Political Science

United States Government: (Govt.) 2305.CFE
(84358)
COURSE SYLLABUS:
Fall 2020
Commerce High School
~~7:30-8:25 class~~
~~EDS134~~
Under Construction

Instructor: Dr. von Neuhaus
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     † Preferred form of Communication: Email Response Time: 24 hours on business days. Please include Govt. 2305 in the subject line when e-mailing me.

"There is a passion in the human heart that is called aspiration. It flares with the noble flame, and by its light, Man has traveled from the cave of darkness to the darkness of outer space. But when this passion called aspiration becomes lust, then aspiration degenerates, becomes vulgar ambition, by which sin the angels fell."

Text: See below, these books are online, will not cost you. With these online books, the chapters will not correspond to my lectures (chapters.)

American Government and Politics in the Information Age:

https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/american-government-and-politics-in-the-information-age

or

Required Texts: Krutz, Glen and Sylvie Waskiewicz. 2016. American Government. OpenStax.

https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government

 (Click "Download a PDF" link for free download)

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

This course is a survey of the underlying ideas, principles, and participatory practices of Constitutional government in the United States and Texas. Topics considered include Constitutionalism, Federalism, ideology, pluralism, political culture and socialization, Political parties and interest groups, public opinion, republicanism, and Voting and Electoral politics. **Course Objectives**: In addition to developing critical thinking skills, this course is designed to give you an understanding of the interaction between circumstances and institutions by which the American experiment in self-government with justice occurs. It will also give you a broad overview of the historical events that have helped to shape the regime into what it is today in terms of public policy and the ends pursued by it.

Learning Objectives:
1.) Students will be able to differentiate between facts and opinions.
2.) Students will be able to form substantive and evidence-driven arguments to propose solutions to problems or explain phenomena.
3.) Students will be able to recognize their position as being subjective, follow the arguments of others objectively, and interpret data.
4.) Students will demonstrate the ability to synthesize a cogent body of knowledge from various sources of information, acknowledge the contributions/insights of others, and make independent judgments.
5.) Students will demonstrate creative thinking by linking content and insights from multiple disciplines.
6.) Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances or data.

Communication
1) In written, oral, and/or visual communication, A&M-Commerce students will communicate in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure.
2) Student communication will be clear, purposeful, and make appropriate use of evidence, data, and technology as applicable.
3) Student communication will follow conventions of grammar and syntax appropriate to the audience, purpose, and message.

Personal Responsibility
1) Students will be able to understand their role in their own education.
2) Students will understand and practice academic honesty.

Social Responsibility
1) Students will demonstrate awareness of societal and/or civic issues.
2) Students will recognize and understand the roles of diversity in society.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course

• Students will understand and employ significant theoretical and analytical approaches to understanding political behavior and interaction between citizens, institutions of government, and the US Constitution.

• Students will understand and employ significant theoretical and analytical approaches to understanding political behavior, the interaction between citizens and institutions of government in Texas, and the Texas constitution.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Lecture format. Students are expected to complete the assignments as scheduled.

GRADING

Grades will be determined as follows:

Quiz I (take on-line)	10%
Quiz II (take on-line)	10%
Quiz III (take on-line)	10%
Quiz IV (take on-line)	10%
Quiz V (take on-line)	10%
Quiz VI (take on-line)	10%
Papers * (on-line)	10%
Project/Photo Essay	10%
Discussions (on-line ~~or in classroom~~)	10%
Misc.	10%
Total	100%

Late Work—Usually unacceptable; however, if accepted your grade will be in the 70 range.

<u>Make deadlines and follow instructions.</u>

Grading Policy

Grades are based on six quizzes, four papers, project/research paper, discussions and misc.
No extra credit given as we both have enough work to do. No dropping of low grades.

Rounding off of grades—the standard format; however, all A(s) must be absolutely earned, meaning an A must be a 90 or above no rounding off B(s) to A(s). ~~Excessive absences will result in points lost; above average students do not miss classes excessively.~~ *~~No letter grade (A) can be earned with excessive absences.~~*

 Deadlines are deadlines. The instructor has discretion of final grades.

