

**Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences**

**Government Department**

http://www.hccs.edu/programs/areas-of-study/social--behavioral-sciences/government/

GOVT 2305: Federal Government CRN # 14798

Fall 2019 | 16 Weeks (8.27.2019-12.15.2019)

In-Person | West Loop Center Rm. 247 | Tu Th 3:30 pm - 4:50pm.

3 Credit Hours | 48 hours per semester

### Instructor Contact Information

Instructor: Eric E. Azubuike, Ph.D. Office Phone:

Office: Varies @ Office Hours: 1:30PM -2:00PM

HCC Email: [eric.azubuike@hccs.edu](mailto:eric.azubuike@hccs.edu) Office Location: Rm 247

Please feel free to contact me concerning any problems that you may be experiencing in this course class lecture. Your performance in my class is very important to me. I am available to hear your concerns as we move forward.

## Instructor’s Preferred Method of Contact

**HCC Email address as listed above is the preferred method of contact**; additional contact information as required by the Division/Department, such as the program’s administrative assistant’s email address and phone number, may be used under extreme circumstances.

*I will respond to emails within 24 -48 hours Monday through Friday as timely as I can; I will reply to weekend messages on week days. However, weekend messages are not encouraged.*

### What’s Exciting About This Course

*Students who finish GOVT 2305 will have completed one of the most important class they will take in their college career. In this class, it will be made clear that government and politics are in everything that we, as citizens, do and interact with, particularly when it comes to ensuring our liberty and our security. These concepts, while equally important, also are in conflict with each other. Laws that promote liberty may compromise security and vice versa. Which state and/or local institutions come up with these practices and enforces them? How do they come up with these practices? What role do we, as Texas residents, play in this balance between liberty and security? This will be a large theme in my course.*

### My Personal Welcome

*On behalf of the Government Department, I welcome you to the study of Federal Government at Houston Community College. While this is a traditional, face-to-face course, there may be need for students to access web resources for relevant information pertinent to course/lecture information. Students will need to be proficient with computers and other necessary electronic devices to access instructional material and course assignments.*

### Prerequisites:

*GOVT 2305 requires college-level reading and writing skills. The minimum requirement for enrollment in GOVT 2305 include concurrent enrollment in or successful completion of ENGL 1301. If you have enrolled in this course having satisfied this prerequisite, you have a higher chance of success than students who have not done so. Please carefully read and consider the repeater policy in the* [*HCCS Student Handbook.*](http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/)

### \*\*\*\*Eagle Online Canvas Learning Management System

*This section of GOVT 2305 is a traditional in-person (face-to-face) class. All class materials and the bulk of instructional material are presented only in the classroom.*

HCCS Open Lab locations may be used to access the Internet and Eagle Online Canvas. It is recommended that you **use** [**FIREFOX**](https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/) **or** [**CHROME**](https://www.google.com/chrome/browser/desktop/index.html) **as your browser**.

## HCC Online Information and Policies

Here is the link to information about HCC Online classes including the required Online Orientation for all fully online classes: <http://www.hccs.edu/online/>

## Scoring Rubrics, Sample Assignments, etc.

Look in Eagle Online Canvas for the scoring rubrics for assignments, samples of class assignments, and other information to assist you in the course. <https://eagleonline.hccs.edu/login/ldap>

# Instructional Materials

### Textbook Information

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Patterson, Tom (2017) *We the People, 13th Edition*. McGraw-Hill ISBN: 9781260210620. T  This ISBN consists of a package that includes the loose-leaf version of the text with the *Connect* access card. The Connect access does contain Smart Book/eBook. Please be sure to purchase the package with *Connect* as it is a required component of your course.  It is included in a package that contains the text as well as an access code and are found at the [HCC Bookstore](https://hccs.bncollege.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/BNCBHomePage?storeId=19561&catalogId=10001&langId=-1). You may either use a hard copy of the book, or rent the e-book from McGraw-Hill. Order your book here: [HCC Bookstore](https://hccs.bncollege.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/BNCBHomePage?storeId=19561&catalogId=10001&langId=-1) |

### Other Instructional 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](http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/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 [http://library.hccs.edu](http://library.hccs.edu/).

## Supplemental 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 <http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/supplemental-instruction/>.

# Course Overview

**Government 2305** is one of two courses designed to introduce students to the study of the 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. The course goals are to develop an understanding of the institutions and political processes of the American political system; encourage critical thinking about political events; and introduce students to the discipline of Political Science and how political scientists study politics scientifically. This course is fully transferable to all Texas State colleges and universities.

### Core Curriculum Objectives (CCOs)

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.

### Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs)

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

### Course Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

* Identify the structure, functions and nature of the institutions of the American national government.
* Understand and describe the development, purpose and attributes of the US Constitution
* Identify the policy making process and comprehend the outcomes of foreign and domestic policy in the United States.
* Understand how political values and ideas are developed and expressed and the means through which one may engage in the political system.
* Comprehend how media, interest groups, parties and the structure of the political system influence political participation.

