

HCC Online Government 2305 (CRN# 54830 & 54837)

Intro. to American Government

Spring 2018

3 Lecture Hours, 48 Hrs. Total Course Hrs, 16-wk, HCC Online

Professor: Dr. Verónica Reyna

713-718-5215

Email: veronica.reyna1@hccs.edu

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

Website: <http://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/veronica.reyna1>

We will ONLY use HCC phones, HCC email, or Eagle Online email for communication. PLEASE SET UP YOUR HCC EMAIL. Please CHECK your HCC email EVERY DAY!

Government Chair: Evelyn Ballard

Evelyn.ballard@hccs.edu

713-718-2490

Note: if you have a problem with your government course, please contact Dr. Reyna before contacting the Chair.

Office & Office Hours: Spring Branch Campus #AD2

Tuesdays 7:00-8:00am, 12:30-2:00pm

Thursday 7:00-8:00am, 12:30-2:00pm

I'm available online through Canvas 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! *Allow me up to 48 hours to respond.*

Instructional Materials: Patterson, Thomas E. 2017. *We the People: An Introduction to American Government*. 12th Edition. McGraw Hill: New York, New York.

HCC Online: <http://hccs.edu/online/>

Eagle Online: <http://eagleonline.hccs.edu/>

Eagle Online Tech Help: <http://www.hccs.edu/online/technical-support/>

UpSwing Tutoring: <https://hccs.upswing.io>

Eagle Online Help Desk: <http://de2.hccs.edu/eo2help/>

Respondus LockDown Browser Tech Help:

<https://www.respondus.com/support/>

Connect Access code: comes in the book bundle at the bookstore OR you can buy it directly from the publisher (and it comes with an e-Book).

To register your Connect access code: simply click on one of the assignments in Eagle Online, and you will be taken to a registration page. There you can register your code, buy one (with an e-book), or sign up for the free, two week pass.

Even if you cannot access the book for the first day of class, sign up for the free, two week option so you will NOT get behind. ALL Chapter One assignments must be completed by the Day of Record on January 31st or YOU WILL BE DROPPED FROM THE COURSE. **Not having Connect is not a valid excuse for not completing the Chapter One assignment.**

Tech Help for Connect: call 1-800-331-5094.

FOR ALL TECH PROBLEMS, CALL THE PROVIDED NUMBERS ABOVE AND Get a CASE #, then email me only if the problem is not resolved. I am NOT a computer scientist! I do not recommend waiting until the last moment to complete work in case you have internet, computer, or tech problems.

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.

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:

- o **Critical Thinking Skills**—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- o **Communication Skills**—to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
- o **Personal Responsibility**—to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making
- o **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 LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, each student will be able to:

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.
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Government Program Student Learning Outcomes

1. Identify and describe the institutions of American national government. GOVT 2302/2305
2. Identify and describe the institutions of the State of Texas government. GOVT 2302/2306
3. Identify and evaluate information sources for political news, data, and opinion. GOVT 2306
4. Analyze the effects of the historical, social, political, economic, and cultural forces on politics and government. GOVT 2306
5. 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. GOVT 2305

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

Grades/Assignments:	Chapter Exams 50%	A= 90+
	Connect Assignments 15%	B= 89-80
	Written Assignments 25%	C=79-70
	Final Exam 10%	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 1.0 hour to complete each exam (plenty of time!), but **make sure to complete the exam once you've opened it** in Eagle Online. **Take the test when you have access to a reliable internet connection. You will need to use LockDown Browser with Monitor (a webcam).**

There are three written assignments and several Connect assignments. See the syllabus for due dates. You will submit papers online. Note that due dates for all the assignments vary, so pay attention to the due dates listed. Write your written papers in a formal manner, proof read, and edit. **DO NOT use texting language or write them like an informal email!** If articles or 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. **If you cut/paste from the internet, buy answers from the internet, cheat off a peer's assignment, or otherwise plagiarize, you will FAIL the first assignment you are found cheating. The second you are caught, you FAIL THE COURSE AUTOMATICALLY.** ALL written assignments must be submitted through TurnItIn.

The Connect assignments are the Learn Smart reading assignments. Essentially, it has you read the most important parts of the chapters first, has you Practice questions over the reading, and assesses your knowledge of the material. From this, you learn what you need to study more on, material you've mastered, and how to draft a study plan. One of the first assignments due is the Smart Book video overview so you learn how to do this. The Connect assignments help you study, help you retain the information, and help you do better in the course. The Syllabus Assignment will be counted as part of this 15% of the grade.