 Quizzes – (60%) The exams will be multiple-choice/true and false questions (10% each) --25-100 questions per exam; the exams will be taken online.   On each exam several questions can be based strictly on classroom lectures, videos, etc. not covered in the readings. The instructor will cover the main points of the chapters, and the students will be responsible for reading the entire chapters and asking questions for clarification. You need access to a computer and a flash drive.

*Papers-(2) (10%) Topics will be assigned.—<u>there will be specific due dates.</u> Keep in mind if your paper is acceptable, but instructions were not followed—points will be deducted. Please contact a Reference and Leaning Librarians for help, 903.886.5714.

Project / Photo Essay (10*%) Create a PowerPoint essay on the presidential election (2020).*   You can choose a political party, a candidate(s), the electoral college, campaign promises, political cartoons. We are ever so interconnected with technology, your project can consider both sides. **This assignment should be comprised almost entirely of images you create and or collect, so you must have a works cited page.   Some script** will be necessary, e.g., bullets, keywords, <u>but you do not want complete sentences/paragraphs</u>. The essay should be more than a collection of images. Your images <u>should help tell a story</u> about the battle. Think about what this assignment involves: an argument, a beginning, a middle, and an end (an arc). In other words, you are using your images—a kind of rhetoric—to tell a story about a theme/concept. This showcase piece takes effort and time, especially planning and some critical thinking about what the concept/theme--- means to you, what you've learned and what images to use. Remember – be creative. You will need <u>roughly fifteen</u>

slides/photos with some script. **Consider** 1. Who won and why; similarities, differences; 2. Major blunders; The significate of the win; 5. Special issues; (6) 6. How important was the win;   7. What was lost; 8. The heroes; 9. Any oddities; 10. The outcome and conclusion; ------------------------ *Groups can be formed.* This can be a group project or an individual assignment. If group work, you need a leader(s), researchers, technology people—creating the powerpoint presesentation, someone to oversee the project….

  ** Or do a 10-15 research paper with 10-15 sources. We will discuss the topic. Your format will be the standardize college research paper.

Discussions- 10% two choices: (1) come to class on Fridays and discuss specific topics; you are required to talk and participate in the discussions, or you will not receive full credit, merely showing up does not count **or** (2) participate in the on-line discussions. Some students are more comfortable discussing their thoughts in written words (on-line would be best for you) while other students enjoy the face to face debating issues (in class discussions would be best for you.) You make the choice.

Misc. – 10% Giving something back (volunteerism) or

Grading Scale	
90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
Below 60	F

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

• To fully participate in online courses you will need to use a current Flash-enabled internet browser. For PC and Mac users the suggested browser is Mozilla Firefox.

• You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
   o 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
   o Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
   o Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution

• You must have a:
o Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
o Speakers or headphones.
o *For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam, and microphone are required.

• Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at JAVA web site http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp

• Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.

• Run a browser check through the Pearson LearningStudio Technical Requirements website. Browser Check http://help.ecollege.com/LS_Tech_Req_WebHelp/en-us/#LS_Technical_Requirements.htm#Browset

 Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.

        Pop-ups are allowed.
        JavaScript is enabled.
        Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:

o Adobe Reader https://get.adobe.com/reader/
o Adobe Flash Player *(version 17 or later)* https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/
o Adobe Shockwave Player https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/
o Apple Quick Time http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/

- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

- For additional information about system requirements, please see: System Requirements for LearningStudio https://secure.ecollege.com/tamuc/index.learn?action=technical

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

Pearson LearningStudio (eCollege) Access and Log in Information

This course will be facilitated using Pearson LearningStudio, the learning management system used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to myLeo and from the top menu ribbon select eCollege. Then on the upper left side of the screen click on the My Courses tab. http://www.tamuc.edu/myleo.aspx

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: It is strongly recommended you perform a "Browser Test" prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test login to Pearson LearningStudio, click on the My Courses tab, and then select the Browser Test link under Support Services.

