



Federal Government-14466 GOVT-2305

F8B 2023 Section 0003 3 Credits 10/16/2023 to 12/17/2023 Modified 10/15/2023

Our Vision

Houston Community College shapes the future for all students with innovative, affordable, timely, responsive, and continuously improving educational programs and services. Partnered with the communities we serve, we take a defining role in regional economic, workforce, and social development.

<https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/>)

Course Meetings

Course Modality

The modality of this course is Online Anytime (WW). This course is classified as an F8B, meaning that it is an 8-week course in the 2nd half of the semester.

Meeting Times

We will not meet on a regular schedule, but once or twice during the course of the semester, I may schedule a Webex (Virtual) Conference with individual students or with the entire class.

Welcome and Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. William Clay McFaden

Email: william.mcfaden@hccs.edu

Office: Alief Campus Rm. C-422 (4th Floor) or Northline Campus Rm. 320 (3rd Floor)-- By appointment

Phone: 713-718-8954, but I ask that you not call because I rarely check my messages because I am not teaching at this location and may only visit my office once or twice during the semester

Website: <https://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/william.mcfaden>
<https://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/william.mcfaden>.

You can contact me in two different ways: 1) via my HCCS email (william.mcfaden@hccs.edu), or 2) via the email system that is provided on Canvas.

Please feel free to email to discuss any concerns you may have, or to discuss the material in the course, or to just talk politics.

Office Hours

By appointment

Webex Conference or In-Person

Via an online Webex Conference is probably the most convenient place to meet. We just have to agree to a mutually convenient time. If you want to meet in person, I have offices at the Alief-Hayes and Northline campuses, and we can meet at one of these two locations at a mutually convenient time.

William McFaden

Email: william.mcфaden@hccs.edu

What's Exciting About This Course

Welcome everyone! I hope to teach you to appreciate the system of government we have in America. We have a design of government that checks against the rise of a dictator. Elections are an important part of our democracy, but a quick review of history will reveal that plenty of dictators have been legitimately elected by their people, so more than elections are needed to keep a people free. Separation of powers and civil liberties (our freedoms) are equally necessary to a free society. We will discuss this and more. I hope you enjoy the class!!

Preferred Method of Contact

My preferred method of contact is email, either via the HCC system or Canvas. Alternatively, I can also schedule a Webex Conference at a mutually convenient time, and I will arrange a time and location where we can meet at the high school (this will be announced on Canvas).

As for my office phone number, you can call me (713-718-8954), but I don't check my messages very often (because I receive so few calls and I will not be teaching classes where this phone is located this semester), so leaving a message on my phone is not the best way to contact me.

Office Hours

If meeting after class is not an option for you, I can schedule Webex Audio/Video Conferences that is mutually convenient to both of us.

Course Overview

GOVT 2305 - Federal Government

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.

Requisites

You must have passed ENGL 1301 (Composition I) or be co-enrolled in ENGL 1301 as a corequisite.

◎ Core Curriculum Objectives (CCOs)

This course satisfies the Government/Political Science requirement in the HCCS core curriculum. The HCCS Government Program Committee has specified that the course addresses 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

Empirical/Quantitative Skills—to include manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions

Teamwork—to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal

Personal Responsibility—to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making

Social Responsibility—to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

■ Student Learning Outcomes and Objectives

Course Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

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.

Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Define and relate critical course concepts to contemporary issues in government and politics.
- Describe and assess the importance of civic engagement in the representative democratic structures of national, state, or local governments.

- Evaluate different kinds of data used in the study of government and politics.
- Articulate their own positions on contemporary issues in government and politics.

Departmental Practices and Procedures

Program-Specific Student Success Information

Expect to spend at least twice as many hours per week outside of class as you do in class reading, studying the course content, and preparing discussions and assignments. Additional time will be required for written assignments. The assignments provided will help you use your study hours wisely. Successful completion of this course requires a combination of the following:

- Reading the textbook
- Attending class in person or online
- Completing assignments
- Participating in class activities, including discussions

Success in this course requires reading (and re-reading) and studying the material using the course objectives as a guide. Time management is important because on time completion and submission of your work is expected. Here is a [link to videos the department made to help you with studying, notetaking, and reading textbooks.](#)

[\(https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MEHrjf4xanKKp1f8r6B0zOH6KonG1iKWyqh4p3fEoI/edit?
usp=sharing\)](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MEHrjf4xanKKp1f8r6B0zOH6KonG1iKWyqh4p3fEoI/edit?usp=sharing)

Instructional Materials and Resources

Instructional Materials

The [HCC Online Bookstore](https://hccs.bnccollege.com/shop/hccs-central/page/find-textbooks) (<https://hccs.bnccollege.com/shop/hccs-central/page/find-textbooks>) provides searchable information on textbooks for all courses.

This course is enrolled in First Day-Inclusive Access, meaning that you will have access to the e-Textbook on the first day of class. **You have been charged a discounted price of \$50.07 on your fee bill**, however, you can opt-out of this program and receive a refund, but you must act on this by Oct. 23, 2023 (Monday of the 2nd week of class).

Go to the Canvas link, "First Day Inclusive Access Course Material Fall 2023," to opt out.

The reasons you may want to opt out would be: 1) you already have access to the e-textbook from a previous purchase (such as if you purchased a bundle of e-textbooks in a previous course or if you are repeating this course), or 2) you don't want to purchase a textbook.

