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**Government Course Syllabus**

*Government 2305*

*Summer II, 2017*

*CRN 11448*

*Katy Campus, Room 226*

 *12:00-1:50 pm*

3 Semester Credit Hours

5 Weeks

*Summer II*

*Face to Face*

**Instructor Name**

*Barbara Roberts, M.A.*

*MC1638*

*Barbara.roberts@hccs.edu*

**Government Department Chair:**

Evelyn Ballard

Evelyn.ballard@hccs.edu

713-718-2490

**Education**

* *M.A. Political Science, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX*
* *James Madison Fellowship, Georgetown University, Washington, DC*
* *B.A. History, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX*

**Office Hours**

Office Hours: Before or after class by appointment.

 Katy Campus

Room 226

I am best reached by email, but please allow 24 business hours to allow for a response.

**Course Description**

U.S.--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.

**Prerequisite, Co-requisite**

Must have passed or co-enrolled in English 1301 (Composition I) as a co-requisite.

**Academic Program Learning Outcomes:**

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.

**Course Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)**

1. Identify and describe the institutions of American national government. GOVT 2305

2. Recognize and assume the responsibilities of citizenship by developing one’s critical thinking skills, engaging in public discourse, and by obtaining information through the news media. GOVT 2305

**Core Objectives**

The Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) mandates that the core curriculum must ensure that students will develop the essential knowledge and skills they need to be successful in college, in a career, in their communities, and in life. Through the Texas Core Curriculum, students will gain a foundation of knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world, develop principles of personal and social responsibility for living in a diverse world, and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning. Students enrolled in GOVT 2305/2306 core curriculum courses will complete assessments designed to measure 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

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

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

 Student assessment of proficiencies mandated by THECB may include testing, projects, or assignments.

**Course Calendar**

*Required: Include Exam Dates, College Holidays*

*Preferred: Schedule of reading assignments and class topics with dates*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | ***Date*** | ***Topic***  | ***Assignment Due:***  |
| ***1.*** | ***7/10*** | ***Intro, Syllabus, Ch 1*** | ***Read Ch 1 and complete political surveys by Weds.***  |
| ***2.*** | ***7/11*** | ***Ch 2 Constitution***  |  ***Have read 31-62*** |
| ***3.*** | ***7/12*** | ***Constitution*** | ***Have read Constitution*** |
| ***4.*** | ***7/13*** | ***Ch 4 Civil Liberties*** | ***Have read 101-135*** |
| ***5*** | ***7/14***  | ***Ch 3 Federalism***  | ***Have read 67-99*** |
| ***6*** | ***7/17*** | ***Test Ch 1-4*** | ***Unit 1 Review*** |
|  |  |  |  |
| ***7*** | ***7/18*** |  ***Ch5 Civil Rights*** | ***Have read 137-175*** |
| ***8*** | ***7/19*** | ***Ch 6 Public Opinion***  | ***Have read 177-197*** |
| ***9*** | ***7/20*** | ***Ch 7 News and Media*** | ***Have read 211-240*** |
| ***10*** | ***7/21*** | ***Ch 8 Interest Groups*** | ***Have read***  |
|  | ***7/24*** | ***Ch 9 Political Parties*** | ***Have read*** ***Portrait of Me Papers Due*** |
| ***11*** | ***7/25*** | ***Ch10 Campaigns and Elections*** | ***Have read 315-344*** |
| ***12*** | ***7/26*** | ***Ch 11 Voting and Participation*** | ***Have read 349-382******Portrait of Me Papers Due*** |
| ***13*** | ***7/27*** | ***Portrait of Me Papers Due*** |  |
| ***14*** | ***7/28*** | ***Test Ch. 6-11*** |  ***Have Completed Unit II Review*** |
| ***15*** | ***7/31*** | ***Ch 12 Congress*** | ***Have read 387-423*** |
| ***16*** | ***8/1*** | ***Ch 13 The President*** | ***Have read 427-463*** |
| ***17*** | ***8/2*** | ***Ch 14 Federal Bureaucracy*** | ***Have read 467-532*** |
|  |  |  |  |
| ***18*** | ***8/3*** | ***Ch 15 Judiciary*** | ***Have read 499-532*** |
| ***19*** | ***8/4*** | **Ch 16 Policy** | ***Have read 537-558*** |
| ***20*** | ***8/5*** | ***Photo story Presentations/ Review*** |  |
|  | ***8/7-8/9*** | ***Review for*** ***Exam 8/9******11:00 am -12:30 pm*** |  |
|  |
|  |  |  |  |

**Instructional Methods**

*Lectures, simulations, discussions, online discussions, digital presentations etc.*

