

Government 2305—Intro. to American Government

Spring 2018

Spring Branch Campus, T/TH

CRN #54793

3 Lecture Hours, 48 Hrs. Total Course Hrs, 16-wk, in-person

Professor: Dr. Verónica Reyna

Contact Information

Office Phone: 713-718-5215

E-mail: 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>

Note: Set up your HCC email account. I will NOT answer any emails that are NOT from HCC and I will only email your HCC account.

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.

HURRICANE HARVEY NOTICE:

If you are in distress due to hurricane Harvey, please let me know how I can help you. My goal is to help you transition into the semester as smoothly as possible, rather than to allow our class to become an extra burden, so please allow me the opportunity to help if you experienced loss or trauma due to the hurricane. HCC has a list of resources that will help you throughout this time.

Linked below is a list of resources on the HCC website:

www.hccs.edu/harveytips

www.hccs.edu/harveystudentresources

www.hccs.edu/harveystudentsurvey

Essential Needs Statement

Any student who may be facing challenges in affording or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe, stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in this course, is encouraged to contact the Dean of Student Success for support. Additionally, please notify me, if you're comfortable in doing so. This will enable me to provide you with guidance on essential-need resources of which I'm aware.

Office & Office Hours

Spring Branch Campus #AD2

By appointment only Tuesdays & Thursdays, 7-8am and 12:30-2:00pm.

By pre-scheduled appointment for other days/times.

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. If you email me or leave a voicemail with course questions, please allow me up to 48 hours to respond. While I strive to return messages quickly, I am not online 24/7. I do not respond after 9:00pm.

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.

Course Co-requisites: Must have passed ENGL 1301 or co-enrolled in ENGL 1301.

Instructional Materials

Patterson, Thomas E. Twelfth Edition. *We the People: An Introduction to American Government*.
McGraw Hill Education Publishers.

Connect Access Code: comes with book from bookstore OR you can buy it from the publishers with an e-book (less expensive).

HCC ONLINE: <https://eagleonline.hccs.edu/>

- **Eagle Online Technical Support - call 713.718.5275, option 3**
- **IT (Password reset) Customer Support - call 713.718.8800, option 1**

Tech Help for Connect: call 1-800-331-5094. Get a CASE #, then email me.

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.

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.
-

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

Instructional Methods

Government 2305 prepares you for higher level American Politics courses. As an instructor, it is my responsibility to prepare you not only with the basic concepts needed to be successful in higher level college courses, but also with practical political analysis skills to enable you to be a responsible citizen.

As a student, it is your responsibility to read the textbook, take notes during lectures, submit assignments on their due dates, study for and take exams on their appropriate date, participate in class discussions, ask questions, and attend class. I will help any student wanting to improve study skills, exam-taking skills, writing skills, time management skills, or political analysis skills. However, it is expected that students take full responsibility for their behavior, choices, and course preparation.

Grades will be based on the following:

- **Tests: 13% each**
- **Final Exam: 13%**
- **Connect Assignments: 15%**
- **Project: 20%**

Course Assignments

All course assignments have been developed to enhance and assess learning:

Unit Tests

Each unit test covers unit themes, big ideas, and important concepts. You will need scantrons and notebook paper for these tests. Unit reviews are provided to guide test preparation. The tests are multiple choice with short essays.

Final Exam

The Final Exam is not accumulative. It is the last unit exam and has the same format as all the other unit exams. The only difference is that there is NO essay.

Connect Assignments

There are chapter assignments due the week we are covering the relevant chapter. These assignments will help you do well in the course! **Please stay up on the assignments, as there are NO make ups on late work.** If you have technical problems, call the Tech Help line and get a case # as evidence. If you have internet issues, use a campus computer.

Extra Credit Papers

When appropriate, extra credit opportunities and assignments will be announced in class. All options can be found in Eagle Online and on the Learning Web course page. Points are added to test grades.