You will take 3 quizzes over the chapters in the textbook in this course. Exam 4 (the extra credit exam) may be derived from 4 chapters from the e-textbook as well. For these reasons, you may need the e-textbook, but if you want to opt-out and receive a refund, it is possible that you could purchase a cheaper textbook second hand, or maybe just google the answers to the questions on the quizzes (and on Exam 4). I will leave that decision to you.

We The People

Author: by Thomas Patterson

Publisher: McGraw-Hill

Edition: 15th (e-textbook)

ISBN: 978-1265636609

Availability: First Day Inclusive Access Course Materials Fall 2023 (a Canvas link)

Price: \$50.07 (already paid on your fee bill)

✓ Course Requirements

Student Assignments

Here are your assignments, and how they are weighted toward your final grade in the class. I will provide more detailed instructions for some assignments, such as for the two mini-projects; instructions will be posted online, approximately one week prior to each deadline.

Assignment	Due Date	Format	% total
Quizzes	~Weekly	12 multiple-choice questions	15.0%
Surveys (Typology + iSide)	Oct 22 (Sun)	Completion Grade	5.0%
Current Event Analysis	Oct 29 (Sun)	2 paragraphs + citations	5.0%
Exam 1	Nov 3, 4, 5 (Fri, Sat, Sun)	40 multiple-choice, 5 short answer, 1 essay	23.3%
Political Cartoon	Nov 12 (Sun)	1 -2 paragraphs + graphic	5.0%
Exam 2	Nov 17, 18, 19 (Fri, Sat, Sun)	40 multiple-choice, 5 short answer, 1 essay	23.3%

Exam 3	Dec 8, 9, 10 (Thur, Fri, Sat)	45 multiple-choice, 5 short answer – or – 50 multiple choice	23.3%
Exam 4 (Supplemental)*	Dec 12 - 15 (Tues - Fri)	21 multiple-choice	21 Extra Points
Subtotal			100%
Extra Credit Opportunity #1	The Quiz Bonus		1.2%
Extra Credit Opportunity #2	The Writing Bonus		4.5%
Extra Credit Opportunity #3	Exam 4 (Supplemental)		4.5%
Total			110.2%

Your average in the class will be calculated in accordance with the following formula:

Average = (Exam 1 + Exam 2 + Exam 3 + Exam 4)/3*0.70 + (Cumulative Quiz Score—max 60 points)/6*1.5 + Current Event Analysis (0 to 5 points) + Political Cartoon Analysis (0 to 5 points) + Completion of Surveys (0 to 5 points) + Quiz Bonus (0 to 1.2 points) + Writing Bonus (0 to 4.5 points).

Exam 4 (The Extra Credit Exam)

The points you earn on Exam 4 will be added to your cumulative points from Exams 1, 2, and 3. For instance, if you earn the full 21 points on Exam 4, it would be the equivalent of adding 7 points to each of your first 3 exam scores. Here is the formula I will use to calculate your exam average:

Exam Average = (Exam 1 + Exam 2 + Exam 3 + Exam 4)/3

The Quiz Bonus

You may be able to add as many as 1.2 points of extra credit to your average in the class by scoring exceptionally well on your quizzes.

You will have 12 questions per quiz, each counting one point, so over the course of 6 quizzes (presuming I assign 6 quizzes), you could potentially score 72 cumulative points. After summing your scores on all quizzes, if your cumulative points sum to more than 60 points (presuming I assign 6 quizzes), you will earn extra credit.

Your cumulative score is the sum of your scores on each quiz, e.g., Quiz 1 score + Quiz 2 score + ... + Quiz 6 score. Your quiz bonus is calculated as follows:

$$(\text{Cumulative Quiz Score} - 60) * 0.1.$$

If you score less than 60 cumulative points, then you will earn no points for your Quiz Bonus.

Quiz Score

Your quiz score in the class will be calculated in accordance with the following formula:

$$\text{Quiz Score} = (\text{points earned on quizzes up to a max of 60}) / 6 * 1.5$$

So, let's say you earn 50 cumulative points on the 6 quizzes, then your Quiz Score would be: Quiz Score = $50 / 6 * 1.5 = 12.5$ pts. The Quiz Score is worth 15% of your average, or a max of 15 points.

The Writing Bonus

You can earn up to 4.5 points of extra credit for writing exceptionally well on your exams essays. The writing bonus will be derived from your average score on two (2) exam essays and on two (2) mini-projects. A perfect score on an essay is 10 points, and a perfect score on a mini-project is 5 points.

Here is how you will calculate the average for the writing bonus: (Exam 1 Essay score + Exam 2 Essay score + Current Event Analysis + Political Cartoon Analysis)/3

Essay Average	Writing Bonus
Perfect 10	4.5 points
9 or higher	4.0 points
Between 8 and 9	3.0 to 3.9 points
Between 7 and 8	2.0 to 2.9 points
Between 6 and 7	1.0 to 1.9 points

Between 5 and 6	0.0 to 0.9 points
Below 5	No points

Exam Format

Exams 1 and 2 will have multiple-choice and short-answer questions, as well as one essay. Exam 3 will have multiple-choice and short answer questions, or all multiple-choice.

Each multiple-choice question will have 4 or 5 choices.

