



# A&M-COMMERCE

## PSCI 2305 – United States Government COURSE SYLLABUS

Term: Spring I

Year: 2024

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

**Instructor:** Waltman-Payne

**Office Location:** Online, Remote

**Office Hours:** Email, Telephone, or Virtual Appointment

**Office Phone:** 940.390.8100

**University Email Address:** Kelly.Payne@tamuc.edu

**Preferred Form of Communication:** Email

**Communication Response Time:** 24 Hours or Less

### Instructor Notes:

### COURSE INFORMATION

#### Materials

This course has been designed using Open Educational Resources (OER) and/or materials that are available through the [Waters Library](#). All materials are embedded within the course or are accessible via the internet or accessible through the Waters Library resource portal. After taking the pretest, students are encouraged to bookmark, download, or save materials provided via the internet for use with assignments and projects in this class.

#### Supplemental Materials

Links and files will be provided in the document sharing tab within the course.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Designed to introduce the students to the principles and function of the government of the United States, this course examines the principles underlying the development of the U.S. Constitution, the operations of the U.S. government under the Constitution, and the opportunities and constraints imposed by and on the political system in the U.S. Topics to be covered include the philosophical preconditions of the American experiment in self-government with justice, the documentary history of American government, the actual function and practice of government under the Constitution, and the actors engaged in the American political system.

## STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. **Critical Thinking:** Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances, data, texts, or art.
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. Students should review all feedback or notes given in pre- or posttests. All assignments and quizzes (both graded and not graded) should be completed. Please contact the instructor by email for any assistance.

## ASSESSMENT

This course is a competency-based educational model designed course and is broken into 3 Competency areas and 1 Course Project. You must pass each competency with a minimum of 80% to pass the course. Please review the Course Welcome Document for a more in-depth overview of competencies and instructions.

**Pretests** • The pretests evaluate what your current knowledge is on the subject matter. This is a baseline to help identify what your strengths and weaknesses are within the content of the competency. This identifies what you need to study for the post-test.

- Pretests are graded but do not average into your final grade.
- They should be done without looking up answers. Do not feel embarrassed if you don't know all or any of the questions posed in the pretests. Pretests are designed to direct you to your deficiencies. Think of it as a tool to pinpoint areas for improvement. • Since the materials in this course build upon one another, you must pass the current competency posttest before moving to the next competency.

## Posttests

- Competencies 1-3 EACH have a posttest mastery demonstration.
- Posttests consist of a combination of multiple choice, true/false, and short essay responses. Specific instructions will be outlined in the posttest module of each competency.
- These posttests have a time limit (1.5hrs), and you will receive a preliminary score after submission.
- The remainder of the posttest (short answer/essay questions) will be graded within 24-48 hours, at which time you will receive the final competency grade and if passed, the password to the next competency.
- The point scale grading for each competency posttest is on a scale from 0-100 points. The required MINIMUM passing score for any competency posttest is 80%.
- For each Competency's Posttest, you have THREE attempts to reach the minimum passing score of 80%.

## Course Project

- The Course Project is a case study analysis writing assignment. The specific instructions and details are outlined in the Course Project module in D2L.
- This assignment is a comprehensive analysis of information, themes, and concepts covered in the coursework and is to be completed after passing Competencies 1 & 2.
- The point scale grading for this project will be based on a 0-100-point scale with an essay grading rubric identified in the competency instructions. The required minimum passing score for this project is 80%.
- Students have 3 attempts to score 80% or higher.

## GRADING

A score of 80% or higher on Competency 1-3 posttests and the Course Project 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. Pretests and any failed posttest attempts are not averaged into your final grade.

Item	Worth
Competency 1 Posttest	25%
Competency 2 Posttest	25%
Competency 3 Posttest	25%
Course Project	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Grading Scale

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

F = 79% or Below

### Acceleration Process

Students enrolled in competency-based education courses in the College of Innovation and Design are permitted to accelerate from one CBE course to another during a seven-week academic term under

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certain conditions. The request to accelerate from one course to another must be initiated by the student upon successful completion of currently enrolled CBE courses. Students are responsible for maintaining communication with faculty and their assigned advisor(s) throughout the acceleration process. Students who fail a course or who drop/withdraw from a CBE course are not eligible for acceleration. Student may only request permission to accelerate in one course at a time. Request to accelerate is initiated and completed by 5:00 pm CST on the fifth Friday of a seven-week academic term.

**If you are planning to accelerate, the DUE DATE if you want feedback and a chance for revisions: Wednesday of week 5. Failure to submit all required assignments before the 5<sup>th</sup> Friday may result in your inability to accelerate.**

### **Process**

1. Student successfully completes all required coursework in their CBE courses(s) with a grade of "A" or "B."
2. Student receives emailed verification from the assigned instructor that the course has been satisfactorily completed (Grade of A or B only).
3. Student contacts assigned advisor to provide proof of completion and discuss eligibility for acceleration into another course.

## **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 D2L (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.

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**All emails from students should include:**

- **Course name and subject in the subject line (ex. PSCI 2305 – Posttest) •**
- Salutation**
- **Proper email etiquette (no “text” emails – use proper grammar and punctuation) • Student name and CWID after the body of the email**

## **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 their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

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

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

### **CID Policy on Academic Integrity**

Academic dishonesty includes cheating, complicity in cheating, multiple submissions (or substantial portions) of the same work for credit without authorization, submitting another's work, plagiarism, submitting algorithmically (AI) plagiarized work, and other acts that may reasonably be called academic dishonesty.

- Students who commit academic dishonesty will receive a grade of 0 for the assignment in the course and be issued a Written Warning that is reported to the CID Assistant Dean's office and listed in a database.
- If the student does NOT have a previous Written Warning for academic dishonesty reported in CID courses and has additional attempts available for the assignment, the student may resubmit the assignment (this applies to CBE courses only).
- If the student has a Written Warning of academic dishonesty reported in CID courses, the student may NOT resubmit the assignment, and the instructor will follow the procedure detailed in [Policy 13.99.99.R0.03](#) for Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty and report the incident to the Provost Office.

## **Use of Artificial Intelligence**

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

## **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.

## **Counseling Center**

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)

## **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

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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.

### COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

<b>Learning Objectives and Competencies</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
Competency 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● American Political Culture &amp; Political Thinking</li> <li>● United States Constitution</li> <li>● Federalism</li> <li>● Civil Liberties &amp; Civil Rights</li> </ul>	Complete Competency 1 Pretest  Review and read the material for Competency 1  Complete Competency 1 Posttest
Competency 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Legislative Branch (Congress)</li> <li>● Executive Branch (President)</li> <li>● Judicial Branch (Supreme Court) ● Federal Bureaucracy</li> </ul>	Complete Competency 2 Pretest  Review and read the material for Competency 2  Complete Competency 2 Posttest
Competency 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Federal Public Policy</li> <li>● The Media &amp; Public Opinion</li> <li>● Political Parties &amp; Campaigns</li> <li>● Elections, Voting, &amp; Participation</li> </ul>	Complete Competency 3 Pretest  Review and read the material for Competency 3  Complete Competency 3 Posttest
Course Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Demonstrate mastery of course concepts, themes, and learning objectives in creation and submission of a written assignment.</li> </ul>	Submit Culminating Course Project (must pass Competencies 1 & 2 before submission)