Course Calendar

I. Participation and Democracy

- **Week of January 15th: Chapter One**
- **Week of Jan. 22nd: Chapter Seven**
- **Week of Jan. 29th: Chapter Eight**

Day of Record January 31st

Project Part I Due February 8th in Canvas

- **Week of February 5th: Chapter Nine**
 - **Unit I Connect due February 18th**

II. Politics and Media

- Week of Feb. 12th: Chapter Ten

Reminder: Unit I Connect due February 18th

- Week of Feb. 19th: Chapter Six

Unit I Test February 22nd

Unit II Connect due March 4th

III. Politics and Policy: National v. State Problem?

- Week of Feb. 26th: Chapter Two

Reminder: Unit II Connect due March 4th

- Week of March 5th: Chapter Three

○ Unit III Connect due March 25th

March 8th REEL Speaker Panel on Human & Sex Trafficking

Unit II Test March 8th

Spring Break March 12-16

IV. Politics and Policy: Civil Liberty and Civil Rights Aren't Always Civil

- Week of March 19th: Chapter Four

Reminder: Unit III Connect due March 25th

- Week of March 26th: Chapter Five

Unit III Test March 29th

Unit IV Connect due April 15th

V. Politics and Policy: Policymakers

- Week of April 2nd: Chapter 14

April 3rd last day to withdrawal

- Week of April 9th: Chapter 11

Reminder: Unit IV Connect due April 15th

Project Part II Due April 12th in Canvas

- Week of April 16th: Chapter 12

Unit IV Test April 19th

- Week of April 23rd: Chapters 15 OR 16 OR 17
- Week of April 30th: Policy chapter continued

Unit V Connect due May 6th

Final Exam: Unit V Test 9:30 am Section Tuesday, May 8th @ 9:00am

Project Part III Due May 12th by NOON in Canvas.

Student Assessments

The course assessments include exams, test essays, and Connect assignments. These assessments help determine how successful you are in achieving course learning outcomes. If you have any problems with assessment outcomes, I am more than happy to assist you to improve assessment scores.

Instructor's Requirements

As your instructor, it is my responsibility to:

- Provide the grading scale and detailed grading formula explaining how students' final grades are derived.

- Facilitate an effective learning environment through class activities, discussions, and lectures.
- Description of any special projects or assignments.
- Inform students of policies such as attendance, withdrawal, and make-up exams/assignments.
- Provide the course outline and class calendar which will include a description of any special projects or assignments.
- Arrange to meet with individual students during office hours or by appointment.

To be successful in this class, it is the student's responsibility to:

- Attend class and participate in class discussions and activities.
- Take notes during lecture.
- Read and comprehend the textbook.
- Complete the required course work.
- Ask for help if there is a question or a problem.
- Get missed lecture notes from a peer if class is missed.

Program/Discipline Requirements

Govt. 2305 is a core transfer course for the political science discipline.

HCC Grading Scale

A = 100-90:.....	4 points per semester hour
B = 89-80:.....	3 points per semester hour
C = 79-70:.....	2 points per semester hour
D = 69-60:.....	1 point per semester hour
59 and below = F.....	0 points per semester hour
59 and below because of excessive absences = FX...	0 points per semester hour
IP (In Progress).....	0 points per semester hour

W (Withdrawal).....0 points per semester hour
I (Incomplete).....0 points per semester hour
AUD (Audit).....0 points per semester hour

IP (In Progress) is given only in certain developmental courses. The student must re-enroll to receive credit. COM (Completed) is given in non-credit and continuing education courses. To compute grade point average (GPA), divide the total grade points by the total number of semester hours attempted. The grades “IP”, “COM” and “I” do not affect GPA.

Final Grade Criteria

Your instructor will conduct exams, assignments, and writing assignments that you can use to determine how successful you are at achieving the course learning outcomes (mastery of course content and skills) outlined in the syllabus. If you find you are not mastering the material and skills, you are encouraged to reflect on how you study and prepare for each class. Your instructor welcomes a dialogue on what you discover and may be able to assist you in finding resources on campus that will improve your performance.