Each short-answer question will require 1 to 3 complete sentences. For your short answers, remember to always define your terms. For instance, suppose the question is this: Is Texas a “red” state or a “blue” state? The answer is “red,” but you need to give more than a one-word (or one-phrase) answer, and you need to provide some reason or rationale. For instance, the answer should read something like: Texas is a “red” state because Texas votes heavily Republican, voting for the Republican candidate for president in the last 11 presidential elections.

Two or more essay choices will be given with each review for each exam, and you will choose one on which to write. In your essay, include an introductory paragraph, two (2) or three (3) body paragraphs, and a concluding paragraph. Use your introductory paragraph as an opportunity to jazz-up the essay; your goal is to make me (your audience) want to read the essay. Make a separate point in each body paragraph and always give examples to illustrate the points you make. Lastly, don’t forget to wrap up the essay with a concluding paragraph –if you feel compelled to give your opinion on the topic, always do so in the concluding paragraph. The essay doesn’t necessarily have to be long but be sure to write transition sentences linking one thought to the next; that will make the essay easy to read.

I will grade the essays for content, organization, and mechanics (i.e., good grammar and spelling). Content scores range from 0 to 4 points, and content will be evaluated according to how well you answer the question asked, including giving good examples and detail to illustrate the points you make. Organization scores range from 0 to 3 points, and it will evaluate whether or not you structured your essay properly, such as including an introduction and conclusion and whether each paragraph addresses one topic, beginning with a topic sentence. Mechanics scores range from 0 to 3 points, and it will assess grammar and writing. As you might expect, the fewer grammatical and spelling errors you make, the better the score you will receive. I will also be looking for proper word choices and sentence structure.

Exam Content and Reviews

There will be 3 exams + an extra credit exam.

Questions on Exams 1, 2, and 3 will be derived mostly if not entirely from the lectures, video clips, supplemental material (e.g., news or topic-specific articles). In other words, there will be no questions from the textbook on Exams 1, 2 and 3.

Exam 4 (the extra credit exam) will be different, with all questions derived from Congressional Quarterly (CQ) articles or from an additional set of lectures or from chapters in the American Government OpenStax e-textbook. Exam 4 will be all multiple-choice, and it is designed to give your average in the class a boost, i.e., E4 is designed to be easy. The content of Exam 4 will be announced later in the semester.

Two (2) days prior to Exams 1, 2, and 3, I will post a review on Canvas. The review will have hints for most if not all questions on the exam. The review sheet will also include your essay question topics.

There may be no review sheet for Exam 4, given that it will be "open book."

Here are the formats for each exam.

Exam No.	Exam Format	Point Total
Exam 1	40 multiple-choice questions	80 points
	5 short answer (1 to 3 sentences)	10 points
	1 essay (5 short paragraphs)	10 points
		100 points
Exam 2	40 multiple-choice questions	80 points
	5 short answer (1 to 3 sentences)	10 points
	1 essay (5 short paragraphs)	10 points
		100 points
Exam 3	40 multiple-choice questions	90 points

	5 short answer (1 to 3 sentences)	10 points
		100 points
Exam 4*	21 multiple-choice	21 extra points

*Exam 4 will cover supplemental material to be announced later in the semester. It is an extra credit exam.

Quiz Delivery Format

You will take all quizzes on Canvas, and each quiz will be "open book."

Exam Proctoring Requirements

I require that you use Respondus Monitor when taking Exams 1, 2 and 3. With Respondus Monitor, you can take each exam from home.

You will need a webcam or a built-in camera on your computer in order to use Respondus Monitor. If you don't have a webcam or built-in camera, please consider purchasing one. You can get a webcam for about \$10 at Microcenter or at Amazon.com or other online retailers.

Another option is for you to check out a laptop from an HCC library, which you can check out for the entire semester. Just double-check with the librarian that the computer is set up with the Lockdown Browser icon, which you will need to access the exams on Canvas.

I will give you more information about Respondus Monitor prior to your taking Exam 1.

Assignments, Exams, and Activities

Type	Weight	Topic	Notes
Exams	70	Exam Topics: 1) Political Polarization and the Presidency, 2) The Curse of Power, and 3) Freedom v. Authoritarianism	You will take 3 exams over different themes, each worth 23.3%. Exam 4 is extra credit. The formula for your exam average is: (Exam 1 + Exam 2 + Exam 3 + Exam 4)/3.

Type	Weight	Topic	Notes
Written Assignment	10	Analysis of a: 1) Current Event, 2) Political Cartoon	Current Event Analysis: Analyze a current event related to American government, policy, or culture, or an international event that involves or may involve the U.S. Political Cartoon: Identify the message of the cartoon
Quizzes	15	6 Quizzes	You will take 6 quizzes that cover the syllabus, textbook chapters, and Congressional Quarterly articles.
Surveys	5	Political Surveys: 1) Pew Research Survey on Typology, and 2) iSideWith Survey on Political Parties	Your typology is a combination of your ideology (conservative, liberal, moderate) and party ID (republican, democrat, independent). The second survey will match you to a political party to which you are closest on the issues of our day.
Extra Credit	10	Extra Credit: 1) Exam 4, 2) Quiz Bonus, and 3) Writing Bonus	Please see Course Requirements for an explanation of the extra credit you can earn.

Grading Formula

Average = (Exam 1 +Exam 2 + Exam 3 + Exam 4)/3)*0.70 + (Cumulative Quiz Score—max 60 points)/6*1.5 + Current Event Analysis (0 to 5 points) + Political Cartoon Analysis (0 to 5 points) + Completion of Surveys (0 to 5 points) + Quiz Bonus (0 to 1.2 points) + Writing Bonus (0 to 4.5 points).