### Learning Objectives

Learning Objectives for each CSLO can be found at GOVT 2305 can be found [here](http://learning.hccs.edu/programs/government).

# Student Success

Expect to spend at least twice as many hours per week on your own in addition to the time you would normally spend during instruction. 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 your guide.

### 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 make up
* Provide the course outline and class calendar which will include a description of any special projects or assignments
* Arrange to meet with individual students 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](http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/)

# Assignments, Exams, and Activities

### Written Assignment: Exams, Quizzes, Term Paper, Others.

Exams

HCC does not provide students with Scantron forms. They are sold in campus bookstores.

*There will be THREE non-comprehensive exams scheduled this term. Each exam will comprise up to 50 multiple choice questions (one point per question) AND two short essay questions (25 points each) OR 50 multiple choice questions (2 points each). Each exam will cover a combination of material from assigned chapter readings and lecture notes.*

*Additional guidelines pertaining to the exam are as follows:*

1. *Students are expected to arrive on time at the beginning of class on the day of the exam with their own no. 2 pencil and Scantron Form 882.*
2. *Students will have the entire allotted class time to complete each exam. To take full advantage of the time allotted, be sure to arrive about 5 minutes BEFORE the official class time to find a seat and make yourself as comfortable as you can appropriately be in a classroom setting. Students who are late to an exam will have only the remaining time left after arriving.*
3. *Students will NOT be permitted to take any breaks at any point during an exam; make sure that all bodily needs have been met and all life distractions are taken care of PRIOR to taking the exam or can be taken care of AFTER turning in that exam. Any and all “emergencies” a student absolutely has to be addressed during the exam WILL be considered a submission of that exam.*
4. *Students should also power off all mobile devices in their possession and keep them off throughout the duration of the exam. Mobile devices that go off during the exam may also be seen as a submission.*
5. *Important Note: Exams should not be difficult with adequate preparation in advance (i.e. attend every class, take thorough notes, and keep up with the assigned readings, etc.).*

*successfully answer all practice questions by the stated deadline. See calendar for exact due dates*

### Final Exam

Final exam is given in accordance with HCC’s final exam schedule. Final exam is not comprehensive (i.e. questions covered in the final exam are drawn from course materials covered after the second exa and last quiz taken, as the case may be. The Professor may also choose in addition any chapter covered earlier during semester. The students will be notified in advance.

**Make-up Policy**

*No make-up exams will be given except in extreme circumstances involving hospitalization and death of a family member with authentic documented proof. The student requesting a make-up exam/quiz must contact the Professor immediately upon return to class for possible consideration.*

**Grading Scale**

90-100%= A

80-89% = B

70-79% = C

60-69% = D

less than 60% = F

*A total point system will be used that conforms to the HCC grading scale (above)*

**GRADING:Instructor Grading Criteria**

**TESTING in t**his course includes three (3) major examinations, whichcould be composed of essay, objective (multiple choice), and non-comprehensive in nature. There will be no comprehensive final examination for this course. Others are one(1) quiz, and series of activities worth 100pts in total. These will constitute a total of 400 (405) points divide by 4 to produce average percentage of the student's final course grade. A clear student course evaluation scale is shown below:

Exam1& 2 200points

Final Exam (3) 100 points

Quiz # 1 60 points

Presentation 30 points

Homework 10 points

Earned Extra credit 05 points.

**Course Calendar**

***LECTURE TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE FOR ADOPTION***

08/27-29 **Discussion of Syllabus**.

**-Introduction: Concepts**--- Politics, Government, Political Science,

Types of Government: Democracy, Republic, Confederation, States,

Federalism, Monarchy, Totalitarianism, Oligarchy, others ---

**09/02 Labor Day Labor Day (Offices Closed)**

**09/3-5 Chapter 1. Political Thinking and Political Culture**

09/10-12**. Chapter 2 Constitutional Democracy: Promoting Liberty and Self-Government.**

09/17  **Chapter 3. FEDERALISM (The Federal System)** (**Read: chapter 3)**.

09/19 Concluding Federalism & ***\*Exam # 1. Review (Concepts***

***And chapters 1-3)***

09/24 Exam # 1 Covering Concepts and chapters 1- 3

09/26 Chapter 4. Civil Liberties

10/01 Chapter 5 Equal Rights: Struggling Toward Fairness

(Civil Rights). (Group Presentation).

