

HCC Government 2305 DE (CRN# 66607 & 66608)

Intro. to American Government

Fall 2013

Professor: Dr. Verónica Reyna

713-718-5215

Email: veronica.reynal@hccs.edu

Note: that is the number one after my name, *not* the letter “L.”)

Website: <http://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/veronica.reynal>

Office & Office Hours: Spring Branch Campus #AD2

I’m available online through Eagle Online email or by appointment only for on-campus meetings.

Your performance in my class is very important to me. I am available to meet and discuss not only your academic concerns, but also any relevant ideas or course topics that may be important to you. Feel free to schedule an appointment to meet with me and please let me know if you need to cancel as soon as you can. We can make an appointment to talk on the phone, too, during these times if you cannot make it to campus. You can also post questions under the Discussion section on Eagle Online; other students might have the same question!

Instructional Materials: Bianco, William T. and David T. Canon. 2013. *American Politics Today*. Third Essentials Edition.

Eagle Online: <https://hccs1.mrooms3.net/login/index.php>

Course Description

Government 2305 is designed to introduce students to the politics of government in the United States at the national level. This course is fully transferable to other colleges and universities with a “C” course grade. Government 2305 is a study of the theories of American democracy and other ideologies, United States and Texas constitutions, federalism, Congress, the presidency, the courts, the federal bureaucracy, public policy, political economy, political socialization and public opinion, the media, interest groups, political parties, and elections.

Course Pre- and co-requisites: Must be placed into college level reading and college-level writing.

Grades/Assignments:

	Chapter Exams 50%	A= 90+
	B= 89-80	
Discussion 30%	C=79-70	
Final Exam 20%	D=69-60	
	F= 59 and below	

Usually, Chapter Exams are due by 11:30pm on Saturdays every few weeks (always follow the syllabus dates) and will be completed in Eagle Online. There are three chapter exams. The purpose of these exams is to assess mastery of the material with various kinds of multiple choice questions. You will have 1.5 hours to complete each exam (plenty of time!), but **make sure to complete the exam once you've opened it** in Eagle Online.

For most chapters, you will submit a discussion post online to which everyone responds. I'll provide instructions the first week of class. Note that due dates for discussion posts vary, so pay attention to announcements and the due dates listed in the discussion instructions. These due dates do not appear in the syllabus. Write your discussion posts in a formal manner, proof read, and edit. ***DO NOT use texting language or write them like an informal email!*** More information will be in Eagle Online. This is a wonderful opportunity to chat with peers and myself about chapter information or continue online discussion ideas.

The Final Exam is not accumulative and is just like a normal chapter exam. It is over the last few chapters.

I do not grade on a curve and the lowest exam/assignment grade is *not* dropped. The grade earned is the grade earned; if you have an 88, I will not simply give two points for an 'A!'

Late Work/Make-up Exam Policy:

I do not accept late work. There are no make-up exams. My recommendation: Stay a day or two ahead of the deadlines in case something goes wrong. ***I do not accept excuses about technology problems, lack of preparedness, or forgetfulness.*** If there is ANY situation that will prevent you from submitting your work in on time, do not hesitate to contact me ASAP. **Any late work is a zero.** If you have any religious holidays that correspond with material due dates, please work ahead and plan accordingly. The due dates listed are final due dates, so work can always be turned in earlier.

Attendance:

While attendance is not part of your grade, it has been my experience that students who do not participate in the class on a regular basis tend to earn lower grades. All students are expected to attend classes regularly, thus DE students must login to their course(s) on a regular basis. DE students who do not login and actively participate before the Official Day of Record will be AUTOMATICALLY dropped for non-attendance (when the roster is marked accordingly by your professor). **Completing the DE online orientation does not**

count towards attendance.

Official Day of Record – The day of record is different for each term. This semester it is Monday, September 9th. The Day of Record is also posted on the official HCC Calendar<<http://www.hccs.edu/hccs/current-students/academic>> (select the appropriate term).