* Instructor's Practices and Procedures

Faculty Statement about Student Success

How to Succeed in this Class

I want you (my students) to learn that success in my class, and in many others at the college level, is about mastering the process. To score well on exams, you need to drill the material into your head through repetition and practice. In this class, that means passing over (i.e., studying) each lecture at least 3 times. I suggest you read each lecture first, not thoroughly, but just enough to familiarize yourself with the topics addressed (and of course in my in-person classes, I will give you a first pass over the material in class). Then, answer the study questions associated with each lecture. This will give you a second pass over the material. Lastly, find answers to the hints on the exam review sheet when it is released two days prior to each exam. Then you will have covered each lecture a third time. In between exams, watch some of the videos (you can find the video clips on last semester's exams on the Learning Web); by doing so you will save yourself time when finding answers on the exam review sheet (because you will need to watch the videos associated with each exam).

Also, take the quizzes seriously. If you do well on the quizzes, it will help boost your average in the class much more than you realize at the outset of the semester; doing well on the quizzes is imperative, particularly if you are not a good test-taker.

Lastly, don't miss any assignments, quizzes or exams. You are almost guaranteed to pass this class if you complete everything; the students who fail this class are those who miss assignments, quizzes and exams.

If you follow this prescription, you will establish a routine and get into a rhythm, gain confidence (and momentum), and ultimately excel in the class.

Missed Assignments/Make-Up Policy

Should you miss an exam, I will allow you to take it at a later time if you have a valid excuse, as well as presenting me (your professor) some proof as to why you missed the exam window. A valid excuse would be a death in the family, attending a family member's wedding, having car troubles, or other similar reasons. Proof would be a funeral or wedding invitation, a car repair bill, photos of your car after a crash, or other forms of evidence. If your reason for missing an exam is private or embarrassing, just tell me that without giving any details, and I will allow you to take the exam later, presuming I get the impression you are being honest.

Academic Integrity

Here's the link to the HCC information about academic integrity (Scholastic Dishonesty and Violation of Academic Scholastic Dishonesty and Grievance):

<https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-procedures/>
[\(https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-procedures/\)](https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-procedures/)

Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited by college policy and the rules of this class. Plagiarism involves using the ideas or words of another person (either in whole or in part) without crediting the source. It is inappropriate to look up answers to research project questions online and then paste them into your research project or the discussion board. Cheating involves fraud and deception for the purpose of violating exam rules. Students who improperly assist other students are just as guilty as students who receive the assistance. If two or more students submit work that is identical or nearly identical, in whole or in part, they are equally guilty of violating the academic dishonesty policy. A student guilty of a first offense will receive a grade of F on the assignment involved. For a second offense, the student will receive a grade of F for the course.

What does this mean? (Here are two examples.)

- Don't take an exam for another student or allow someone else to take an exam for you.
- Don't complete your discussion post or your research project by copying and pasting text from an online site.

All faculty at HCC are required to document these violations in Maxient, a system used to report any student behavior that constitutes a violation of academic integrity, triggering involvement from other appropriate departments.

Professor McFaden's Rules on Cheating

Specifically to this course, I don't want you to study in groups when you find answers to the hints on an exam review sheet. The review sheet that you will receive prior to each exam is so detailed that in most cases if you find answers to the hints, then you have found the answers to the questions on the exam—and thus, exchanging these answers is tantamount to cheating on the exam. If the exam-review sheet included

general hints, as is the case in most other classes, then I would permit study groups, but because the review sheet in this class is so detailed, I have decided to prohibit study groups. This class is easy enough for you to find answers to the hints on an exam-review sheet on your own, provided that you familiarize yourself with the content of the lectures prior to your receiving the exam-review sheet-- and answering the study questions provided with most of the lectures is one means of helping you understand the content of the lectures.

I consider it cheating if you post (anywhere on the internet) or email or pass off to another student by some other means the answers to the hints on an exam review sheet. Posting on the internet or emailing or passing off to another student by some other means a review sheet with answers to each hint helps the "free riders" -- those who don't dig-up the answers on their own or who otherwise have no interest in learning anything. Yes, the person who finds answers to the hints on an exam review sheet may work hard to find those answers, but when a "supplier" posts or emails or passes off by some other means a completed exam review sheet, students ("free riders") benefit who have not put in the necessary work to find those answers on their own. Given this scenario, both the "supplier" and "free rider" would be in violation of this policy. I may require a student to take an oral exam over the exam material in question if I suspect that student of having violated my policy regarding the sharing of exam-review sheets. I may also lower a student's final grade in the class or pursue a case of academic dishonesty if I have evidence against anyone of having violated my policy regarding the sharing of exam-review sheets.

I encourage my students to report incidents of academic dishonesty to me (your professor). I cannot enforce against cheating without the help of honest students, and I will consider rewarding those who come forward to help me enforce my rules.

A Note on the Use of Artificial Intelligence

I consider it a violation of academic integrity (cheating) to use ChatGPT, Grammarly, WordTune, or any other Artificial Intelligence to produce or rewrite or edit a writing assignment in this class.

Student Conduct

Face-to-Face Classes

Simply put, be courteous to other students who want to listen to the lecture and to your professor. Do so by not creating unnecessary noise during class. Specifically, don't talk during the lecture and set your cell phone and text message ringers to vibrate or turn off both features completely.

