



Government 2305.03W & 04W
Federal Government
Course Syllabus: Fall 2020

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Daniel Caldwell
Office Hours: By Appointment
University Email Address: Daniel.Caldwell@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Text:

American Government, A Brief Introduction, (15a) Lowi, Ginsbert, Shepsle, Ansolabehere - ISBN: 978-0393674934

Other readings: Readings have been prepared and will be distributed. These are a blend of primary and secondary materials that complement lectures and provide the foundations for classroom discussions.

Note: It is imperative that you complete the assigned readings; the material contained therein will drive classroom discussion, a very crucial course requirement.

Course Description

Government 2305 is a broad interdisciplinary course in the development of the Institutions and Policies of the Federal Government and the State of Texas. In addition to developing critical thinking skills, this course is designed to give you an understanding of the interaction between circumstance and institutions by which the American experiment in self-government with justice occurs.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this course, you should be capable of:

- Explain the origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the federal system.
- Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government.
- Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in the political system.
- Analyze the election process.
- Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens 8. Analyze issues and policies in U.S. politics.

Instructional/ Methods/ Assessments

The reading assignments and class sessions are listed for each week. I expect you to complete the reading prior to class and be **PREPARED** to discuss or address specific issues raised in the readings. Written assignments will be submitted at the beginning of the class period to the instructor.

Assignment Explanations

Reading Assignments:

The reading assignments and class sessions are listed for each day. I expect you to complete the readings prior to class and be **PREPARED** to discuss and address specific issues raised in the readings. Written assignments will be submitted to the instructor at the beginning of the class period. The material covered in the assigned readings can be on the exam even if the information not covered in class. READ the assigned readings.

Weekly Discussion

Each student is required to participate in weekly discussions. You will be required to submit one original post and respond to two of your classmates. In order to respond you must first create your original post.

Discussions will be graded according to the following scale:

- 1 Post - 33%**
- 2 Posts - 66%**
- 3 Posts - 100%**

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Legislation Project

Part I: You will track two pieces of legislation as they travel through the US Congress and prepare an informal presentation for the class on each. You will be the expert concerning this legislation and should be about to explain why the legislation is necessary, who sponsored it, has the legislation met resistance, and what is the expectation of the legislation being passed.

Part II: You will contact a governmental representative concerning the bills you have researched and explain your position on the topic. You may choose to write your personal representative or a sponsoring representative. You may also contact a NGO who would be interested in the legislation. You will submit a copy of your written work to the NGO or representative as part of your grade.

The Legislation Project is due on the Friday prior to Thanksgiving. Late work will only be accepted at the discretion of the instructor under the most extreme and verifiable circumstances. Any late work accepted may be subject penalty

Exams

Each student will complete two, non-cumulative exams. Each exam will consist of fifty multiple choice and true and false questions. You will be give one opportunity with a two hour time frame in which to complete the exam.

Students will have three days to complete exams. Exams will only be re-opened under extreme, verifiable circumstances as determined by the instructor.

If you do not participate, you will not pass the class!

Grading:

Exam I	25%
Legislation Project	25%
Exam II	25%
Weekly Discussion	25%
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Totals	100%

The grading scale used for this course is as follows:

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	0-59

Academic Honesty: Plagiarism is a serious offense and will not be tolerated. Plagiarism occurs when a student purposefully or unintentionally takes information directly from a source without proper citation. For example, forgetting to cite an author and page number with a quote is plagiarism, as is direct copying and pasting from a website. Plagiarism will result in an F for the course and notification to the Dean of Students. Plagiarism is often a result of improper citation and/or acknowledgement of sources; therefore, we will be going over plagiarism in class so you can avoid common pitfalls (and an F!). If a student needs additional assistance, please consult me during my office hours.

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TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

Access and Navigation

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

The Best form of communication for this course is e-mail and I will do all within my power to respond to your e-mail within twenty-four hours.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

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COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

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Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedure/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

TAMUC's COVID19 Response

“A&M-Commerce requires the use of face-coverings in all instructional and research classrooms/laboratories. Exceptions may be made by faculty where warranted. Faculty have management over their classrooms. Students not using face-coverings can be required to leave class. Repetitive refusal to comply can be reported to the Office of Students' Rights and Responsibilities as a violation of the student Code of Conduct. “

“Students should not attend class when ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness. Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. Faculty will work to support the student getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments.”

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