Description of “active participation”: completing the first discussion post assignment by its due date.

If you are having technical difficulties and cannot login, you must immediately contact me and the Eagle Online Help desk or you will be counted as absent.

HCC/DE Policies

The Distance Education Student Handbook contains policies and procedures unique to the DE student. Students should have reviewed the handbook as part of the mandatory orientation. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the handbook's contents. The handbook contains valuable information, answers, and resources, such as DE contacts, policies and procedures (how to drop, attendance requirements, etc.), student services (ADA, financial aid, degree planning, etc.), course information, testing procedures, technical support, and academic calendars.

Refer to the DE Student Handbook by visiting this link:

<http://de.hccs.edu/de/de-student-handbook>

Holidays and Important Dates

September 2nd.	Labor Day
September 9th.	Day of Record
November 1st.	Last day to withdrawal by 4:30pm
November 27th.	Thanksgiving vacation begins at 5pm.

Online Tutoring

HCC provides ***free online tutoring*** in writing, math, science, and other subjects. How to access AskOnline: Click on the Ask Online button in the upper right corner of the Eagle Online course listings page. This directs students to the HCC AskOnline Tutoring site: <http://hccs.askonline.net/> . Use your student ID or HCC e-mail address to create an account. Instructions, including a 5-minute video, are provided to make you familiar with the capabilities of this service.

Social Networking

DE students are encouraged to become a fan of [DE on Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/HCCDistanceEd) <http://www.facebook.com/HCCDistanceEd> and to follow [DE on Twitter](http://twitter.com/HCCDistanceEd): <http://twitter.com/HCCDistanceEd>

These social networking sites help DE foster student engagement and provide a sense of community for the online learner. Students will also stay informed about important information and announcements.

Library Resources

As a DE student you have the same access to first-rate information resources that the HCC Libraries make available to all HCC students. A special website pulls together all the tools DE students will need to get their research rolling. Visit http://library.hccs.edu/library_services/distance.php specifically for Distance Education students.

Course Calendar

I. Foundations

Week August 26th : **Chapter One: Understanding American Politics.**

Week September 2nd: **Chapter Two: The Constitution and the Founding.**

Assignment #1 due Saturday, September 7th by 11:30pm.

Week September 9th: **Chapter Three: Federalism.**

Week September 16th: **Chapter Four: Civil Liberties.**

Assignment #2 due Saturday, September 21st by 11:30pm.

II. Politics

Week September 23rd: **Chapter Five: Public Opinion and the Media.**

Exam #1 on Chapters 1-4 due by 11:30pm, Saturday, September 28th.

Week September 30th: **Chapter Six: Political Parties.**

Assignment #3 is due Saturday, October 5th by 11:30pm.

Week October 7th: **Chapter Seven: Elections.**

Week October 14th: **Chapter Eight: Interest Groups.**

Assignment #4 is due Saturday, October 19th by 11:30pm.

III. Institutions

Week October 21st: **Chapter Nine: Congress.**

Exam #2 on Chapters 5-8 due by 11:30pm Saturday, October 26th.

Week October 28th: **Chapter Ten: The Presidency.**

Week November 4th: **Chapter 11: The Bureaucracy.**

Assignment #5 is due Saturday, November 9th by 11:30pm.

Week November 11th: **Chapter 12: The Courts.**

IV. Policy

Week November 18th: **Chapter 14: Economic Policy and Social Policy.**

Exam #3 on Chapters 9-12 is due by 11:30pm Saturday, November 23rd.

Week November 25th: **Chapter 13: Civil Rights.**

Assignment #6 is due WEDNESDAY, November 27th by noon.

Week December 2nd: **Chapter 15: Foreign Policy.**

Assignment #7 is due Saturday, December 7th by 11:30pm.

*****WEDNESDAY December 11th @ 11:30pm the FINAL EXAM on Chapters 13-15 is due.*****