



**Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Government Department**

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

GOVT 2305: Federal Government | Lecture | #17113

Fall 2020 | 16 Weeks (8.24.2020-12.13.2020)

Online anytime, 3 Credit Hours | 48 hours per semester

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor: Jennifer Danielle Bachan	Office Phone: 713-718-2781
Office: Alief Hayes via the internet	Office Hours: by Appt
HCC Email: jennifer.bachan@hccs.edu	Office Location: 432 - Alief Hayes

Please feel free to contact me concerning any problems that you are experiencing in this course. Your performance in my class is very important to me. I am available to hear your concerns and to discuss course topics.

Instructor's Preferred Method of Contact

You can contact me through either my HCC email (preferred method of contact)
Note that Canvas and emails sent from non-HCC accounts (i.e. gmail, yahoo, etc) will not receive a response.

I will respond to emails within 24 hours Monday through Friday; Expect a reply to emails sent over the weekend by around Monday morning

What's Exciting About This Course

Students who finish GOVT 2305 will have completed one of the most *relevant* classes during their college career. In this class, it will be made clear that government and politics are in everything that we, as citizens interact with each other, with our government leaders, and the policies our government leaders enact. This is especially the case now in Fall 2020 given how so many events either are currently ongoing or will take place this year, ranging from the COVID-19 pandemic, the protests that have stemmed from centuries of systemic racism, and the upcoming US presidential election, among others. In this survey course, we will be scratching the surface on the ins and outs of our federal government. As chaotic as these major events have been and may continue to be, this is the best time to be enrolled in an introductory government class.

My Personal Welcome

On behalf of the Government Department faculty, I welcome you to the study of American Government at Houston Community College. During the Fall 2020 semester, all courses at HCC will be taught in either one of three different instructional modalities: *Online Anytime*, *Online on a Schedule*, and *Flex Campus*. Note that regardless of modality, ALL student coursework is expected to be completed online in Canvas (see blurb about Canvas on the next page).

Online Anytime classes are traditional online classes where there are no meetings at specific times. *Online on a Schedule* classes are online courses with scheduled meeting times. Students are expected to log on for scheduled class meetings held each week. *Flex Campus* courses are classes scheduled in traditional classrooms in accordance with COVID-19 safety measures. Students have the option to be either in physical attendance during class or attend classes as scheduled online. Understand that until at least October 5, 2020, classes designated as *Flex campus* will be taught using the *Online on a Schedule* modality due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Regardless of the course' designated modality, ALL coursework is required to be completed online in Canvas. Additionally, expect the amount of material covered to not be significantly different (or more difficult) than material covered in any other instructional modality.

This particular section of GOVT 2305 is taught using the *Online anytime* modality.

Prerequisites and/or Co-Requisites

GOVT 2305 requires college-level reading and writing skills. The minimum requirements 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](#).

Eagle Online Canvas Learning Management System

This section of GOVT 2305 will use [Eagle Online Canvas \(https://eagleonline.hccs.edu\)](https://eagleonline.hccs.edu). All students ARE able to access their class in canvas using their HCC login credentials (i.e. HCC email and Password)

HCCS Open Lab locations may be used to access the Internet and Eagle Online Canvas. It is recommended that you **use [FIREFOX](#) or [CHROME](#) 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/>

Textbook



The textbook for this course is found at <https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-2e>. It is online and FREE. Click on the website and scroll down a bit. You will find a table of contents, a PDF version, and a link to view the text online. Click on that link and you will be able to navigate through the text chapter by chapter and section by section.

There is no required textbook for this course --- This course does not require a textbook. If you have bought one please return it to the bookstore, we will not be using it. Instead we will be using OER (open educational resources) and materials provided by the instructor.

Additional supplemental content and reading materials will be provided by the instructor through Eagle Online.

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](#) 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>.

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:

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.

Learning Objectives

Learning Objectives for each CSLO can be found at GOVT 2305 can be found [here](#).

