbility Support Services
- Electronic Devices
- Equal Educational Opportunity
- Financial Aid TV (FATV)
- General Student Complaints
- Grade of FX
- Incomplete Grades
- International Student Services
- Health Awareness
- Libraries/Bookstore
- Police Services & Campus Safety
- Student Life at HCC
- Student Rights and Responsibilities
- Student Services
- Testing
- Transfer Planning
- Veteran Services

Link to HCC Academic Integrity Statement

https://www.hccs.edu/student-conduct (https://www.hccs.edu/student-conduct) (scroll down to subsections)

Campus Carry Link

Here's the link to the HCC information about Campus Carry:

https://www.hccs.edu/campuscarry (https://www.hccs.edu/campuscarry)

HCC Email Policy

When communicating via email, HCC requires students to communicate only through the HCC email system to protect your privacy. If you have not activated your HCC student email account, you can go to HCC Eagle ID (https://www.hccs.edu/email) and activate it now. You may also use Canvas Inbox to communicate.

Office of Institutional Equity

Use the following link to access the HCC Office of Institutional Equity, Inclusion, and Engagement: https://www.hccs.edu/eeo (https://www.hccs.edu/eeo)

Ability Services

HCC strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including long and short term conditions, mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please meet with a campus Abilities Counselor as soon as possible in order to establish reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s) and Ability Services. It is the policy and practice of HCC to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. For more information, please go to https://www.hccs.edu/accessibility (https://www.hccs.edu/accessibility)

Title IX

Houston Community College is committed to cultivating an environment free from inappropriate conduct of a sexual or gender-based nature including sex discrimination, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and sexual violence. Sex discrimination includes all forms of sexual and gender-based misconduct and violates an individual's fundamental rights and personal dignity. Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex-including pregnancy and parental status in educational programs and activities. If you require an accommodation due to pregnancy please contact an Abilities Services Counselor. The Director of EEO/Compliance is designated as the Title IX Coordinator and Section 504 Coordinator. All inquiries concerning HCC policies, compliance with applicable laws, statutes, and regulations (such as Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504), and complaints may be directed to:

David Cross
Director EEO/Compliance
Office of Institutional Equity & Diversity
3100 Main
(713) 718-8271
Houston, TX 77266-7517 or Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu (mailto:Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu)

https://www.hccs.edu/titleix (https://www.hccs.edu/titleix)

Office of the Dean of Students

Contact the office of the Dean of Students to seek assistance in determining the correct complaint procedure to follow or to identify the appropriate academic dean or supervisor for informal resolution of complaints.

https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-complaints/speak-with-the-dean-of-students/ (https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-complaints/speak-with-the-dean-of-students/)

Student Success

Expect to spend at least twice as many hours per week outside of class as you do in class studying the course content. Additional time will be required for written assignments. The assignments provided will help you use your study hours wisely. Successful completion of this course requires a combination of the following:

- Reading the textbook
- Attending class in person and/or online
- Completing assignments
- Participating in class activities

There is no short cut for success in this course; it requires reading (and probably re-reading) and studying the material using the course objectives as a guide.

Canvas Learning Management System

Canvas is HCC's Learning Management System (LMS), and can be accessed at the following URL:

[https://eagleonline.hccs.edu (https://eagleonline.hccs.edu)](https://eagleonline.hccs.edu)

HCCS Open Lab locations may be used to access the Internet and Canvas. For best performance, Canvas should be used on the current or first previous major release of Chrome, Firefox, Edge, or Safari. Because it's built using web standards, Canvas runs on Windows, Mac, Linux, iOS, Android, or any other device with a modern web browser.

Canvas only requires an operating system that can run the latest compatible web browsers. Your computer operating system should be kept up to date with the latest recommended security updates and upgrades.

HCC Online Information and Policies

Here is the link to information about HCC Online classes, which includes access to the required Online Information Class Preview for all fully online classes: [https://www.hccs.edu/online/ (https://www.hccs.edu/online/)](https://www.hccs.edu/online/)

Scoring Rubrics, Sample Assignments, etc.