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.*** **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 HCC Online students must login to their course(s) on a regular basis. HCC Online students who do not login and actively participate before the **Official Day of Record (January 31, 2018)** 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. You MUST complete ALL CHAPTER ONE ASSIGNMENTS by their due date to be counted as attended by the Day of Record. IF you do not complete ALL OF THE ASSIGNMENTS on time, you will be dropped from the course.**

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 Policies

The HCC Online Student Handbook contains policies and procedures unique to the online 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 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.

Academic Honesty

If you are caught committing scholastic dishonesty in any way, you will receive an F for the assignment/test in question. If you cheat/plagiarize again, you will receive an “F” for the course. No negotiation. Please seek me out for help if you are having problems, rather than resort to something that will tarnish your record. HCC Policy states, “Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating on a test includes copying from another student's test paper; using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test; collaborating with another student during a test without authority; knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test; or bribing another person to obtain a test that is to be administered. ‘Plagiarism’ means the appropriation of another's work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one's own written work for credit. ‘Collusion’ means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit.”

In simplified terms, cheating is: (1) taking unchanged passages (or slightly edited) from another person's writing and portraying them as one's own; (2) submitting a paper that includes paraphrases of another person's writing without giving credit; (3) having someone else write your paper for you; (4) copying or using another person's work during in-class writing or testing; and (5) the unauthorized use of electronic devices during in-class writing or testing. Keep in mind also that whether you are cheating or not, not following testing or writing rules properly, such as communicating with your neighbor or using a cell phone during a test will be construed as cheating. This is not an exhaustive list of the forms of scholastic dishonesty. If you are in doubt, consult your instructor.

Campus Carry

At HCC the safety of our students, staff, and faculty is our first priority. As of August 1, 2017, Houston Community College is subject to the Campus Carry Law (SB11 2015). For more information, visit the HCC Campus Carry web page at <http://www.hccs.edu/district/departments/police/campus-carry/>.

Online Tutoring

HCC provides ***free online tutoring*** in writing, math, science, and other subjects. Here is the tutoring site: <https://hccs.upswing.io/> . Follow the instructions on the login page to enter the site.

Course Calendar

I. Foundations

Week Jan. 15th: **Chapter One**

Chapter 1 Written Assignment and Syllabus Assignment due by Sunday, January 21st by 11:30pm.

NOTE: if you do not complete ALL Chapter 1 assignments on time, you will be dropped from the class (See attendance policy section and the Day of Record information).

Week Jan. 22nd: **Chapter Two**

Chapter 2 Connect Assignment Due January 27th

Week Jan. 29th: **Chapter Three**

DAY of RECORD January 31st

Chapter Three Connect Assignment due February 3rd.

Week Feb. 5th: **Chapter Four**

Exam #1 on Chapters 1-2 due by 11:30pm, Saturday, February 10th

Chapter Four Connect Assignment due Feb. 14th (Wednesday)

II. Politics

Week Feb. 12th **Chapter Six**

Chapter Six Connect Assignment due February 17th.

Week Feb. 19th: **Chapter Ten**

Exam #2 on Chapters 3-4 due by 11:30pm Saturday, February 24th.

Chapter 10 Connect Assignment due February 28th (Wednesday)

Week February 26th: **Chapter Nine**

No Chapter Nine Connect Assignments for grade

Week March 5th: **Chapter Eight**

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

No Chapter Eight Connect Assignments for grade

SPRING BREAK March 12th – March 16th

Week March 19th: **Chapter Seven**

Exam #3 on Chapters 6, 9, 10 is due by 11:30pm Saturday, March 24th

Chapter Seven Connect Assignment due March 28th (Wednesday) .

III. Institutions

Week March 26th: **Chapter 11**

Chapter 11 Connect Assignment due March 31st.

Week April 2nd: **Chapter 12**

April 3rd is the last day to drop course, by 4:30pm!

Exam #4 on Chapters 7 & 8 is due by 11:30pm Saturday, April 7th

Chapter 12 Connect Assignment due April 11th (Wednesday)

Week April 9th **Chapter 14**

Chapter 14 Connect Assignment due April 14th

IV. Policy

Week April 16th: **Chapter 5**

No Chapter 5 Connect Assignment due for grade

Written Assignment #3 (Gerrymandering) is due Saturday, April 21st by 11:30pm.

Week of April 23rd: **Chapter 15 (economic policy only) and Chapter 16**

No Chapter 15 and 16 Connect Assignments due for grade

Exam #5 on Chapters 11, 12, & 14 is due by 11:30pm Saturday, April 28th

Week of April 30th: **Chapter 17**

No Chapter 17 Connect Assignment due for grade

Final Exam on Chapters 5, 15, 16, and 17 is due by 11:30pm on Thursday, May 10th