Texting is the number one distraction in a classroom setting, distracting the student's attention to something other than the lecture or class discussion. Your use of electronic devices is also distracting to other students, so while you are in class, use your cell phones and other electronic devices sparingly.

In most cases, you should use an electronic device in class to look up information on the internet that I have requested or to access Canvas or an electronic textbook or notes that you have prepared for class.

Distraction is part of human nature, and it happens to all of us, but do your best to treat your accessing social media or texting or whatever you do with your cell phones and other devices as a reward after you have done what you should be doing, which is paying attention or taking notes or participating in class discussions.

Your engagement in class is crucial to the learning process, and your constantly monitoring an electronic device for incoming messages or other purposes is not conducive to this end. No matter how boring you find your professor or the material, you have an obligation to engage in class most of the time, and completely disengaging is not proper class etiquette—it is disrespectful to the professor and it undermines your education.

Online on a Schedule (WS) Classes

Students tend not to turn on the video in online-on-a-schedule classes, which facilitates a student to disengage the class. I will not require that you have your video turned on in all circumstances, but I will require you to turn on your video in certain circumstances, such as when you are addressing me or the class.

Government Department Statement

Lastly, any and all communication among class participants must be civil and respectful. HCC Government Department faculty are required to document any violations of student conduct by completing a Maxient report. An HCC counselor will contact the student named in the Maxient report to discuss and resolve the issue it identifies.

Devices

Face-to-Face and Online-on-a-Schedule Classes

In most cases, you should use an electronic device in class to look up information on the internet that I have requested or to access Canvas or an electronic textbook or notes that you have prepared for class.

Your engagement in class is crucial to the learning process, and your constantly monitoring an electronic device for incoming messages or other purposes is not conducive to this end, so please refrain from using electronic devices in class, except when using them for the purposes outlined above or for brief periods when you are distracted.

Faculty-Specific Information Regarding Canvas

This course section will use Canvas (<https://eagleonline.hccs.edu>) to supplement in-class assignments, exams, and activities.

HCCS Open Lab locations may be used to access the Internet and Canvas. For best performance, Canvas should be used on the current or first previous major release of Chrome, Firefox, Edge, or Safari. Because it's built using web standards, Canvas runs on Windows, Mac, Linux, iOS, Android, or any other device with a modern web browser.

Canvas only requires an operating system that can run the latest compatible web browsers. Your computer operating system should be kept up to date with the latest recommended security updates and upgrades.

Incomplete Policy

Incomplete ("I") grades are rarely granted to students. Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis should the student provide a legitimate non-academic reason backed with appropriate documentation. Further, at least 85% of the required work in the course should have already been completed.

Students granted an "I" will have until the end of the next long semester to finish the course. All "I's will convert to "F's" unless the student successfully complete all remaining work as determined by the instructor.

Social Justice Statement

Houston Community College is committed to furthering the cause of social justice. By law, however, HCC is not supposed to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender identity and expression, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or veteran status. I fully support a commitment to non-discrimination and, as such, will work to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication and mutual respect.

If you experience any type of discrimination, please contact me and/or the Office of Institutional Equity at 713-718-8271.

HCC Policies and Information

HCC Grading System

HCC uses the following standard grading system:

Grade	Grade Interpretation	Grade Points
A	Excellent (90-100)	4
B	Good (80-89)	3
C	Fair (70-79)	2
D	Passing (60-69), except in developmental courses.	1
F	Failing (59 and below)	0
FX	Failing due to non-attendance	0
W	Withdrawn	0
I	Incomplete	0
AUD	Audit	0

Grade	Grade Interpretation	Grade Points
IP	In Progress. Given only in certain developmental courses. A student must re-enroll to receive credit.	0
COM	Completed. Given in non-credit and continuing education courses.	0

Link to Policies in Catalog and Student Handbook

Here's the link to the HCC Catalog and Student Handbook: <https://catalog.hccs.edu/> (<https://catalog.hccs.edu/>).

In it you will find information about the following:

- Academic Information
- Academic Support
- Attendance, Repeating Courses, and Withdrawal
- Career Planning and Job Search
- Childcare
- Ability Support Services
- Electronic Devices
- Equal Educational Opportunity
- Financial Aid TV (FATV)
- General Student Complaints
- Grade of FX
- Incomplete Grades
- International Student Services
- Health Awareness
- Libraries/Bookstore
- Police Services & Campus Safety
- Student Life at HCC
- Student Rights and Responsibilities
- Student Services
- Testing
- Transfer Planning
- Veteran Services

Link to HCC Academic Integrity Statement

<https://www.hccs.edu/student-conduct> (<https://www.hccs.edu/student-conduct>) (scroll down to subsections)

Campus Carry Link

Here's the link to the HCC information about Campus Carry:

<https://www.hccs.edu/campuscarry> (<https://www.hccs.edu/campuscarry>).

HCC Email Policy

When communicating via email, HCC requires students to communicate only through the HCC email system to protect your privacy. If you have not activated your HCC student email account, you can go to [HCC Eagle ID](https://www.hccs.edu/email) (<https://www.hccs.edu/email>) and activate it now. You may also use Canvas Inbox to communicate.

Office of Institutional Equity

Use the following link to access the HCC Office of Institutional Equity, Inclusion, and Engagement:

<https://www.hccs.edu/eeo> (<https://www.hccs.edu/eeo>).