10/01 ***\*\*\*Homework Assignment Submission (Worth 10 Points)***

10/03-8 Chapter- 6 Public Opinion & Political Socialization **(Group Presentation)**

**Shaping the People's Voice**

**10/15 Quiz # 1 (CHAPTERS 4, 5, 6)**

10/17 Chapter 8 **Political Parties, Candidates, Campaigns: Defining The Voter's**

**Choice. (Group Presentation**

1**0/22 Chapter 9 Interest Groups: Organizing For Influence (Group Presentation)**

10/24 Chapter 10 The News Media : Communicating Political Images (Group

Presentation)

10/29- 31 Chapter 11 Congress: Balancing National Goals and Local Interests (Group

Presentation)

11/05 -7 Chapter 12 The Presidency: Leading The Nation (Group Presentation)

11/14 EXAM# 2 (CHAPTERS 8, 9, 10, 11)

11/19-21 Chapter 13 The Federal Bureaucracy: Administering The Government

(Group Presentation)

11/26 Chapter 17 U.S. Foreign and Defense Policy

*11/28 Thanksgiving Holiday Offices Closed*

*12/03- Chapter 17 contd. U.S. Foreign and Domestic Policy:*

*Protecting the American Way*

12/03 -05 In-Class Activity And FINAL EXAM REVIEW (Chapters 11,12, 13, 17).

12/10- 12 FINAL EXAM (# 3) (Chapters11, 12, 13, 17).

NOTE!! The Professor reserves the discretion to alter/modify any part of this

Syllabus and notify the class accord

## HCC Grading Scale can be found on this site under Academic Information:

[**http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/**](http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/)

## Syllabus Modifications

The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus at any time during the semester and will promptly notify students in class typically of any such changes.

*NOTE: Exam 3 (FINAL) is usually scheduled during the last week of this term. STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO MAKE UP THE THIRD EXAM at that time as the focus is on the Semester final exam. Students who miss the third exam (final exam) will have VERY limited, if any opportunities to makeup Exam 3 given the test’s proximity towards the end of the semester.*

## Academic Integrity

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

<http://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-procedures/>

*Houston Community College is committed to a high standard of academic integrity in the academic community. In becoming a part of the academic community, students are responsible for honesty and independent effort. Examples of these violations include, but are not limited to, the following: Plagiarizing written work or projects, cheating on exams or assignments, collusion on an exam or project, and misrepresentation of credentials or prerequisites when registering for a course.*

*Simply put, violations of academic integrity will NOT be tolerated. At a minimum, a grade of “0” will be recorded on the assignment or exam in question. Additional sanctions may include but are not necessarily limited to the following: Being assigned a grade of "F" for the course, being withdrawn from the course, or being expelled from the College.*

## Attendance Procedures

*Students are expected to attend all class meetings, know the rules and expectations of the course, keep up with announcements, and meet assignment deadlines. Your course grade will reflect your level of participation in the course.*

## Student Conduct

*Students will be required to participate in discussion activities and interact with fellow classmates in an online setting. Any and all communication among class participants must remain civil and respectful. Any instances of these disruptions may result in an administrative withdrawal without refund.*

## Instructor’s Course-Specific Information (As Needed)

*I will make an effort to ensure that all grades will be returned to students in a timely manner*

*While I will be happy to discuss any questions and concerns with students especially on graded written, please allow for AT LEAST a 24 hour “cooling” period after receiving your grade. Communication opportunities are often lost without such a period. Patience is virtue.*

# HCC Policies

Here’s the link to the HCC Student Handbook <http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/> In it you will find information about the following:

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

## EGLS3

The EGLS3 ([Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System](http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/egls3-evaluate-your-professors/)) 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. EGLS3 surveys are only available for the Fall and Spring semesters. EGLS3 surveys are not offered during the Summer semester due to logistical constraints.

<http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/egls3-evaluate-your-professors/>

## Campus Carry Link

Here’s the link to the HCC information about Campus Carry: <http://www.hccs.edu/departments/police/campus-carry/>

## 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](http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-e-maileagle-id/) and activate it now. You may also use Canvas Inbox to communicate.

## 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.

# Government Program Information

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

* GOVT Majors – 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 who will connect them to events, news, and opportunities.
* Careers in GOVT – 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.
* GOVT Student Organizations – The HCC Political Science Club holds discussions and sponsors events to connect students to politics in the real world.
* GOVT Scholarships – The Government Department will work with students to locate scholarship support, when possible.

# Office of Institutional Equity

Use the link below to access the HCC Office of Institutional Equity, Inclusion, and Engagement (<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/institutional-equity/>)

## disAbility Services

HCC strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including 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 <http://www.hccs.edu/support-services/disability-services/>

## 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)

<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/institutional-equity/title-ix-know-your-rights/>

# Department Chair Contact Information

Department Chair: Dr. Cammy Shay

Email Address: [cammy.shay@hccs.edu](mailto:cammy.shay@hccs.edu)

Office Number: 713-718-7141

Per the HCC Student Handbook, if you have a problem with your Government course, please contact your instructor before contacting the department chair.