**Student Assignments**

*Tests - there will be 2 non-cumulative tests and a Final Exam. Each test will weight 20 % of your total grade (60% Total). It is imperative to be in class on the assigned date for each exam. It is advised that you be in attendance on all testing dates.* ***(200 pts)***

*Writing Assignment – The Government department of HCC requires a writing component that must weight 25% of your grade. This semester’s assignment will be a 3-4 page research paper will be due July 26 to turnitin.com by 11:59 PM. (See assignment sheet and instructor to approve topic) (****125 pts)***

*Digital Story Telling – You will have to research a court case. Create a case brief and digital story with words, music and pictures for* ***(75 pts)***

*Final Exam- The final exam will be a comprehensive and given per the Houston Community College exam Schedule on* ***8/9/2017 @ 11 AM.*** (**100 pts**)

**Make-up Policy**

Success in this class is absolutely dependent on regular attendance and active participation. As a standard, there are no make-ups for exams or quizzes. Make-up exams will only be given with proper medical and/or legal documentation. While there is no official penalty for missing class, students will receive a score of “0” for missed quizzes. There will be NO make-up quizzes as only the top 5 count. Late projects or papers will be accepted with a point reduction of 10 points per day. No late projects or papers will be accepted beyond to 2 class meetings late.

Your paper and project must be turned in at the start of class or its assigned deadline on Canvas or their will be a 10 point deduction for each day starting. (Ex. It was due at 11:59 pm 7/4/17, but it is now 7/5/17 12:02 am) No late papers or projects will be accepted beyond 3 calendar days.

Test Make up Policy:

All assignments and test are due on the date assigned.

There will be **no opportunity to make-up tests.** If you miss a test or show up late this will result in a zero possibly hindering your success in this class.

You may be disallowed to take an exam due to late arrival. Please be prompt.

**Grading Scale**

450-500 points = A

400-449 points = B

350-399 points = C

300-349 points = D

less than 300 points = F

**Instructor Grading Criteria**

*Your grade will based, 2 multiple choice exams, 1 writing assignment, Supreme Court Case Project, and a Final Exam*

*The weight for each assignment is as follows:*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Course Requirements** |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Exams(2)** |  | ***200*** |
|  | *Exam One 100 pts*  |  |
|  | *Exam Two 100 pts* |  |
| ***Writing Assignment*** |  | ***125*** |
| ***Quizzes*** | *Supreme Court Case Project* | ***75*** |
| ***Final exam***  |  | ***100*** |
|  |  |  |
| ***Total***  |  | ***500 pts*** |
|  |  |  |

***Extra Credit***

*Due to the brevity of summer the only extra credit will be built into your exams where you will be given expected to master 50 out of 55 question allowing you a curve.*

**Instructional Materials**

*Gateways to Democracy: An Introduction to American Government*,3rd Edition.

 Pen and Pencil, Pocket constitutions and scantrons will be provided by the instructor.

In addition to the text; students will engage in topics of current events and additional articles that will be posted, emailed, or handed out in class.

**Technology**

Technology is both a benefit and a burden. It must only be utilized at appropriate times and not become a distraction to the learning environment. Recognizing that it can often times compliment the learning environment, we must restrict ourselves to only using it for academic purposes as directed by the instructor otherwise all electronics should be stored out of site and on silent.

Laptops maybe used for the purpose of notetaking, but this privilege maybe revoke if the professor deems that the use is being abused or its use becomes a distraction.

Furthermore electronics should be placed with other belongings in the front of the class at the start of class on testing day. Any appearance thereafter will be consider cheating.

**HCC Policies**

HCC Policies ADA Policy: If you have any special needs which affect your ability to learn in this class, please inform me. Appropriate steps will be taken to assist you with your needs. Any student with a documental disability (physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the ADA counselor at the beginning of each semester. There is a Disability Support Services Office at each campus. To find the name of the ADA counselor at your campus, visit www.hccs.edu, then click future students, scroll down the page and click on the words Disability Information. Faculty members are authorized to provide only the accommodations requested by the Disability Support Services Office.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 requires that institutions have policies that protect students’ rights with regard to sex/gender discrimination. Information regarding these rights are in the HCC website under Students-Anti-discrimination. Students who are pregnant and require accommodations should contact any of the ADA Counselors for assistance. Students with disabilities Houston Community College is dedicated to providing an inclusive learning environment by removing barriers and opening access for qualified students with documented disabilities in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Ability Services is the designated office responsible for approving and coordinating reasonable accommodations and services in order to assist students with disabilities in reaching their full academic potential. In order to receive reasonable accommodations or evacuation assistance in an emergency, the student must be registered with Ability Services. If you have a documented disability (e.g. learning, hearing, vision, physical, mental health, or a chronic health condition), that may require accommodations, please contact the appropriate Ability Services Office below. Please note that classroom accommodations cannot be provided prior to your Instructor’s receipt of an accommodation letter and accommodations are not retroactive. Accommodations can be requested at any time during the semester, however if an accommodation letter is provided to the Instructor after the first day of class, sufficient time (1 week) must be allotted for the Instructor to implement the accommodations.

