

**HCC Government 2305 DE (CRN# 74068 & 74069)**

**Intro. to American Government**

**Fall 2015**

**Professor:** Dr. Verónica Reyna

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

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We will ONLY use Quickmail within Eagle Online 2.0 for communication via email. I will NOT respond to any emails that are not from Quickmail. Please take the tutorial to learn how to use it. PLEASE SET UP YOUR HCC EMAIL.

**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:** Geer, John G et al. **Gate Ways to Democracy: An Introduction to American Government.** Third Essentials Edition. Cengage Learning Publishers.

**Eagle Online 2.0:** <https://eo2.hccs.edu/login/index.php>

## Course Description

Government 2305 is designed to introduce students to the politics of government in the USA 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 Constitution, 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.

<b>Grades/Assignments:</b>	Chapter Exams 50%	A= 90+
		B= 89-80
	Discussion Assignments 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 five chapter exams. The purpose of these exams is to assess mastery of the material with various kinds of multiple choice questions. You will have 2.0 hours to complete each exam (plenty of time!), but **make sure to complete the exam once you’ve opened it** in Eagle Online.

There are four discussion assignments. See the syllabus for due dates. 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 the due dates listed. Write your discussion posts in a formal manner, proof read, and edit. **DO NOT use texting language or write them like an informal email!** If articles are charts are provided for you to read for the assignment, I expect that you will use this information in your post! 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 (September 8, 2015)** 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.**

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>

### ***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> and to follow [DE on Twitter](#): <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](http://library.hccs.edu/library_services/distance.php) specifically for Distance Education students.

## **Course Calendar**

### **I. Foundations**

Week August 24th:       **Chapter One**

Week August 31st:     **Chapter Two**

**Assignment #1 due Saturday, September 5th by 11:30pm.**

Week September 7th:   **Chapter Three: Federalism.**

Week September 14th: **Chapter Four: Civil Liberties.**

**Exam #1 on Chapters 1-2 due by 11:30pm, Saturday, September 19th.**

### **II. Politics**

Week September 21<sup>st</sup>:   **Chapter Six and Seven: Public Opinion and the Media.**

Week September 28th: **Chapter Nine: Political Parties.**

**Exam #2 on Chapters 3-4 due by 11:30pm Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> .**

Week October 5th:       **Chapter Eight: Interest Groups.**

**Assignment #2 (Media and Spin) due Saturday, October 10th by 11:30pm.**

Week October 12th: **Chapter 10: Elections & Campaigns.**

**Exam #3 on Chapters 6, 7, & 9 is due by 11:30pm Saturday, October 17th**

Week October 19th: **Chapter 11: Voting and Participation**

### **III. Institutions**

Week October 26th: **Chapter 12: Congress.**

**October 30<sup>th</sup> is the last day to drop course, by 4:30pm!**

**Exam #4 on Chapters 8 & 10 is due by 11:30pm Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>**

Week November 2<sup>nd</sup> : **Chapter 13: The Presidency**

**Assignment #3 (Gerrymandering) is due Saturday, November 7th by 11:30pm.**

Week November 9<sup>th</sup>: **Chapter 14: Bureaucracy**

Week November 16<sup>th</sup>: **Chapter 15: The Judiciary**

**Exam #5 on Chapters 11-13 is due by 11:30pm Saturday, November 21st**

### **IV. Policy**

Week November 23<sup>rd</sup> : **Chapter 5: Civil Rights**

Week November 30<sup>th</sup> : **Chapter 16: Economic, Domestic, & Foreign Policy**

**Assignment #4 is due Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> by 11:30pm.**

**Final Exam on Chapters 5 and 14-16 is due by 11:30pm on Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**