



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

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

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**GOVT 2305: Federal Government | Lecture | #17105**

Fall 2020 | F8B - 8 Weeks (10.19.2020 - 12.13.2020)  
Online Anytime | 3 Credit Hours | 48 hours per semester

**Instructor Contact Information**

Instructor: Ne'Cauje Turner, MPA

HCC Email: [necauje.turner@hccs.edu](mailto:necauje.turner@hccs.edu)

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.

**Instructor's Preferred Method of Contact**

You may contact me through Eagle Online (Canvas) email (preferred method of contact) while the course is open. You can contact me through HCC email before and after the course has ended. 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 Thursday and emails sent over the weekend on Monday. Be sure to visit Eagle Online (Canvas) virtual office hours for assistance while the course is open.

**What's Exciting About This Course**

In addition to learning the core course content, we will analyze the lasting social, political, and economic impacts of public policy. We will examine how various social movements have shaped our political landscape and how our government balances equity and liberty. We will explore how social identities (e.g., race, ethnicity, gender, and socioeconomic status) impact political institutions and non-governmental entities. Ultimately, the goal of this course is for each student to have a more comprehensive understanding of how governmental actions influence our daily lives and what role we must play to ensure that we have an active voice.

**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.**

As an instructor, my goal is for students to successfully complete the course, retain, and utilize the information taught. While it is my responsibility to provide you with the information in a manner that engages the student in an active learning environment, it is your responsibility to complete the required assignments, assessments, and discussions in a quality manner. It is your responsibility to log in regularly, participate in discussions, complete assignments before deadlines, and utilize the different teaching methods used in this course to improve your ability to complete exams with a high degree of success.

### 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



Krutz, Glen. (2019). *American Government* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Houston, TX: Rice University OpenStax. (Print: ISBN-10: 1-947172-65-4, ISBN-13: 978-1-947172-65-4, Digital: ISBN-10: 1-947172-66-2, ISBN-13: 978-1-947172-66-1.)

**This textbook is available for free download here:**

<https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-2e> The textbook is also accessible through the free OpenStax app. If you prefer, you may purchase a hard copy of the book.

This is not a Connect enabled course and you will not need a special code to access the book.

## 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](#)

## Assignments, Exams, and Activities

Assignments have been developed to enhance your learning. To better understand a topic, you will be given assignments on key information that you will need to become successful in this course. Students will be required to successfully complete the following:

### Discussions

Each discussion grade will depend on the quality of thought that goes into each response. Students are expected to provide college-level responses and at least a paragraph in essay format that explains their position on the discussion topic. Discussions are designed to allow students to demonstrate their understanding of course material in written form. All discussions must be posted to the corresponding module and discussion thread in Eagle Online (Canvas) in order to receive a grade. Students may use a separate document to organize their thoughts and to check grammar, however all discussion posts must be copied and pasted into the actual discussion thread. Students who only upload a document will not receive a grade. All work must be cited using MLA or APA format.

### Discussion Grading Rubric

15 Points: Student responded to the discussion prompt in 6-8 complete sentences and articulated a clear viewpoint on the topic. Student incorporated relevant research, correctly cited at least 2 sources in MLA or APA format, and used proper grammar.

10 Points: Student responded to the discussion prompt in 6-8 complete sentences and answered the prompt in a thoughtful manner. Student correctly cited work in MLA or APA format and used proper grammar.

7 Points: Student responded to the discussion prompt in 6-8 complete sentences and articulated a clear viewpoint on the topic. Student used proper grammar.

3 Points: Student responded to the discussion prompt in 4-5 sentences and answered the prompt in a generic manner. Student used proper grammar.

0 Points: Student did not submit a discussion post. Student plagiarized portions of the submission. Student did not cite work and/or use proper grammar.

### Exams

All exams will be taken online on specific dates according to the course calendar. Each exam will have 40 multiple-choice questions and students will have 60 minutes for each exam.

**Students are encouraged to use a secure internet connection when completing all online assignments. If you accidentally open the exam, you should stop taking the exam immediately and contact your professor. Canvas tracks when a student accesses a particular assignment and for how long. Failure to do so may result in a student receiving essay questions in lieu of a multiple choice exam.**

### Quizzes

It is up to the discretion of the instructor to assign quizzes if class participation is lacking or if it is apparent that reading assignments are not being completed. Quizzes could be announced or unannounced and consist of short answer questions regarding the reading assignments.

## Lectures

Lectures are available in Eagle Online (Canvas). The materials in the lectures maybe covered on your exams.

## Extra Credit

Participating in thoughtful exchanges with classmates about discussion topics is an informative and valuable way to learn more about your fellow classmates. If you make a valuable comment on another students post or ask a classmate a question to follow-up on the post, you can earn one bonus point per discussion. You are encouraged to carry the conversation on beyond the bonus point opportunity to take advantage of the exchange of information with your classmates.

## Syllabus Quiz

There will be an optional syllabus quiz scheduled during the beginning of the semester. The purpose of the syllabus quiz is to encourage students to become familiar with course expectations and requirements.

## Grading Formula

Quizzes, exams, and assessments will be assigned to assist you in determining how successful you are at mastering the course learning outcomes outlined in the syllabus. All grades will be posted on Eagle Online (Canvas) within 1 week of the exam closing.

To calculate your grade, add up your exam scores, discussion grades, and extra credit points.

Exam 1	40 Points
Exam 2	40 Points
Exam 3	40 Points
9 Discussions	135 Points
Total	255 points

After adding up all the necessary grades, match your total points with the appropriate letter grade as follows below.

