**GOVERNMENT 2305**

**HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**Southwest College** **Summer II 2016**

**Course**: ***Federal Government*** *Section:* ***CRN 15211***

**Professor**: Kwame Acheampong Room: 315 Learning Hub, Stafford Campus

**Time**: M-F 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

**E-mail**: kwame.acheampong@hccs.edu

**Office Hours:** Before and after class or by appointment

**Purpose of the Course:**

Government 2305 is one of two courses designed to introduce students to the study and development of the U.S. Constitution, structure and powers of the national government including the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, federalism, political parties, national election process, public policy, civil liberties and civil rights. The course is designed to develop an understanding of the institutions, and political processes of the American system; encourage critical thinking about political events; and introduce students to the study of Political Science and how political scientists study politics scientifically. It is important to note that this course is fully transferable to all Texas State colleges and universities.

**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 Pre-requisite: ENGL 1301**

**The Government Department of Houston Community College requires one textbook for Government 2305**

 Dautrich, Kenneth,Yalof, David**:** *The Enduring Democracy, 4th Edition (*ISBN: 978-1-285-85304-8)

with Mindtap Access Code that comes with the textbook or bought online. To register for this course use **MTPN-Z2ZP-X3MB**

An e-book version of the textbook can be purchased online for significantly less than the bookstore price. Visit http//www.cengagebrain.com

Students are encouraged to read daily newspapers, notable periodicals/magazines and major TV Network news for information and current events for enrichment and understanding of government and politics.

**GRADE COMPUTATION:**

**(700 points – 100%)**

**Reading assignments & Text Summary Presentation:** 20% of Final Grade, equivalent of 100 points. See below:

Assigned chapter presentation - 100 points 15% of course grade

Four quizzes – (25 questions) 100 points 10% of course grade

One essay (in class/take home) – 100 points 15% of course grade

And other group exercises, video presentations, and other techniques to assist the student to monitor their learning and success in meeting the course objectives.

**FOUR EXAMS**: 60% of Final Grade equivalent of 400 points, 100 points each

First Examination 15% of the course grade

Second First Examination 15% of the course grade

Third First Examination 15% of the course grade

Final Examination 15% of the course grade

Final exams will be comprehensive but the detail of the exam will be discussed in class.

This course includes three (3) major examinations, which are non-comprehensive in nature. The three exams consist of fifty (50) objective (multiple choice) components, or questions. The final examination may be comprehensive but the detail of the exams would be discussed in class.

**Make-up Policy**

The general make-up for work missed is the following:

**Exams**: Make-up is possible only with written legitimate excuse. The written excuse, with appropriate document, must be submitted within one week of the missed exam day. Failure to do so mean you have forfeited your opportunity to take the make-up exam.

**Quizzes & assigned Chapter presentation: No make-up is possible. Students are encouraged to attend class to participate.**

All grades will be scored 0 - 100. The final percentage value resulting from the sum of the above components will be converted into letter grades according to the following scale:

A = 90 - 100% B = 80 - 89% C = 70 - 79% D = 60 - 69% F = Below 59%; FX = a failing grade with less than 70% of the work submitted.

**Electronic Devices in the Classroom.** Please note that the use of cell phones and other electronic communication devices are not permitted. The use of computers (laptops, tablets, etc) is allowed only for the purpose of expediting your taking of notes during the class.

**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.

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.edurisksoluations.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 Policy**: You should attend class regularly. It is my experience that students with good attendance records usually do well in the course. The college provides that students MAY be dropped after missing more than six hours of class time. I do not wish to drop anyone who is making a good faith effort to succeed in the course. If it appears to me, however, that you have stopped attending, I will drop you because the alternative is to give you an F. Please keep me informed if you are having problems that are affecting your attendance and I will do my best to work with you. If you decide you must drop the course, please fill out the appropriate form in the college office on campus. Instructors are not allowed to withdraw students with a grade of “W” on the final grade sheet. You must also drop the course by the specified withdrawal deadline.

**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.

**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/

**Class Schedule**

***Foundation of American Politics***

**July 11-12** The Founding and the Constitution

Read: Chapter 2

**July 13** Federalism (in the context of other forms of government)

Read: Chapter 3

**July 14-15** Civil Liberties

Read: Chapter 4

**July 18-19** Civil Rights, Equality and Social Movements

Read: Chapter 5

**First Exam – July 20, 2016**

***Political Institutions***

**July 21** CONGRESS

Read Chapter 6

**July 22** The PRESIDENCY

Read Chapter 7

**July 25** THE FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY

Read Chapter 8

**July 26** THE JUDICIARY

Read Chapter 9

**Second Exam – July 27, 2016**

***Political Behavior***

**July 28** INTEREST GROUPS

Read: Chapter 11

**July 29** POLITICAL PARTIES AND VOTING

Read: Chapter 13

**August 1-2** CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTIONS

Read Chapter 14

***Policy Analysis in U.S. Politics***

**August 3** AMERICAN DOMESTIC POLICY

Read Chapter 15

**August 4-5** AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY

**Read Chapter 16**

**Third Exams - August 8**

**Fourth Exams (Final) – August 10, 2016**