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

Course Calendar

All assignments subject to change – see canvas for most up to date due dates

Assignment	Due Date-
Current Event 1	9/20
Current Event 2	10/4
Current Event 3	10/18
Current Event 4	11/8
Current Event 5	11/22
Quizzes- ALL	12/8
Exam 1	12/8
Exam 2	12/8
Exam 3 (final-comprehensive)	12/8
Reflective Writing 1	9/27
Reflective Writing 2	10/25
Reflective Writing 3	11/15

Assignments, Exams, and Activities

Written Assignment

Writing Assignments Students will complete 3 reflective writings, in this course. Completion instructions for each, are detailed, with step by step, directions, in Canvas.

Formatting, Reflective writings are to be written in essay format, double spaced, with paragraphs, using complete sentences, proper grammar, 12 point font in Times New Roman. The minimum page length requirement is 2 pages.

Submission Directions Reflective Writings will be uploaded, as only either a .pdf, .doc., or .docx file. Upload reflective writing responses, along with bibliography, as a single file, to the designated submission link, in Eagle Online (canvas). Bibliography, In-text(parenthetical) Citations, and Research Expectations A bibliography must be accompanied, along with the student's minimum length, 2 page reflective writing. The bibliography does not count towards the minimum page length requirements.

Students will submit their 2 page reflection, along with bibliography, to the designated link, in Eagle Online (canvas). Bibliographies may be formatted using either MLA, APA, or Chicago style, depending on the student's preference.

Students are encouraged to find scholarly resources, and incorporate evidence, from these, to support their critical responses, to each of the reflective writing prompts. Wikipedia is not considered a scholarly source, although it can be a good place to help you start conducting independent research. If you begin with Wikipedia, scroll down to the bottom of the page, and view the works cited sources. From here, utilize these sources to begin researching the topic. These will likely lead to more scholarly and academic resources that you can incorporate, as evidence, to support your discussion and perspective. ANY AND ALL directly quoted and/or paraphrased information, ideas or thoughts, which are incorporated into your essay must be cited, using an in-text (parenthetical) citation. Failure to include an in-text (parenthetical) citation will result in an automatic goose-egg (that means z-e-r-o), without further consideration. To paraphrase or directly quote information, ideas or published work, from another source, without providing a proper in-text (parenthetical) citation, is considered plagiarism, and will be dealt with according to the HCC system policy.

Current Event Article Discussions (10% each) Students will participate in a 2 part online discussion, for each of the 3 separate current event class discussions, required by this course. Current events must be pertinent to one of the 12 American Government Topics assigned in this course. To be current, articles must be retrieved within the last 3 months. Finding a Current Event Article Students will find a current news article (online or in print) about a current political event, issue, election, debate (etc.) that has taken place within the federal level of American governments or politics, in the last 3 months. They can be related to any of the topics, covered in the book chapters or module contents, for this course.

Summary Analysis/ Critical Response Instructions Whats a summary analysis? Harold Lasswell, is known for defining Politics. , Ideological values, beliefs, and opinions, aside, when it comes to government and politics, his definition of the word (ironically) is probably the only thing that all mankind can agree on. Lasswell, defines politics, as "who, gets what, where, when, and how". Apply that definition to the article's information, or the article's information to that definition, and write a .5- 1 page minimum summary that focuses on critically evaluating what is going on, from your personal perspective. Interject your opinion. You should be making a statement, argument, and your opinion about the subject matter, should be known. However, this needs to be done in a scholarly and academic manner. Focus on explanation, reason and rationalization, to provide a clear opinion statement and discussion of their personal perspective and political position towards the event or issue in their article. Formatting Summary Analysis/ Critical Response write-ups to the current event article you have found must be formatted, as follows - minimum 1/2-1 page in length - 12 point font - double spaced -Times New Roman -Typed