Ability Services

HCC strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including long and short term conditions, 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 <https://www.hccs.edu/accessibility> (<https://www.hccs.edu/accessibility>).

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 or Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu.
<https://www.hccs.edu/titleix> (<https://www.hccs.edu/titleix>).

Mandatory Reporters

Under Texas Education Code 51.252 (formerly known as Senate Bill 212), HCC Instructors are mandatory reporters of sexual harassment, dating violence (domestic violence), sexual assault, and stalking. All instructors are required by law to report to the College's Title IX coordinator or Deputy Title IX coordinator all reports disclosed to them relating to sexual harassment, dating violence (domestic violence), sexual assault, and stalking alleged to have been committed by or against a person who was a student enrolled at or an employee of the institution at the time of the incident. Instructors are required by law to include all the information they know about the incident, including the name of the student(s), in the report to the College's Title IX coordinator or deputy Title IX coordinator.

Office of the Dean of Students

Contact the office of the Dean of Students to seek assistance in determining the correct complaint procedure to follow or to identify the appropriate academic dean or supervisor for informal resolution of complaints.

<https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-complaints/speak-with-the-dean-of-students/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-complaints/speak-with-the-dean-of-students/>)

Student Success

Expect to spend at least twice as many hours per week outside of class as you do in class studying the course content. Additional time will be required for written assignments. The assignments provided will help you use your study hours wisely. Successful completion of this course requires a combination of the following:

- Reading the textbook
- Attending class in person and/or online
- Completing assignments
- Participating in class activities

There is no short cut for success in this course; it requires reading (and probably re-reading) and studying the material using the course objectives as a guide.

Canvas Learning Management System

Canvas is HCC's Learning Management System (LMS), and can be accessed at the following URL:

<https://eagleonline.hccs.edu> (<https://eagleonline.hccs.edu>)

HCCS Open Lab locations may be used to access the Internet and Canvas. For best performance, Canvas should be used on the current or first previous major release of Chrome, Firefox, Edge, or Safari. Because it's built using web standards, Canvas runs on Windows, Mac, Linux, iOS, Android, or any other device with a modern web browser.

Canvas only requires an operating system that can run the latest compatible web browsers. Your computer operating system should be kept up to date with the latest recommended security updates and upgrades.

HCC Online Information and Policies

Here is the link to information about HCC Online classes, which includes access to the required Online Information Class Preview for all fully online classes: <https://www.hccs.edu/online/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/online/>).

Scoring Rubrics, Sample Assignments, etc.

Look in Canvas for the scoring rubrics for assignments, samples of class assignments, and other information to assist you in the course. <https://eagleonline.hccs.edu/> (<https://eagleonline.hccs.edu/>).

Instructor and Student Responsibilities

As your Instructor, it is my responsibility to:

- Provide the grading scale and detailed grading formula explaining how student grades are to be derived
- Facilitate an effective learning environment through learner-centered instructional techniques
- Provide a description of any special projects or assignments
- Inform students of policies such as attendance, withdrawal, tardiness, and making up assignments
- Provide the course outline and class calendar that will include a description of any special projects or assignments
- Arrange to meet with individual students during office hours, and before and after class as required

As a student, it is your responsibility to:

- Attend class in person and/or online
- Participate actively by reviewing course material, interacting with classmates, and responding promptly in your communication with me
- Read and comprehend the textbook
- Complete the required assignments and exams
- Ask for help when there is a question or problem
- Keep copies of all paperwork, including this syllabus, handouts, and all assignments
- Be aware of and comply with academic honesty policies in the [HCCS Student Handbook](https://www.hccs.edu/studenthandbook) (<https://www.hccs.edu/studenthandbook>)

EGLS3

The EGLS³ ([Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System](https://www.hccs.edu/egls3) (<https://www.hccs.edu/egls3>)) will be available for most courses near the end of the term until finals start. This brief survey will give invaluable information to your faculty about their teaching. Results are anonymous and will be available to faculty and division chairs after the end of the term. EGLS³ surveys are only available for the Fall and Spring semesters. -EGLS3 surveys are not offered during the Summer semester due to logistical constraints.

<https://www.hccs.edu/egls3> (<https://www.hccs.edu/egls3>).

Housing and Food Assistance for Students

If you are experiencing any hardship related to food, shelter, mental health, or other basic needs areas, please visit the Basic Needs page for resources (<https://www.hccs.edu/cares> (<https://www.hccs.edu/cares>)). You have the option to take the Basic Needs Questionnaire and ask to be

contacted by a counselor for additional assistance or support (<https://www.hccs.edu/basicneeds> (<https://www.hccs.edu/basicneeds>)). Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable doing so.

Student Resources

Tutoring

HCC provides free and convenient academic support, in a large variety of subjects, to HCC students in both an online environment and in-person on campus. Tutoring is provided by HCC personnel in order to ensure that it is appropriate. Visit the HCC Tutoring Services website for more information at <https://hccs.edu/tutoring> (<https://hccs.edu/tutoring>).

Libraries

The HCC Library System consists of 9 libraries and 6 Electronic Resource Centers (ERCs) that are inviting places to study and collaborate on projects. Librarians are available both at the libraries and online to show you how to locate and use the resources you need. The libraries maintain a large selection of electronic resources as well as collections of books, magazines, newspapers, and audiovisual materials. The portal to all libraries' resources and services is the HCCS library web page at <https://library.hccs.edu> (<https://library.hccs.edu/>).