Total Points	Letter Grade
229-255	A
203-228	B
177-202	C
151-176	D
0-150	F

## Incomplete Policy

You will receive an "I" (incomplete) only in the event of a documented emergency that prevents you from completing the final exam. You must speak with your instructor as soon as possible in the event of such an emergency to arrange for a course completion schedule. If you receive an "I", all course work must be completed before the end of the next long semester. All "I" designations must be changed prior to graduation.

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

### How to Navigate Canvas

The course will be navigated via modules. Students will need to begin the course by opening the module titled "Start Here" and review each tab to learn more about expectations for the course. After that, each module will consist of chapter readings and activities. Students will not be able to access future modules until the previous exam closes. Please review the calendar for due dates on assignments and exams.

### Course Calendar

<b>DUE DATE</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENT</b>	<b>Reference Chapter</b>
	<b>Start Here</b>	
	Syllabus Review Helpful Information Virtual Office Hours	
	<b>Module 1</b>	
11/8/20	Syllabus Quiz Discussion 1	
	<b>Module 2</b>	
11/8/20	American Government and Civic Engagement	1
	The Constitution and Its Origins Discussion 2	2
	<b>Module 3</b>	
11/8/20	American Federalism State and Local Government Discussion 3	3 14
	<b>Module 4</b>	
11/8/20	<b>Exam 1</b>	
	<b>Module 5</b>	
11/22/20	Political Parties Congress Discussion 4	9 11
	<b>Module 6</b>	
11/22/20	The Presidency The Bureaucracy Discussion 5	12 15
	<b>Module 7</b>	
11/22/20	The Courts Discussion 6	13
	<b>Module 8</b>	
11/22/20	<b>Exam 2</b>	
	<b>Module 9</b>	
12/6/20	Civil Liberties Civil Rights	4 5



	Discussion 7	
	<b>Module 10</b>	
12/6/20	Domestic Policy Discussion 8	16
	<b>Module 11</b>	
12/6/20	Foreign Policy Discussion 9	17
	<b>Module 12</b>	
12/7-9/20	<b>Exam 3</b>	

**Other important dates:**

Official Day of Record: 10/26/2020

Last day to withdraw with a "W": 11/20/2020

Thanksgiving Break: 11/26-29/2020

**Syllabus Modifications**

The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus at any time during the semester and will promptly notify students in writing, typically by e-mail, of any such changes.

**Instructor's Practices and Procedures****Missed Assignments**

Students may be allowed to makeup missed assignments if they experience an emergency that prevents them from submitting an assignment by the due date and can provide a documented excuse. Acceptable documented excuses include: medical emergencies, the death of an immediate family member, military deployment or service, family emergencies, and legal situations on a case by case basis. If you or an immediate family member encounters any of the aforementioned situations, please contact your professor immediately to determine if your documentation is in line with the makeup policy. All documentation submitted must include dates, the name(s) of the individuals involved and demonstrate that the student was unable to complete the assignment based on the time frame of the event. Feel free to contact your professor with any questions.

**Academic Integrity**

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, and collusion on an exam or project.

Violations of academic integrity will not be tolerated. At a minimum, a grade of "0" will be recorded for the assignment or exam. 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.

Here is the link to HCC information regarding 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/>

## Attendance Procedures

As stated in the HCC Student Handbook, all students are expected to attend classes regularly. Students are also responsible for materials covered during their absences. It is the student's responsibility to consult with their instructor for make-up assignments. Class attendance is monitored daily. It is the students' responsibility to drop a course for non-attendance.

Students in HCC Online courses must log into their Eagle Online (Canvas) class or they will be counted as absent. The Official Day of Record for this course is **Monday, October 26, 2020**. You will need to "actively participate" by **5 p.m.** on Monday, October 26, 2020 to prevent from being dropped for non-attendance. "Active participation" can be accomplished by: completing the syllabus quiz, responding to a discussion prompt, or email communication with your instructor (i.e. student notifies the instructor regarding technical difficulties or other extenuating circumstances and explains how/when these problems will be resolved.)

If you encounter technical difficulties and cannot login, you must immediately contact your instructor and the Eagle Online (Canvas) Help Desk or you will be counted as absent.

## Withdrawals

Failure to officially withdraw from a course can result in a grade of an "F". If you are considering a course withdrawal because you are not earning passing grades, confer with your instructor as early as possible to discuss your study habits, test-taking skills, attendance, course participation, and opportunities for tutoring or other assistance that might be available. **The drop/withdrawal date for this course is Friday, November 20, 2020.**

## Student Conduct

It is important for students to be respectful of the opinions of others. Students will receive a variety of reading material from a diverse audience. The material may come from historically sound reporters or opinionated commentators. Each article should be critiqued regardless of the source or news outlet. The material maybe provocative in nature to generate a healthy debate. I encourage students to share diverging opinions on the material presented. Before responding to a discussion prompt or article, be sure to keep an open mind and try to relate to the issue from alternative perspectives. Clarify if your argument is based on your opinion or researched facts.

Disruptive behavior or activities that interfere with teaching and learning will not be tolerated and may result in an administrative withdrawal without refund. At a minimum, such disruption may result in a student being asked to issue a public apology.

### **Instructor's Course-Specific Information**

All grades will be posted within 1 week of the exam closing. I am happy to discuss any questions and/or concerns regarding a specific grade.

### 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

### EGLS<sup>3</sup>

The EGLS<sup>3</sup> (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. EGLS<sup>3</sup> 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](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.