While you should have ample time to complete all discussion activities, I do caution against waiting until near the deadline to make your primary post as the intent of these discussions is to hold a dialogue. Such delay does not allow your classmates time to interact with you and defeats the purpose of the assignment; your grade may also reflect this aspect of your participation

Exams

Exam 1 & 2 are not comprehensive. The final, and 3rd exam, will be comprehensive. Students will have 1 attempt at each exam. Exams must be completed and submitted within a 2 hour time limit. Exams will be comprised of multiple choice and true false questions, based on the information from the module content materials and book chapters that they are assigned. Online Module Activities Quizzes will cover a narrow scope of information, from book chapters and module contents. See each individual quiz, for specific details, about what book chapters and modules will be covered. Students have 3 attempts at each quiz. Each attempt has a time limit of 45 minutes. No late or makeup, or extensions.

SYLLABUS QUIZ

In addition to exams and module assignments, there will also be a required syllabus quiz open during the first week of the semester. Students will have unlimited opportunities to take and retake the quiz until the maximum number of points (TEN) can be earned. While the syllabus quiz will not be an official grade that students can earn, any student who fails to earn the maximum number of points on the syllabus quiz will not gain full access to the course AND will be at risk of being withdrawn from the course. The purpose of the syllabus quiz is to insure that all enrolled students become familiar with my course expectations and requirements. Lastly, the format of the syllabus quiz is multiple choice.

Important Dates

- The course begins on **August 24, 2020**
- The official day of record is **September 8, 2020**
- The last day to withdraw is **October 30, 2020**
- The last day to take Test 1 is **Dec 8, 2020**
- The last day to take Test 2 is **Dec 8, 2020**
- The last day to take Test 3 is **Dec 8, 2020**
- The last day to take Test 4 is **Dec 8, 2020**
- Make-up exams are **Never 2020**
- The course ends on **Dec 13, 2020**

Make-up Exams

I do not offer make up exams – please plan accordingly and follow all due dates.

Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited by college policy and the rules of this class. Plagiarism involves using the ideas or words of another person (either in whole or in part) without crediting the source. It is inappropriate to look up answers to research project questions online and then paste them into your research project or the discussion board. Cheating involves fraud and deception for the purpose of violating exam rules. Students who improperly assist other students are just as guilty as students who receive the assistance. If two or more students submit work that is identical or nearly identical, in whole or in part, they are equally guilty of violating the academic dishonesty policy. A student guilty of a first offense will receive a grade of F on the assignment involved. For a second offense, the student will receive a grade of F for the course.

What does this mean?

- It's OK to study together, but it is not OK to take an exam together.
- Don't take an exam for another student or allow someone else to take an exam for you.
- Don't complete your discussion post or your research project by copying and pasting text from an online site.

All faculty at HCC are required to document these violations in Maxient, a system used to report any student behavior that constitutes a violation of academic integrity, triggering involvement from other appropriate departments.

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/>

Time Commitment

Online classes are more convenient than traditional classes, but they are not less work. You should expect to spend more time on this class than you would spend on a comparable on-campus class. Students who have been successful in my online course tell me that they devote around 10 hours a week on the class. If you do not have sufficient time to spend on the course, you will not be successful.

You should plan to work regularly on the course. This is not a self-paced class. You cannot succeed in this class by working very hard for a few days and doing little or nothing for the rest of the term. The most successful students are those who sign into the website almost every day and complete their coursework on a regular basis. It is very important that you do not fall behind.

Grading

HCC Grading Scale can be found on this site under Academic Information:
<http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/>

Grade of FX Policy:

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 an online course without active participation is regarded 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.

Incomplete Policy:

It is safe to assume that incomplete ("I") grades will not be granted to students. Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis should the student provide a legitimate non-academic reason backed with appropriate documentation. Further, at least 85% of the required work in the course should have already been completed.

Students granted an "I" will have until the end of the next long semester to finish the course. All "I's" will convert to "F's" unless the student successfully complete all remaining work as determined by the instructor.

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) 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](#) 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

<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

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.