Supplementary Instruction

Supplemental Instruction is an academic enrichment and support program that uses peer-assisted study sessions to improve student retention and success in historically difficult courses. Peer Support is provided by students who have already succeeded in completion of the specified course, and who earned a grade of A or B. Find details at <https://www.hccs.edu/supplemental-instruction> (<https://www.hccs.edu/supplemental-instruction>).

Resources for Students:

<https://www.hccs.edu/covid19students> (<https://www.hccs.edu/covid19students>).

Basic Needs Resources:

<https://www.hccs.edu/support-services/counseling/hcc-cares/basic-needs-resources/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/support-services/counseling/hcc-cares/basic-needs-resources/>).

Student Basic Needs Application:

<https://www.hccs.edu/basicneeds> (<https://www.hccs.edu/basicneeds>).

COVID-19

Here's the link to the HCC information about COVID-19:

<https://www.hccs.edu/covid-19> (<https://www.hccs.edu/covid-19>)

Sensitive or Mature Course Content

In this college-level course, we may occasionally discuss sensitive or mature content. All members of the classroom environment, from your instructor to your fellow students, are expected to handle potentially controversial subjects with respect and consideration for one another's varied experiences and values.

Instructional Modalities

In-Person (P)

Safe, face-to-face course with scheduled dates and times

Online on a Schedule (WS)

Fully online course with virtual meetings at scheduled dates and times

Online Anytime (WW)

Traditional online course without scheduled meetings

Hybrid (H)

Course that meets safely 50% face-to-face and 50% virtually

Hybrid Lab (HL)

Lab class that meets safely 50% face-to-face and 50% virtually

Copyright Statement

In order to uphold the integrity of the academic environment and protect and foster a cohesive learning environment for all, HCC prohibits the unauthorized use of course materials. Materials shared in this course are based on my professional knowledge and experience as an instructor and are presented in an educational context for the students in the course. Authorized use of course materials is limited to personal study or educational uses. Material should not be shared, distributed, or sold outside the course without permission. Students are also explicitly forbidden in all circumstances from plagiarizing or appropriating course materials. This includes but is not limited to publicly posting quizzes, essays, or other materials. This prohibition extends not only during this course, but after. Sharing of the materials in any context will be a violation of the HCC Student Code of Conduct and may subject the student to discipline, as well as any applicable civil or criminal liability. Consequences for unauthorized sharing, plagiarizing, or other methods of academic dishonesty may range from a 0 on the specified assignment and/or up to expulsion from Houston Community College. Questions about this policy may be directed to me, your instructor, or to the Manager of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity.

Unauthorized Disclosure

"Unauthorized disclosure" occurs when any student provides instructional materials and/or assessments to other students in violation of a clear prohibition by the instructor. Examples include: posting assessment items to online sites such as Chegg or CourseHero; asking exam questions in forums like Reddit or Yahoo Answers; discussions of confidential question using Wechat or GroupMe, etc.

Course Calendar

Syllabus Modifications

The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus at any time during the semester and will promptly notify students in writing, typically by e-mail, of any such changes.

Weekly Schedule

The weekly schedule for lecture topics, readings, quizzes and exams is given in the table below. I reserve the right to make changes to this schedule, should unforeseen events occur during the semester. I also reserve the right to change the content of one or more quizzes, if I find an alternative reading assignment that I believe would be more valuable to your education.

I will post a weekly announcement on Canvas. If there are changes to the schedule or to the content of quizzes, you will be informed in announcements.

Semester Week	Lecture Topic	Online Quizzes	Graded Assignments
Week 1 Oct 16 2023 to Oct 22 2023	Polarization Political Parties Public Opinion	Quiz 1 – Syllabus Quiz	Personal Introduction Syllabus Quiz (Quiz 1) Typology Survey iSide Survey
Week 2 Oct 23 2023 to Oct 29 2023	Congressional Elections The Presidency 2020 Presidential Election	Quiz 2 – CQ Article (Polarization in America) Quiz 3 – Ch11 (Congress)	Quiz 2 and Quiz 3 Current Event Analysis
Week 3 Oct 30 2023 to Nov 5 2023	No Lectures – Exam Week (Exam 1) – Friday, Saturday, Sunday		Take Exam 1 at home using Respondus Monitor as a proctor

Semester Week	Lecture Topic	Online Quizzes	Graded Assignments
Week 4 Nov 6 2023 to Nov 12 2023	Separation of Powers Presidential Scandals Congress: Curse of Power Race and Politics	Quiz 4 – Ch12 (The Presidency)	Quiz 4 Political Cartoon (Analysis)
Week 5 Nov 13 2023 to Nov 19 2023	No Lectures – Exam Week (Exam 2) – Friday, Saturday, Sunday		Take Exam 2 at home using Respondus Monitor as a proctor
Week 6 Nov 20 2023 to Nov 26 2023	Thanksgiving Week	No assignments	
Week 7 Nov 27 2023 to Dec 3 2023	US Constitution Civil Liberties and War Controversial Freedoms Capitalism v. Socialism Authoritarian Government	Quiz 5 – Ch04 (Civil Liberties) Quiz 6 – CQ Article (Democracy under Stress)	Quiz 5 Quiz 6
Week 8 Dec 4 2023 to Dec 10 2023	No Lectures – Exam Week (Exam 3) – Thursday, Friday, Saturday		Take Exam 3 at home using Respondus Monitor as a proctor

Semester Week	Lecture Topic	Online Quizzes	Graded Assignments
Week 9 Dec 11 2023 Dec 17 2023	Exam 4 (Extra Credit) Tues - Fri		Exam 4 is an un-proctored, extra credit exam, similar to a quiz
Exam 4 will cover one of the following: 1) Material from CQ Researcher, 2) an additional set of lectures, or 3) chapters in the e-textbook			

Other Important Dates

The drop/withdrawal date this semester is **November 17, 2023 (Friday)**.