Pearson LearningStudio Student Technical Support

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support for the use of Pearson LearningStudio.

Technical assistance is available 24/7 (24 hours, 7 days a week).

If you experience LearningStudio technical problems, contact the LearningStudio helpdesk at 1-???.???.???? (toll-free) or visit Pearson 24/7 Customer Support Site http://247support.custhelp.com/

The student help desk may be reached in the following ways:

- **Chat Support:** Click on *'Live Support'* on the tool bar within your course to chat with a Pearson LearningStudio Representative.
- **Phone:** 1-866-656-5511 (Toll-Free) to speak with Pearson LearningStudio Technical Support Representative.

Accessing Help from within Your Course: Click on the *'Tech Support'* icon on the upper left side of the screen inside the course. Then you will be able to get assistance via online chat or by phone.

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.

Policy for Reporting Problems with Pearson LearningStudio

Should students encounter Pearson LearningStudio based problems while submitting assignments/discussions/comments/exams, the following procedure must be followed:

1. Students must report the problem to the help desk. You may reach the helpdesk at 1-866-656-5511.
2. Students must file their problem with the helpdesk and obtain a helpdesk ticket number
3. Once a helpdesk ticket number is in your possession, students should email me to advise me of the problem and provide me with the helpdesk ticket number.
4. I will call the helpdesk to confirm your problem and follow up with you

PLEASE NOTE: Your personal computer and internet access problems are not legitimate excuses for filing a ticket with the Pearson LearningStudio Help Desk. Only Pearson LearningStudio based problems are legitimate reasons to contact the Help Desk.

You strongly are encouraged to check for your internet browser compatibility **BEFORE** the course begins and take the Pearson LearningStudio tutorial offered for students who may require some extra assistance in navigating the Pearson LearningStudio platform.

myLeo Support

Your myLeo email address is required to send and receive all student correspondence. Please email helpdesk@tamuc.edu or call us at 903-468-6000 with any questions about setting up your myLeo email account. You may also access information at myLeo. https://leo.tamuc.edu

Learner Support

The One Stop Shop was created to serve you by providing as many resources as possible in one location.http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/onestopshop/

The Academic Success Center provides academic resources to help you achieve academic success.http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/academicSuccessCenter/

FREE MobilE APPS

The Courses apps for phones have been adapted to support the tasks students can easily complete on a smaller device. Due to the smaller screen size course content is not presented.

The Courses app is free of charge. The mobile Courses Apps are designed and adapted for different devices.

	App Title:	iPhone – Pearson LearningStudio Courses for iPhone Android – LearningStudio Courses - Phone
	Operating System:	iPhone - OS 6 and above Android – Jelly Bean, Kitkat, and Lollipop OS
	iPhone App URL:	https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/pearson-learningstudio-courses/id977280011?mt=8
	Android App URL:	https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.pearson.lsphone

Once downloaded, search for Texas A&M University-Commerce, and it should appear on the list. Then you will need to sign into the myLeo Mobile portal.

The Courses App for Android and iPhone contain the following feature set:

• View titles/code/Instructor of all Courses enrolled in online

• View and respond to all discussions in individual Courses

• View Instructor Announcements in individual Courses

• View Graded items, Grades, and comments in individual Courses

• Grade to Date

• View Events (assignments) and Calendar in individual Courses

• View Activity Feed for all courses

• View course filters on activities

• View link to Privacy Policy

• Ability to Sign out

• Send Feedback

LearningStudio Notifications

Students can be alerted to course activities via text on their mobile phones or up to two email addresses.

Based on their preferences, students can automatically receive a push notification with every new: course announcement, threaded discussion post, grade, and/or assignment without having to login to the course. Enrolled students will

automatically receive email notifications for announcements and can <u>opt out</u> of this feature. To receive text notifications, students must opt in.

To begin setting up notifications, go into your course in LearningStudio and click on the bell-shaped Notifications icon on the main menu ribbon.

