

# Fed Govt (Fed const & topics)

## GOVT-2305

Fall 2020 Section 002 (CRN: 11954) 3 Credits 08/24/2020 to 12/13/2020 Modified 08/19/2020

### Meeting Times

Dates:08/24/2020-12/13/2020 Day(s):MON,WED,FRI Time:08:00AM-08:50AM Location:SC-B125

### Course Description

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.

Prerequisite: Meet TSI college-readiness standard for Reading and Writing; or equivalent. 3 credit hours. (A)

This course will be delivered in a Blended (or hybrid) format that will include instruction partially online and partially on campus. Additional testing requirements including proctoring with student authentication, a desktop or laptop computer (not a mobile device), webcam, and microphone may be required. Please copy the following URL into your browser: <http://www.collin.edu/coursedelivery/> for additional information on blended courses. This course will be delivered practicing social distancing guidelines. You will be required to come to campus certain days each week for the scheduled class with the remaining instruction and assignments completed online. Your instructor will be providing you more specific information on which days you will attend class as well as additional information about the course structure in the syllabus.

### Contact Information

#### Instructor: Les Stanaland

Email: [lstanaland@collin.edu](mailto:lstanaland@collin.edu)

#### Office Hours

by appointment only  
online

Given the hybrid nature of the course and best practices regarding the transmission of covid-19, I ask that any discussions with students take place online either through email or through Teams.

### Course Resources

#### Textbook: found through Canvas

We will be using a textbook that is available through Canvas. I will show you how to access it. The cost is approximately \$45 plus tax.

#### Technology: Online access

Since this is a hybrid course, with one hour per week in classroom and two hours per week online, you will need a reliable device with a reliable internet connection. The upload speed of your internet access doesn't have to be blazing fast since we won't be using any data-heavy applications. Phones can be used, but they are not ideal. Tablets, laptops, and desktops make for a better user experience. However, a phone can suffice.

## We the People, 12th Edition

Author: Ginsberg, Lowi, and Weir

This is the e-book you will purchase online.

## \* Course Policies

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### Attendance

In a hybrid environment, attendance is critical because information and assignments are being given in two different ways. Therefore, attendance will be 10% of your grade; I will take roll every week at our in-person session and assignment completion will constitute attendance for the online portion. It is also imperative that a student does not "fall behind", and enforcing an attendance policy helps in that endeavor. You are allowed two in-person absences for any reason, which do have to be disclosed to me. Further absences will be penalized 10 points and will be reflected in the attendance grade. For example, one extra absence will cause the attendance grade to drop from 100 to 90.

If you have a documented medical emergency, then those absences will be excused, even if the illness lasts more than two class days. Lastly, recall that we only meet in-person one day a week.

### Late Work

Only in cases of documented medical emergency will late work be accepted. The expectation is that material will be turned in by the deadline. For online assignments, 11:59pm will be the traditional cutoff; however, computers understand time differently than humans. 11:59pm to a computer means the *beginning* of the minute, whereas we think of it as the end. Therefore, if you attempt to turn in an assignment *at* 11:59pm, the system will not allow you since the deadline will have passed. Please keep that in mind.

### Extra Credit

No extra credit will be offered in the course. You will have ample opportunity to demonstrate your mastery of the course content.

### Withdrawal date

Please let me know if you are thinking about dropping this course; you must take this course if you want a degree anywhere in the United States, plus the tuition you're paying is the lowest in Texas. Since you're already here, let's figure out a way to get through instead of dropping and having to start all over again. However, if you must, the withdrawal date is October 16, 2020.

### Incompletes

A grade of incomplete means that a student is unable, for reasons outside their control, to effectively complete a semester with a grade that accurately reflects their work in any course. To qualify for an incomplete in this course, all of the following criteria must be met:

1. At least 70% of coursework is complete.
2. There is a documented medical or life-changing emergency that precludes completing coursework.
3. Agreement that the coursework will be completed on or before January 1, 2021.

If all three conditions are not met, no incomplete will be granted.