If you do not show active participation in the class prior to the **Census Date (Monday, Oct. 23, 2023)**, then you will be automatically withdrawn from the course.

Lecture Outline

Here are the lectures associated with each exam.

Lecture Outline	Description Highlights
Exam 1—Political Polarization, Behavior, and the Presidency	
Pew Research on Polarization	Empirical evidence of the divisions in American politics
Political Parties	A 2-party system explained, influence of 3rd parties, political tactics in primaries and general elections, history of the party system
Public Opinion (an abbreviated lecture)	Measuring political knowledge, demographic voting in 2020

Presidential Elections or Congressional Elections	<p>The influences of Party ID, demographic voting patterns, candidate positions on issues, character evaluation of candidates, as well as campaigning, debates, advertising, and last minute surprises</p> <p>or</p> <p>The influences of incumbency advantage, scandals, midterms on election outcomes; analyses of past midterm elections</p>
The Presidency	A historian's perspective on what makes a president great (or not so great)
2016 Presidential Campaign	Highlights from the presidential campaign – issues, polling, fund-raising
2020 Presidential Campaign	Highlights from the presidential campaign – issues, polling, fund-raising

Exam 2—The Struggle for Power

Separation of Powers	An illustration of how the branches of government struggle with each other for power—examples given across U.S. history
Presidential Scandals	The threat of impeachment in American Politics: Watergate, Iran/Contra, Clinton/Lewinsky; analysis of Bush's scandals; analysis of Obama scandals; analysis of Trump scandals
Congress ("Curse of Power")	Power players in Congress; examples illustrating how the "curse of power" (or struggle for power) has brought down Congressional leaders across recent history
Race and Politics	Brief history of race in America + how race plays into the "curse of power"; examples illustrating how race controversies impact politics and culture

Exam 3—Freedom v. Authoritarianism	
US Constitution	Key concepts of constitutional design (principles of a free government) and influences that shaped the US Constitution
Civil Liberties & War	The difficulty in balancing freedom and public safety— examples from various wars across U.S. history
COVID-19	The response to COVID-19, a public health crisis, has been similar to a national security crisis (some of which are described in Civil Liberties v. War)
Controversial Freedoms	An illustration as to why freedom is so controversial—to some freedom is offensive, immoral, irreligious, dangerous, outrageous, racist —examples given to illustrate each
Capitalism v. Socialism	Free societies are majority capitalist (~70%+ capitalism); Unfree societies have a high degree of socialism (government control of the economy)
Authoritarian Government in Contrast	A portrayal of various forms of authoritarian governments: Saudi Arabia (monarchy), Russia (strong-man dictatorship), China (communist), Iran (theocracy)

Throughout the semester, I will post three (3) lecture series which will cover the following topics: Political Polarization and the Presidency, the Struggle for Power, and Freedom v. Authoritarianism. You will be tested over each lecture series.

Additional Information

Artificial Intelligence Statement

Artificial Intelligence (AI), defined as the intelligence of machines or software as opposed to human and/or animal intelligence, has been thrust to the forefront of matters related to academic integrity. Understand that student submissions of AI-generated work may constitute a violation of academic integrity.

Any **unauthorized** use of ChatGPT, Grammarly, WordTune, or other AI-Generated content to complete

written course requirements WILL be considered cheating. The ability to clearly articulate via written communication in a student's own words remains a vital part of the educational process at HCC. **Students should contact their instructor on what constitutes authorized use of AI-Generated content in this class.**

It is required for students who need assistance with spelling and basic grammar to utilize the spell-check and grammar-check features available in most word-processing software, most of which are capable. Additionally, HCC also offers online and face-to-face tutoring services. Additional information regarding HCC's tutoring services Information can be found here: <https://iied21.hccs.edu/forms/allTutoring/index.html>"

Departmental/Program Information

The Houston Community College Government Department supports students in a number of different ways. These include:

- Government Majors & Minors: Students can earn an Associate of Arts Degree in Government, which will prepare them for majoring in Political Science or Government when they transfer to a university. Majors and Minors—those students who are interested in Political Science or Government—are supported by a faculty committee that will connect them to events, news, and opportunities.
- Careers in Government: The study of Government or Political Science prepares students for work in the public and private sectors by emphasizing critical thinking, analytical, and communication skills.
- Government Student Organizations: The Government Department supports the activities of the *Center for Civic Engagement* and the HCC *Political Science Club*, both of which hold discussions and sponsor events to connect students to politics in the real world.
- GOVT Scholarship: The Government Department will work with students to locate scholarship support, when possible.

Process for Expressing Concerns about the Course

If you have concerns about any aspect of this course, please reach out to your instructor for assistance first. If your instructor is not able to assist you, then you may wish to contact the Department Chair.

Steven N. Tran, PhD
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