By default the student's university email address will appear. This cannot be changed in LearningStudio. Additional email addresses may be added by clicking the Add button. After all of the other selections are completed be sure to click the Save and Finish button.

Students should have the following.
1. Access to a good quality computer.
2. Students will use (My Leo) to turn in specific assignments, testing, PowerPoint creation, papers, discussions…
3. Students will need access to an Internet browser such as Internet Explorer and access to Microsoft Word or to word processing software that they can save files in "Microsoft Word" compatible style. You will need a flash drive.

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ACCESS AND NAVIGATION II

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D2L Access and Log in Information
This course will be facilitated using D2L, the Learning Management System used by TexasA&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to: https://leo.tamuc.edu. In order to login, students will need both their CWID and password to access the myLeo site. If you do not know what your CWID or password is, please contact Technology Services at (903)-468-6000 or by e-mail, helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

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COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

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Interaction with Instructor Statement

Students should rely on e-mail and office visits for communications. Also, please note that the system will only send an e-mail to your official University Email address, so you will need to check that account regularly. I will try to e-mail you as soon as I can. From M-F you can expect a reply within 24 hours.

D2L Student Technical Support
Technical support for eCollege is provided around the clock (24 hours day/7 days a week), so if students experience technical issues with the class page itself, they should contact the student help desk for assistance. Students can access support through one of three following methods:
• Chat support: Students can access real-time chat support from within the course page by clicking on "Tech Support" in the tool bar and then clicking on "Chat Online."
• Phone: Students can access phone support by calling the toll free phone number for eCollege, 1-???.???.????.
• E- mail: Student can request assistance by e-mail directly at
helpdesk@online.tamuc.org. please note that you might not receive a response for 24 Hours if you use the e-mail option.
• Help: Click on the *'Help'* button on the toolbar for information regarding working with D2L (i.e. how to submit to Dropbox, and how to post to discussions, etc.)
•   I do not handle technical problems.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

University Specific Procedures

ADA Statement

Students with Disabilities
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 903.468.8148.
StudentDisabilityServies@tamuc.edu

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
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Student Conduct

"All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment." (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook).*

Academic Honesty

Cases of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be handled by the instructor. Students who are found to engage in academic dishonesty through such activities as cheating on exams, plagiarism or collusion with others will face disciplinary action. Students who disagree with the instructor's decision are afforded an appeals process.

Plagiarism Statement

Many people think of plagiarism as copying another's work or borrowing someone else's original ideas. But terms like "copying" and "borrowing" can disguise the seriousness of the offense:

According to the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, to "plagiarize" means

1. to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own
2. to use (another's production) without crediting the source
3. to commit literary theft
4. to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source.

In other words, plagiarism is an act of fraud. It involves both stealing someone else's work and lying about it afterward.

But can words and ideas really be stolen?

According to U.S. law, the answer is yes. The expression of original ideas is considered intellectual property and is protected by copyright laws, just like original inventions. Almost all forms of expression fall under copyright protection as long as they are recorded in some way (such as a book or a computer file).

All of the following are considered plagiarism:

1. turning in someone else's work as your own
2. copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
3. failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
4. giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
5. changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
6. copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not (see our section on "fair use" rules)

Most cases of plagiarism can be avoided, however, by citing sources. Simply acknowledging that certain material has been borrowed, and providing your audience with the information necessary to find that source, is usually enough to prevent plagiarism. If you have retained the essential idea of an original source, and have not cited it, then no matter how drastically you may have altered its context or presentation, you have still plagiarized." (www.plagiarism.org)

If you plagiarize, you will receive a ZERO for the assignment in question. I also reserve the right to give you an F in the course. The matter will be referred to the Office of the Dean of the College of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Arts.

Electronic Devices

Electronic devices are allowed if used appropriately.
This includes (but not limited to):
Cell phone,
Laptops,
iPads,
iPods, MP3 Players/Recorders,
Translation Devices
Video Cameras
Or any other audio and/or video recorders of any kind.
2
If any of these devices are present in class you will be asked not to use them for entertainment—e-mail, face book, etc., your pleasure or class work from another course.   If anyone is found violating the rule, see me after class.