Look in Canvas for the scoring rubrics for assignments, samples of class assignments, and other information to assist you in the course. [https://eagleonline.hccs.edu/ (https://eagleonline.hccs.edu/)](https://eagleonline.hccs.edu/)

Instructor and Student Responsibilities

As your Instructor, it is my responsibility to:

- Provide the grading scale and detailed grading formula explaining how student grades are to be derived
- Facilitate an effective learning environment through learner-centered instructional techniques
- Provide a description of any special projects or assignments
- Inform students of policies such as attendance, withdrawal, tardiness, and making up assignments
- Provide the course outline and class calendar that will include a description of any special projects or assignments
- Arrange to meet with individual students during office hours, and before and after class as required

As a student, it is your responsibility to:

- Attend class in person and/or online
- Participate actively by reviewing course material, interacting with classmates, and responding promptly in your communication with me
- Read and comprehend the textbook
- Complete the required assignments and exams
- Ask for help when there is a question or problem
- Keep copies of all paperwork, including this syllabus, handouts, and all assignments
- Be aware of and comply with academic honesty policies in the [HCCS Student Handbook (https://www.hccs.edu/studenthandbook)](https://www.hccs.edu/studenthandbook)

EGLS3

The EGLS[3] ([Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System (https://www.hccs.edu/egls3)](https://www.hccs.edu/egls3)) will be available for most courses near the end of the term until finals start. This brief survey will give invaluable information to your faculty about their teaching. Results are anonymous and will be available to faculty and division chairs after the end of the term. EGLS[3] surveys are only available for the Fall and Spring semesters. EGLS3 surveys are not offered during the Summer semester due to logistical constraints.

[https://www.hccs.edu/egls3 (https://www.hccs.edu/egls3)](https://www.hccs.edu/egls3)

Housing and Food Assistance for Students

Any student who faces challenges securing their foods or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students at their college for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so.

This will enable HCC to provide any resources that HCC may possess.

Student Resources

Tutoring

HCC provides free, confidential, and convenient academic support, including writing critiques, to HCC students in an online environment and on campus. Tutoring is provided by HCC personnel in order to ensure that it is contextual and appropriate. Visit the HCC Tutoring Services (https://www.hccs.edu/tutoring) website for services provided.

Libraries

The HCC Library System consists of 9 libraries and 6 Electronic Resource Centers (ERCs) that are inviting places to study and collaborate on projects. Librarians are available both at the libraries and online to show you how to locate and use the resources you need. The libraries maintain a large selection of electronic resources as well as collections of books, magazines, newspapers, and audiovisual materials. The portal to all libraries' resources and services is the HCCS library web page at https://library.hccs.edu (https://library.hccs.edu/).

Supplementary Instruction

Supplemental Instruction is an academic enrichment and support program that uses peer-assisted study sessions to improve student retention and success in historically difficult courses. Peer Support is provided by students who have already succeeded in completion of the specified course, and who earned a grade of A or B. Find details at https://www.hccs.edu/supplemental-instruction (https://www.hccs.edu/supplemental-instruction)

Resources for Students:

https://www.hccs.edu/covid19students (https://www.hccs.edu/covid19students)

Basic Needs Resources:

https://www.hccs.edu/support-services/counseling/hcc-cares/basic-needs-resources/ (https://www.hccs.edu/support-services/counseling/hcc-cares/basic-needs-resources/)

Student Basic Needs Application:

https://www.hccs.edu/basicneeds (https://www.hccs.edu/basicneeds)

COVID-19

Here's the link to the HCC information about COVID-19:

https://www.hccs.edu/covid-19 (https://www.hccs.edu/covid-19)

Sensitive or Mature Course Content

In this college-level course, we may occasionally discuss sensitive or mature content. All members of the classroom environment, from your instructor to your fellow students, are expected to handle potentially controversial subjects with respect and consideration for one another's varied experiences and values.

