



GOVT 2305
CRN 13968
Fall 16-week - 08/27/18 - 12/13/18
MW
930-11a
WHI 203

3 Semester Credit Hours
48 Contact Hours
16 weeks
Face to Face

Instructor Name

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Division Chair Government

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Note: *If you have a problem with your Government course, please contact your instructor before contacting me.*

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1230-130 or by appointment; Office location TBD

Course Description

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.

Prerequisite, Co-requisite: Must have passed or co-enrolled in English 1301 (Composition I) as a co-requisite.

Academic Program Learning Outcomes: 2017-2020 HCC Government Program Student Learning Outcomes

- 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.

Course Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)

1. Identify and describe the institutions of American national government.
2. Identify and evaluate information sources for political news, data, and opinion
3. Analyze the effects of the historical, social, political, economic, and cultural forces on politics and government.
4. 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

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.

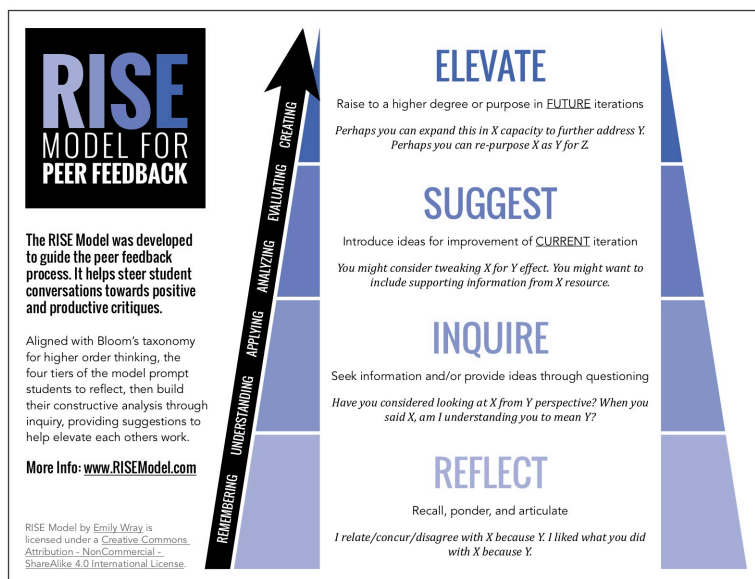
Instructional Methods

Introduction of topic, discussion, active learning, feedback (see RISE model at right)

Student Assignments

This class will use the RISE method (risemodel.com) for evaluating all student work. This method measures the level of student thinking and ability to process information. Points will be assigned based on the difficulty of the assignment on the RISE scale as follows:

- 1) *Reflect – Students will be asked to respond to different areas of the class through direct comment (usually short). Four Reflection Posts will be counted every section for a total of 20 points (5 points each)*
- 2) *Inquire – Students will be asked to provide additional information through research and further reading. Two Inquiry Posts will be counted for every section for a total of 20 points (10 points each)*
- 3) *Suggest – Students will be evaluating other students' work. One Suggestion Post will be counted for every section for a total of 20 points (20 points each)*
- 4) *Elevate – Students will be asked to synthesize and contribute original thought to their areas of interest. Weekly ELEVATE Assignments will take the form of an only newspaper-style blog entry relating the student interest topic to the work of the week – ELEVATE blogs will be worth up to 50 points each and the final portfolio will be worth 100 points*



Course Calendar

- Why take this class? Reflect/Inquiry **Due – 9/5**
- The structure, functions and nature of the institutions of the US government. ELEVATE BLOG #1 **DUE 9/19**
- How the implementation of the US Constitution has evolved through practice and legal methods. ELEVATE BLOG #2 **DUE 10/15**
- Media, interest groups, parties and the structure of the political system influence political participation. ELEVATE BLOG #3 **DUE 11/7**
- Identify the policy making process and comprehend the outcomes of foreign and domestic policy in the US.
- Why take this class? ELEVATE ASSIGNMENT **DUE 12/3**
- FINAL PORTFOLIO **DUE 12/11 at 9 am**

Assignment	Reflect	Inquire	Suggest	Elevate	Total Possible	Grading Scale
Why Take This Class?	15	30			30	450+ = A 400-449 = B 350-399 = C 300-349 = D 0-299 = F
Comments	20	20	20		60	
Blog #1				50	50	
Comments on Blog #1	20	20	20		60	
Blog #2				50	50	
Comments on Blog #2	20	20	20		60	
Blog #3				50	50	
Comments on Blog #3	20	20	20		60	
Why Take This Class Redux				<u>50*</u>	50	
Final Portfolio				100	100	
<i>*20 Points from TH; 30 Points from Peers</i>			Class Total → →		570	

Instructor Grading Criteria

Students will be given points based on the quality of effort and the kind of assignment the student is being asked to undertake. Reflection assignments are worth 5 points each, Inquiry, 10 points, Suggestion, 20 points, Elevate up to 50/100 points. Additional reflection, inquiry, and suggestion points may be earned during in-class assignments. Elevate points are only available up until the time the assignment is due (at class start time on the due date). Reflection, inquiry, and suggestion points from comments are available for one week after Blog/Reflection exercises are due. There are no late assignments allowed in this class. Instead, I have included 70 extra points in the grading rubric to allow for some missed assignments. Furthermore, all assignments are submitted online so even if you cannot make it to class for some reason there is nothing to stop you from submitting assignments. **You MUST complete the Final Portfolio to Pass this Class. All students failing to submit a Final Portfolio will receive an “F” for the class unless previously withdrawn.**

Instructional Materials

There will be a class blog for prompts and Elevate assignments. You will receive instructions the first week of class on how to access it. It is where most of the class work will be done. Learning Web for additional prompts as necessary. Textbook Paterson, *We the People (in bookstore in main Alief Building)*

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.edurisksolutions.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. *Any violation of scholastic dishonesty policy will result in zero points for that assignment. More than one violation will result in a "O" for the course.*

Attendance: Students missing more than three days before June 25 may be dropped by the instructor at his discretion. Students missing the last week of class (July 2-3) and not submitting a final portfolio will be graded on all assignments submitted and given the appropriate letter grade. Students must contact the instructor no later than July 3rd to avoid this consequence.

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. *The drop/withdrawal date this semester is November 2nd.*

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/>