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. Under 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 tohttp://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Non-Discrimination Notice

 Non-discrimination Notice: A&M-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.

Important Fall Dates

First Class Day – August 24, 2020

Thanksgiving Break November 25-27, 2020

Last class day-- 4 December

Finals-- 5 December to 11 December

Attendance Policy

You are expected to be in class. Excessive absences, no letter grade of A can be earned with excessive absences; also, no letter grade of A can be earned if any assignments are missing.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Date	Topic	Readings
	Week 1	
Aug 24 M	Syllabus & course introduction	
Aug 26 W	Introduction	Ch 1
Aug 28 F	**Discussion 1**	
	Week 2	
Aug 31 M	Constitution	Ch 2
Sept 2 W	"	
Sept 4 F	**Discussion 2**	
	Week 3	
Sept 7 M	Labor Day //Federalism	Ch. 3
Sept 9 W	**Quiz 1 take online**	
Sept 11 F	**Discussion 3**	
	Week 4	
Sept 14 M	Civil Liberties	Ch. 4
Sept 16 W	Civil Rights (Equal Rights)	Ch. 5
Sept 18 F	**Discussion 4**	
	Week 5	
Sept 21 M	Congress	Ch. 6
Sept 23 W	**Quiz II take online**	
Sept 25 F	**Discussion 5**	
Sept 26 Saturday	**Paper one due**	**online**
	Week 6	
Sept 28 M	The Presidency	Ch. 7
Sept 30	Executive Branch	Ch. 8
Okt 2 F		
	Week 7	
Okt 5 M		
Okt 7 W		
Okt 9 F		
	Week 8	
Okt 12 M	The Judiciary	Ch. 9
Okt 14 W	**Quiz III take online**	
Okt 16 F	**Discussion 6**	

	Week 9	
Okt 19 M	Public Opinion/Political Socialization	Ch. 10
Okt 21 W	Political Parties	Ch.11
Okt 23 F	**Discussion 7**	
	Week 10	
Okt 26 M	Elections and Voting	Ch. 12
Okt 28 W	**Quiz IV take online**	
Okt 30 F	**Discussion 8**	
	Week 11	
Nov 2 M	The News Media	Ch. 13
Nov 4 W	Interest Groups	Ch. 14
Nov 6 F	**Discussion 9**	
Nov 7 Saturday	**Paper two due**	**Online**
	Week 12	
Nov 9 M	Social and Economic Policy	Ch. 15
Nov 11 W	**Quiz V take online**	
Nov 13 F	**Discussion 10**	
	Week 13	
Nov 16 M	Foreign and Economic Policy	Ch. 16
Nov 18 W		
Nov 20 F		
	Week 14	
Nov 23 M	**Thanksgiving Holidays**	
Nov 25 W	**Thanksgiving Holidays**	
Nov 27 F	**Thanksgiving Holidays**	
Nov 30 M		
Dec 2 W		**Project-Photo Essay due**
Dec 4 F		**Misc. due**
	Week 16	
Dec 9 M		
Dec 11 W	**Quiz VI take online**	
Dec 13 F		

Modifications in this schedule are possible. They will be appropriately announced.

Subject: Excessive absences and final grade. *No A grade can be earned if a student has excessive absences. Meaning, an A grade will be lowered to a B, policy does not affect B,C,D grades or not attempting all assignments.*

Have a plan

Consider the following for this course and in life
1. WHAT (what are we doing?)
2. WHY (why are we doing this?)
3. HOW (how are we doing this?)

What are we doing in this course--learning …?
Why are we taking this course, because …
How are we going to cover this course?

Students, one must have curiosity, in order for one's imagination to flourish.

For a greater life experience, you need the following: (1) a purpose in life; (2) goals, a passion, a plan;   which ultimately will give meaning to your life.

Explain. You have LOVE and you have work/your job/your passion, but you only have one heart. So, with one heart can you find both love, your passion and be successful?