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, for example assignments, can always be turned in earlier. If there are extenuating circumstances due to illness or something else, please let me know ASAP and we can look at available administrative options.

HCC Policy Statements

All HCC Student Services Policies can be found at: <http://hccs.edu/student-rights>

HCC 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/>.

HCC 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](mailto:Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu) or [Houston, TX 77266-7517](mailto:Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu) or Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu

HCC Policy—ADA

If you have any special needs that affect your ability to learn in this class, please inform me ASAP (this means NOW, not the day of an exam). Appropriate steps will be taken to assist you with your needs. Any student with a documented disability (physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the Disability Services Office at Northwest College (713-718-5808) or the Northwest College ADA Counselor, Mahnaz Kolaini (713-718-5422), at the *beginning* of each semester. Faculty members are authorized to provide only the accommodations requested by the Disability Support Services Office. To visit the ADA Web site, log on to www.hccs.edu, click Future students, scroll down the page and click on the words Disability Information.

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/district/students/disability-services/>

HCC Policy—Academic Honesty

If you are caught committing scholastic dishonesty in any way, 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.

Student Attendance

If you come late and after I call attendance, you are counted absent. If you don't come to class, *you won't do well in the course*. Students with good attendance records usually do well in the course because they hear the information several times, can ask questions, and can interact with fellow students. Please **keep me informed** if you are having problems that are affecting your attendance and I will do my best to work with you. If you decide you must drop the course, **you can now do this online**. If you suddenly stop coming to class, ***it is YOUR responsibility to drop the course. I will not drop you.*** If you do not drop, I must give the course grade that is earned. **The last day you can drop is April 3rd by 4:30pm.**

There is a new “F” grade, “FX,” that alerts financial aid to excessive absences. Financial aid is cracking down on students who register for classes to receive aid monies and then do not come to class. If you do not drop after excessive absences, you will receive a grade of “FX” and it will negatively affect your ability to receive financial aid.

While it is still advisable you receive good counsel from instructional and counseling faculty prior to dropping one or more classes, you will no longer be required to “see” someone before they will be allowed to drop. You will be provided information related to the implications

and possible consequences of dropping their courses. The following will occur when a you select the “drop” option during an enrollment request:

- Students will be required to select a drop reason in order to complete the withdrawal request (the drop reason will cue whether the dropped course will count toward the 6 drop rule or not).
- Students will be invited to click on several links to learn more of the implications of dropping on the 6 drop rule (<http://imc02.hccs.edu/gcac/drop.htm>), on veterans, on financial aid, and on international students.
- Students will be required to acknowledge the implications of withdrawing from a class.

3Rd Time Course Policy

As of Fall 2006, students who take a course for the third time or more will face significant tuition/fee increases at HCC and other Texas public colleges and universities. 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.

Classroom Conduct

This is a college classroom where adult behavior is expected and required. Respect your peers’ learning environment. Conduct which interferes with the teaching or learning process will result in the student being dropped from the course. If an administrative/instructional drop occurs, there will be no refund of fees or tuition.

Students who enter class late should not, under any circumstances, walk in front of the instructor to find a seat. Please sit in the open desks by the door. The doors are very sensitive, so make sure to not slam the door when entering or leaving.

Cell phones or other electronic devices must be turned off/vibrate on during class time. Text-messaging during class is unacceptable behavior. If you are expecting an emergency phone call, please put phone on vibrate and quietly leave the room (try to sit by the door). If you habitually receive phone calls in class, I am not shy about answering the phone for you and explaining that you are in class!

No electronic devices can be used to take notes. No recording is allowed unless there is an ADA accommodation documented request.

There is no eating, drinking, dipping, snacking, nibbling, any other form of consumption, etc. in class.