GOVT 2305 -033
American National Government:
Federal Constitution & Topics
CRN# 76809

Instructor’s Contact Information:

Professor: Eric Azubuike, Ph.D.
Campus: Stafford Campus
Room: Learning Hub 321
Phone: 713-718-
Email: eric.azubuike@hccs.edu
Office Hours: 1:30PM- 2:00PM.  Lecture : TR 2:00p- 3:30p ; FALL 2015.

Purpose of the Course:
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.

Required Text:

Recommended:
Study Guides are available on-line to accompany the required texts. Students are also encouraged to follow current political events by reading newspapers and following media news reports.

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.

**Student Notification Statements:**

**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. Logging into a DE course without active participation is seen as non-attending. Please note that HCC will not disperse financial aid funding for students who have never attended class. 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.

**ADA Statement:** Any student with a documented disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the Ability Services Office at the respective college at the beginning of each semester. Faculty is authorized to provide only the accommodations requested by the Ability Services Office. At Southwest College, students should contact Dr. Becky Hauri at 713-718-7909. Students who are requesting special testing accommodations must first contact the appropriate (most convenient) DSS office for assistance:

**Disability Support Services Offices:**
System: 713.718.5165
Central: 713.718.6164 – also for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services and Students Outside of the HCC District service areas.
Northwest: 713.718.5422
Northeast: 713.718.8420
Southeast: 713.718.7218
Southwest: 713.718.7909

**EGLS3:** At Houston Community College, professors believe that thoughtful student feedback is necessary to improve teaching and learning. During a designated time near the end of the term, you will be asked to answer a short online survey of research-based questions related to instruction. The anonymous results of the survey will be made available to your professors and department chairs for continual improvement of instruction. Look for the survey as part of the Houston Community College Student System online near the end of the term.

**HCC Course Withdrawal Policy:** The State of Texas imposes penalties on students who drop courses excessively. Students are limited to no more than SIX total course withdrawals throughout their educational career at a Texas public college or university.

**Student Services:** DISTANCE EDUCATION ADVISING AND COUNSELING SERVICES: Much DE student information can be found on the DE Student Services website: [de.hccs.edu](http://de.hccs.edu).
Advising or counseling can be accomplished through our online request form AskDE Counseli ng. Counselors and Student Services Associates (SSA) can assist students with admissions, registration, entrance testing requirements, degree planning, transfer issues, and career counseling. In-person, confidential sessions, can also be scheduled to provide brief counseling and community referrals to address personal concerns impacting academic success.

**International Students:** International Students are restricted to ONLY ONE online/distance education class per semester. Please contact the International Student Office at 713-718-8520 if you have additional questions about your visa status.

**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.

**Sample Course Grading:**

Your grade will be based on your performance on three multiple choice exams and one research paper. Each of these will be worth 100 points. The resulting grading scheme will be as follows:

- 360 to 400 points……………..A
- 320 to 359 points……………..B
- 280 to 319 points……………..C
- 240 to 279 points……………..D
- <240 points……………..F
GRADING:

TESTING This course includes two (2) major examinations, which could be composed of essay/objective (multiple choice), and non-comprehensive in nature (There will be no comprehensive final examination for this course), Three (3) quizzes, and series of activities worth 100pts. These will constitute a total of 400 points divided by 4 to produce average percentage of the final course grade. A clear student evaluation scale is shown below:

- Exams # 1 & 2 200 points
- Quiz # 1 100 points
- Presentation 30 points
- Homework 30 points
- Class Participation 10 points
- Class Attendance 10 points
- In-class activity 20 Points
- Extra credit 05 points.

Assignments/Activities

(Sample) **Research Paper.**
You must write a 3-5 page research paper (double-spaced, typed, 12 point font.). The paper must contain at least five quality citations. Follow the APA Style Manual. Details for this paper assignment including due date will be emailed to you during the first two weeks of the semester.

(Sample) **Make-up Policy.**
There are no makeups in this course.

**Broad Course Calendar and Assignments**

**Section One: Foundations of Government**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic 1</th>
<th>The Political Landscape and the Constitution</th>
<th>Chapters 1 &amp; 2, Appendix I The Declaration of Independence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Topic 2</td>
<td>Federalism, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties</td>
<td>Chapters 3, 4, 5, Appendix II Federalist Paper #10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Section Two: Institutions of Government**
LECTURE TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE FOR ADOPTION

08/25-27/2015 Discussion of Syllabus.

- Introduction: Concepts--- Politics, Government, Political Science,
  Types of Government: Democracy, Republic, Confederation of States,
  Monarchy, Totalitarianism, Oligarchy, others ---

09/1- 3 Chapter 1. (The More Things Change --- The More They Stay The Same)

09/07 Labor Holiday (Offices Closed).

09/8- 10 2. (The Founding and The Constitution). Read the chapter.

09/15-17 3. FEDERALISM (The Federal System) (Read: chapter 3).

09/22 * QUIZ # 1. (concepts, Chapters 1-3)

09/24 4. Civil Liberties
09/29-10/01  5. Civil Rights

10/06  ***Homework Assignment Submission (Worth 30 Points)***

10/06-8  6. The U.S. Congress  (Group Presentation)
         Read: chapter 6

10/13-15  7. The Presidency  (Group Presentation)
          Read: chapter 7.

10/20  Exam #1 Chapters (4, 5, 6 and 7).

10/22-27  8. The Federal Bureaucracy  (Group Presentation)
          Read: chapter 8

10/29  In-class Activity

11/03-5  10. Public Opinion & The News Media  (Group Presentation)
         Read: chapter 10.

11/10-12  11. Political Parties & Interest Groups.  (Group Presentation)
          Read: chapter 11.

11/17-19  12. Campaigns & Elections.  (Group Presentation)
          Read chapter 12

11/24-12/01  14. U.S. Foreign and Defense Policy
            Read: chapter 14.

11/26-29  Thanksgiving Holidays  (Offices Closed).

12/03  FINAL EXAM REVIEW  (Chapters 8, 10, 11, 12, 14).

12/8-10  FINAL EXAM  (Chapters 8, 10, 11, 12, 14).

NOTE!! The Professor reserves the discretion to alter/modify any part of this
Syllabus and notify the class accordingly.