



To access COVID-19 information, please visit the [Stay Healthy Lions Webpage](#).

**PSCI 2305—OCW Federal Government**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2021 –Term 2**

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: Shaonda Gathright  
Office Location: Online  
Office Hours: Email or Telephone or Virtual by Appointment  
Office Phone: 972-983-9676 (text in emergencies only)  
University Email Address: Shaonda.Gathright@tamuc.edu  
Preferred Form of Communication: **email**  
Communication Response Time: 24 hours, except weekends

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Materials**

This course has been designed using Open Educational Resources (OER). All materials are embedded within the course and are accessible via the internet. After taking the pretest, students are encouraged to bookmark, download, or save materials provided via the internet for use during quizzes, assignments, and projects in this class. You can read online or download in a pdf here: <https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-2e>

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Designed to introduce the students to the principles and functions of the government of the United States, this course examines the principles underlying the development of the U.S. Constitution, and the opportunities and constraints imposed by and on the political system in the U.S. Topics will include the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. Federal bureaucratic agencies, federalism, political participation, national election process, public policy, and civil liberties and civil rights. In addition, the global forces that continue to shape our understanding of the relationship between the people and government will be addressed.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Completion of this course provides the student with the knowledge to:

1. **Critical Thinking:** Students will be able to differentiate between fact and opinion.
2. **Communication:** Student communication will be clear, purposeful, and make appropriate use of evidence, data and technology as applicable. 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.
3. **Personal Responsibility:** Students will understand and practice academic honesty.
4. **Social Responsibility:** Students will demonstrate an understanding of societal and/or civic issues.

## REGULAR AND SUBSTANTIVE COURSE INTERACTION

As a general guide, students enrolled in a three semester hour course should spend one hour engaged in instructional activities and two to three hours on out-of-class work per week in a traditional semester. Students are expected to double this effort of engagement given that this course is being delivered in a seven-week term. Educational activities in this course are designed to ensure regular and substantive interaction between students and faculty to ensure that students are able to demonstrate competency.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Minimal Technical Skills Needed:** Students will need reliable computer and internet access for this course. Students must be able to effectively use myLeo email, myLeo Online D2L, and Microsoft Office.

**Instructional Methods:** This course is an online course. To be successful in this course, all content and course modules should be read and reviewed. All assignments and quizzes (both graded and not graded) must be completed. Please contact the instructor by email for any assistance.

**Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course:** To be successful in this course, all content and course modules should be read and reviewed. All assignments and quizzes (both graded and not graded) should be completed. Please contact the instructor by email for any assistance.

## ASSESSMENT

**Pretest(s)** The course is broken into 3 competencies. Comps 1, 2 and 3 have multiple learning outcomes within each of them to cover the required course materials and objectives. Each will have a pre-test and post-test which has 3 attempts to pass. The Course Project is a required analysis writing assignment. It does NOT have a required pre-test, and only has 3 attempts broken down as follows: First attempt possible 100 points. If it needs edits: second attempt possible 90 points; last attempt possible 80 points. Pre-tests are graded yet DO NOT average into your final grade.

**Project(s)** This course project is a culminating writing analysis which will demonstrate the knowledge the student has obtained through the previous competencies. The learning objective is to evaluate the student's ability to think critically about the topic being explored and demonstrate a mastery of the elements of the project requirements. The student may access the requirements and instructions at any time. However, you **MUST** pass competency one and two before submitting. It does count toward the final grade.

**Posttests(s)** Competency 1-3 **EACH** has a post-test mastery demonstration. This will consist of a combination of multiple choice, true/false, paragraph responses and essay formatted questions (which are prepared in advance). Specific instructions will be outlined in the Post-test module of each competency. These post-tests are timed and instructions are noted when you enter the test. Grading is 24-48 hours at which time you will receive the final competency grade and if passed, the password to the next competency. **You must PASS the previous competency before you can move on to the next competency.** The point scale grading for each competency post-test is on a scale from 0-100 points. The required **MINIMUM** passing score for any competency in all competency-based majors is 80%.

## GRADING

A score of 80% or higher on both the Culminating Project and Posttest is required to demonstrate competency and receive credit for the course. The following items will be used to calculate the final grade in the course.

Item	Worth
Posttest	100 points
Culminating Project	100 points
<b>Total</b>	<b>200 points</b>

### Grading Scale

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

F = 79% or Below

## 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 the technical requirements

Learning Management System (LMS) Requirements:

View the [Learning Management System Requirements Webpage](#).

LMS Browser Support:

Learn more on the [LMS Browser Support Webpage](#).

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

Visit the [Virtual Classroom Requirements Webpage](#).

## 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](mailto: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.

## **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 on the [Brightspace Support Webpage](#).

## **Interaction with Instructor Statement**

This is an online course; therefore, expect most communication to be online as well. Correspondence will always be through university email (your “myLeo” mail) and announcements in myLeo online (D2L). The instructor will make every effort to respond to emails within 24 provided the correspondence follows the requirements listed below. Students are encouraged to check university email daily.

## **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 online in the [Student Guidebook](#).

Students should also consult the [Rules of Netiquette Webpage](#) for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum.

### **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy, please view the [Attendance Webpage](#) and the [Class Attendance Policy](#)

### **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 Policy](#)  
[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

### **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  
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

### **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.

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.

### **Counseling Services**

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel).

### **COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

<b>Learning Objectives and Competencies</b>	<b>Materials to Read or Review</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• LO1: The student will explore the types of government systems, as well as identify historical political milestones which have developed the current institutions and political culture and political thinking</li><li>• Competency One</li></ul>	Textbook reading; videos, and PowerPoint presentation	Read the material for the week. Answer any discussion questions. Complete the module post-test. (Required)
LO1: explore the development of the U.S. Constitution by	Text book readings; multimedia videos	Read the material for the week.

<b>Learning Objectives and Competencies</b>	<b>Materials to Read or Review</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
<p>exploring the main features of The Articles of Confederation, summarizing the core features and powers of the U.S. government under the Constitution and how is the Constitution amended.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competency One</li> </ul>		<p>Answer any discussion questions. Complete the module post-test (Required)</p>
<p>LO2: students will analyze the relationship between the national government and the states by studying the origins and development of the federal system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competency One</li> </ul>	<p>Text book readings; multimedia videos, PowerPoint presentation</p>	<p>Read the material for the week. Answer any discussion questions. Complete the module post-test (Required)</p>
<p>LO3: The student will describe and analyze the institutions involved in the three branches of federal government, as well as analyze the functions of the federal bureaucratic agencies and their purpose.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competency Two</li> </ul>	<p>Text book readings; multimedia videos</p>	<p>Read the material for the week. Answer any discussion questions. Complete the module post-test (Required)</p>
<p>LO4: The student will be able to identify current public policy issues of national and statewide concern and evaluate the processes involved in developing and funding public policy. In addition, the analysis of political parties and their importance, and processes and specifics of U.S. elections, media and public opinion influence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competency Three</li> </ul>	<p>Text book readings; multimedia videos</p>	<p>Read the material for the week. Answer any discussion questions. Complete the module post-test (Required)</p>
<p>LO5: to evaluate the student's</p>		<p><b>Submit Culminating Project.</b></p>

<b>Learning Objectives and Competencies</b>	<b>Materials to Read or Review</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
<p>ability to think critically about the topic being explored and demonstrate a mastery of the elements of the project requirements</p> <p>Demonstrate mastery of all learning objectives in the creation of a project analysis</p>		