**Ability Service Contact Information:**

 Central College 713.718.6164

Coleman College 713-718-7376

Northeast College 713-718-8322

Northwest College 713-718-5422 713-718-5408

 Southeast College 713-718-7144

Southwest College 713-718-5910

Adaptive Equipment/Assistive Technology 713-718-6629 713-718-5604

Interpreting and CART services 713-718-6333

**Student Rights and Responsibilities:** It is important that every student understands and conforms to respectful behavior while at HCC. Sexual misconduct is not condoned and will be addressed promptly. Know your rights and how to avoid these difficult situations. Log in to www.edurisksolutions.org Sign in using your HCC student e-mail account, then go to the button at the top right that says Login and enter your student number.

**Scholastic Dishonesty:**

HCCS students are responsible for conducting themselves with honor and integrity in fulfilling course requirements. Penalties and/or disciplinary proceedings may be initiated by HCC System officials against a student accused of scholastic dishonesty.

"Scholastic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating on a test includes but is not limited to: Copying from another student's test paper; using unauthorized materials during a test, unauthorized collaboration with another student during a test; knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of a test; and bribing another person to obtain a copy of a test. Plagiarism includes the appropriation of another's work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one's own written work. Collusion includes the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work.

***Attendance****: It is imperative for you to attend class regularly to be successful in this class. Failure to do so may have you dropped from the course or cause you to lose academic points because of missed quizzes. Additionally, failing to attend class may cause you to be dropped from the course. I monitor attendance regularly for this reason and you will be counseled with an academic advisor regarding your attendance and or withdrawn from the course for excessive absences. Students are only allowed to miss 12.5% of instruction. This amounts to 2.5 days.*

***FINAL GRADE OF FX:*** *Students who stop attending class and do not withdraw themselves prior to the withdrawal deadline may either be dropped by their professor for excessive absences or be assigned the final grade of “FX” at the end of the semester. Students who stop attending classes will receive a grade of “FX”, compared to an earned grade of “F” which is due to poor performance.*

*Students who receive financial aid but fail to attend class will be reported to the Department of Education and may have to pay back their aid. A grade of “FX” is treated exactly the same as a grade of “F” in terms of GPA, probation, suspension, and satisfactory academic progress*

**Withdrawals:**

Students who take a course for the third time or more must now pay significant tuition/fee increases at HCC and other Texas public colleges and universities. At HCC, it is an additional $50 per credit hour. If you are considering course withdrawal because you are not earning passing grades, confer with your instructor/ counselor as early as possible about your study habits, reading and writing homework, test-taking skills, attendance, course participation, and opportunities for tutoring or other assistance that might be available. Also, the state of Texas has passed a new law limiting new students (as of Fall 2007) to no more than six withdrawals throughout their academic career in obtaining a baccalaureate degree.

*The drop/withdrawal date this semester is* ***July 31, 2017***

**Repeating Courses:**

As a result of recent Texas legislative changes, please be advised that HCC is charging additional tuition for students who enroll in the same class three or more times at HCC. While it is the hope of HCC that students will be successful in their first attempt at classes, we realize that life demands, academic struggles, and other issues may

result in students needing to take the same class more than once. Speaking with an advisor will help you develop student success skills, improving your overall academic performance. If a student repeats a course in which a grade (A-F) has been received, the highest grade received at HCC is the permanent grade for the course and will be used in computing the GPA. All grades earned in a given course will be reflected on the transcript. Other colleges may compute the GPA differently than HCC.

**HCC Student Handbook:**

Please note that it is each student’s responsibility to read and be familiar with the HCC Student Handbook. Please see:

<http://central.hccs.edu/students/student-handbook/>

**Distance Education**

The Distance Education Student Handbook contains policies and procedures unique to the DE student. Students should have reviewed the handbook as part of the mandatory orientation. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the handbook's contents. The handbook contains valuable information, answers, and resources, such as DE contacts, policies and procedures (how to drop, attendance requirements, etc.), student services (ADA, financial aid, degree planning, etc.), course information, testing procedures, technical support, and academic calendars. Refer to the DE Student Handbook by visiting this link:

<http://de.hccs.edu/media/houston-community-college/distance-education/student-services/pdf/2015-HCC-DE-Student-Handbook-%28Revised-5_28_15%29_will.pdf>