Instructional Modalities

In-Person (P)

Safe, face-to-face course with scheduled dates and times

Online on a Schedule (WS)

Fully online course with virtual meetings at scheduled dates and times

Online Anytime (WW)

Traditional online course without scheduled meetings

Hybrid (H)

Course that meets safely 50% face-to-face and 50% virtually

Hybrid Lab (HL)

Lab class that meets safely 50% face-to-face and 50% virtually

Copyright Statement

In order to uphold the integrity of the academic environment and protect and foster a cohesive learning environment for all, HCC prohibits unauthorized use of course materials. Materials shared in this course are based on my professional knowledge and experience and are presented in an educational context for the students in the course. Authorized use of course materials is limited to personal study or educational uses. Material should not be shared, distributed, or sold outside the course without permission. Students are also explicitly forbidden in all circumstances from plagiarizing or appropriating course materials. This includes but is not limited to publically posting quizzes, essays, or other materials. This prohibition extends not only during this course, but after. Sharing of the materials in any context will be a violation of the HCC Student Code of Conduct and may subject the student to discipline, as well as any applicable civil or criminal liability. Consequences for unauthorized sharing, plagiarizing, or other methods of academic dishonesty may range from a 0 on the specified assignment and/or up to expulsion from Houston Community College. Questions about this policy may be directed to me or to the Manager of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity.

📅 Course Calendar

All Due Dates This Semester

- Jan. 22 – Syllabus Quiz
- Jan. 29 – Chapter 1 assignment and graded discussion
- Feb. 5 – Chapter 2 assignment and quiz (Constitution)
- Feb. 12 – Chapter 3 assignment and quiz (Federalism)
- Feb. 19 – Chapter 4 assignment and quiz (Civil Liberties)
- Feb. 26 – Chapter 7 & 9 assignment and quizzes (Voting & Elections, Parties)
- March 5 – Chapter 6 assignment and quiz (Public Opinion)
- March 12 – Chapter 8 quiz (Media)
- March 14-19 - Spring Break
- March 26 – Chapter 5 assignment and quiz (Civil Rights)
- April 2 – Chapter 10 assignment and quiz (Interest Groups)
- April 9 – Chapter 11 & 12 assignments and quizzes (Congress, President)
- April 16 – Chapter 15 assignment and quiz (Bureaucracy)
- April 23 – Chapter 13 assignment and quiz (Courts)
- April 30 - Chapter 17 assignment and quiz (Foreign Policy)
- May 7 – Chapter 16 assignment* and quiz (Domestic Policy)

Remember: The final assignment must be submitted on time for you to receive any credit.

The "Census Date" is **January 31** - students who have not attended by that date will be dropped automatically.

The withdrawal deadline is **April 4**. You must withdraw on or before this date to receive a "W" (withdrawn) instead of a letter grade for the course.

Syllabus Modifications

The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus at any time during the semester and will promptly notify students in writing, typically by e-mail, of any such changes.

☰ Additional Information

Departmental/Program Information

The Houston Community College Government Department supports students in a number of different ways. These include:

- Government Majors & Minors: Students can earn an Associate of Arts Degree in Government, which will prepare them for

majoring in Political Science or Government when they transfer to a university. Majors and Minors—those students who are interested in Political Science or Government—are supported by a faculty committee that will connect them to events, news, and opportunities.
- Careers in Government: The study of Government or Political Science prepares students for work in the public and private sectors by emphasizing critical thinking, analytical, and communication skills.
- Government Student Organizations: The Government Department supports the activities of the *Center for Civic Engagement* and the HCC *Political Science Club*, both of which hold discussions and sponsor events to connect students to politics in the real world.
- GOVT Scholarship: The Government Department will work with students to locate scholarship support, when possible.

Process for Expressing Concerns about the Course

If you have concerns about any aspect of this course, please reach out to your instructor for assistance first. If your instructor is not able to assist you, then you may wish to contact the Department Chair.

Cammy Shay, Ph.D. (she/her/hers)
Faculty Division Chair - Government
Angela Morales Building, 101.12
6815 Rustic
Houston, Texas, 77087
713-718-7141
cammy.shay@hccs.edu
http://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/cammy.shay