## ✓ Method of Evaluation

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### Grading System

Type	Weight	Topic	Notes
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Type	Weight	Topic	Notes
Online course work	50	online work	The online component of our class is where the bulk of content learning and assessment will occur. Assignments usually include simulations, games, activities, quizzes, and exams. Further grade breakdowns for each of those assessments are in Canvas.
Literature Review	20, subdivided	Lit Review	The purpose of this assignment is to get you thinking about a political science question you would like to answer. I will guide you every step of the way in the creation of this document, which when complete, can ideally serve as a writing sample for a four-year program or other job application. The finished product will be at least 8 pages long. Further instruction will be given in class regarding this assignment. Previous students who have done this assignment say they appreciate the fact that they were "forced" to write because it gave them something they were proud of.
Presentation	10	presentation of research	You will present the findings of your literature review to the class at the end of the semester. You will learn public speaking skills and all presentations will be given in front of classmates who only want you to succeed. This is a fabulous opportunity to gain a skill most people dread. I will hopefully show you that fear is misguided.  <b>NOTE: In the event that Collin switches back to a 100% online environment, I offer you a choice: Give the presentation via Teams, or have the presentation portion of your grade switch to the lit review component. You may only choose once.</b>
Attendance	10	Attendance	Attendance for our hybrid course will include a roll check at the beginning of each in person session (1 per week). Also, and more importantly, each week you will turn in a KWL by each Saturday evening at 11:59pm via Canvas as 80% of your attendance grade. A KWL is a short document in which you tell me, about each chapter's subject material: what you Know (before reading), what you Want to know (what does the reading not address adequately?), and finally what you Learned (after reading). I will use these KWL entries to craft the discussion for our in-person meeting (hence the Saturday night due date).
What Did You Learn Paper	10	WDYL paper	Reflection is a critical component of education, yet we often overlook that part and instead spend as much time filling the course time in with as much material as possible. This assignment will allow you to reflect on what you have learned during the semester. Previous students have also shown appreciation for this assignment as well.

## Breakdown

I plan on taking advantage of the hybrid environment by using the class time for opportunities to learn new skills (or improve upon existing skills). In this course, we will learn how to write a literature review (the second step in the research and writing process) and we will learn to overcome our fear of speaking in front of groups. Our online environment will contain multiple choice questions, activities, and the like so you can demonstrate mastery of each given topic. The grade break down will be the standard; grades will be rounded up as necessary:

A - 90 - 100

B - 80 - 89

C - 70 - 79

D - 60 - 69

F - 59 and below.

You will receive immediate feedback regarding the online assignments and will usually have two chances at each one (except exams). Feedback for the lit review will be ongoing since we are working collaboratively on it. Lastly, the presentation will also receive immediate feedback. In short, you will always know how you are doing in the class and if any correction needs to be made.

## Course Calendar

When	Topic	Notes
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When	Topic	Notes
<b>Lecture</b> Week 1, 8/24-26	Syllabus and Orientation	
<b>Lecture</b> Week 2, 8/31- 9/2	US Constitution	Lecture over the Constitution based on students KWL; chapter 2 work online
<b>Lecture</b> Week 3, 9/7-9	Constitution	We will finish our look at the Constitution; Monday off for Labor Day.
<b>Lecture</b> Week 4, 9/14-16	Federalism	This week we will begin our discussion of the Literature Review. Chapter 3 work online
<b>Lecture</b> Week 5, 9/21-23	Congress	Chapter 12 work online
<b>Lecture</b> Week 6, 9/28-30	Presidency	Lit Review - Annotated Bibliography due by Sunday 10/4 at 11:59pm. Chapter 13 work online.
<b>Lecture</b> Week 7, 10/5-7	Judiciary	Chapter 15 work online.
<b>Lecture</b> Week 8, 10/12-14	Civil Liberties	Chapter 4 work online.
<b>Lecture</b> Week 9, 10/19-21	Civil Rights	We will begin our new skill, Public Speaking, this week. Chapter 5 work online.
<b>Lecture</b> Week 10, 10/26-28	Public Opinion and Political Socialization	Lit Review - Rough drafts will be due Sunday Nov. 1. Chapter 6 work online.
<b>Lecture</b> Week 11, 11/2-4	Election Special!	We will discuss the 2020 Presidential election.
<b>Lecture</b> Week 12, 11/9-11	Political Parties & Interest Groups	Chapters 9 and 11 work online.
<b>Lecture</b> Week 13, 11/16-18	Media	Lit Review - Final paper due by Sunday 11/22 at 11:59pm. Chapter 7 work online.
<b>Lecture</b> Week 14, 11/23-25	Presentation prep	We will use class time to prep our presentations.
<b>Lecture</b> Week 15, 11/20 - 12/2	Presentations	
<b>Lecture</b> Week 16, 12/7-9	Presentations	What Did You Learn paper is due by Friday, 12/11 by 11:59pm.

## Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will: 1. Explain the origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States. (Communication Skills) 2. Demonstrate knowledge of the federal system. (Communication Skills) 3. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice. (Social Responsibility) 4. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government. (Communication Skills; Personal Responsibility) 5. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in the political system. (Critical Thinking; Personal Responsibility) 6. Analyze the election process. (Critical Thinking) 7. Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens. (Personal Responsibility; Social Responsibility) 8. Analyze issues and policies in the U.S. politics. (Critical Thinking; Social Responsibility)

# Institutional Policies

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Collin College has a passion for Learning, Service and Involvement, Creativity and Innovation, Academic Excellence, Dignity and Respect, and Integrity. For more information about Collin College's mission, vision, and core values, please go to <https://www.collin.edu/aboutus/missioncorevalues.html> (<https://www.collin.edu/aboutus/missioncorevalues.html>).

All policies, guidelines, and procedures in the [Collin College Catalog](http://www.collin.edu/academics/catalog.html) (<http://www.collin.edu/academics/catalog.html>), [Collin College Board Policies](https://pol.tasb.org/Home/Index/304) (<https://pol.tasb.org/Home/Index/304>), and the [Collin College Student Handbook](http://www.collin.edu/studentresources/deanofstudents/pdf_documents/2018-2019%20Student%20Handbook.pdf) ([http://www.collin.edu/studentresources/deanofstudents/pdf\\_documents/2018-2019%20Student%20Handbook.pdf](http://www.collin.edu/studentresources/deanofstudents/pdf_documents/2018-2019%20Student%20Handbook.pdf)) are applicable to this course.

## Americans with Disabilities Act

Collin College provides reasonable accommodations, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, to afford equal educational opportunities to all people. Students requesting accommodations under this provision should contact Collin College's Accommodations at Collin College for Equal Support Services (ACCESS) Office. For more information, go to <https://www.collin.edu/studentresources/disabilityservices/index.html> (<https://www.collin.edu/studentresources/disabilityservices/index.html>).

## Scholastic Dishonesty

Every member of the Collin College community is expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All work submitted for credit is expected to be the student's own work. Collin College may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of scholastic dishonesty. While specific examples are listed below, this is not an exhaustive list and scholastic dishonesty may encompass other conduct, including any misconduct through electronic or computerized means. Scholastic dishonesty shall include, but is not limited to, one or more of the following acts.

**General Scholastic Dishonesty** includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts, or omissions related to applications for enrollment, credit or class work, research, or the award of a degree; falsifying academic records; using annotated texts or teachers' editions; using information about exams posted on the Internet or in any electronic medium; leaving a test site without authority; failing to secure test materials; and/or submitting work that is not one's own. Students are expected to record honestly and accurately the results of all their research. Falsification of research results shall include misrepresentations, distortions, or omissions in data or reports on research.

**Plagiarism** is the use of an author's words or ideas as if they were one's own without giving credit to the source, including, but not limited to, failure to acknowledge a direct quotation or patchwriting. In the preparation of all papers and other written work, students must distinguish their own ideas and knowledge from information derived from other sources. The term "sources" includes not only published primary and secondary materials, but also information and opinions gained directly from other people. Whenever ideas or facts are derived from a source, the source must be indicated by the student.

**Cheating** is the giving or receiving of information in an unauthorized manner during an examination or to complete an assignment; collaborating with another student during an examination without authority; using, buying, selling, soliciting, stealing, or otherwise obtaining course assignments and/or examination questions in advance; unauthorized copying of computer or Internet files; using someone else's work for an assignment as if it were one's own; submitting or resubmitting an assignment in whole or in part (i.e., recycling an assignment) for more than one (1) class or institution without permission from each of the professors; or any other dishonest means of attempting to fulfill the requirements of a course.

**Collusion** is intentionally or unintentionally aiding or attempting to aid another in an act of scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, failing to secure academic work; providing a paper or project to another student; providing an inappropriate level of assistance or unauthorized collaboration; communicating answers to a classmate about an examination or any other course assignment; removing tests or answer sheets from a test site; and allowing a classmate to copy answers.

In cases where an incident report has been filed for an alleged violation of scholastic dishonesty, the faculty member is requested to delay posting a grade for the academic work in question until the case is final. A student found responsible for a scholastic dishonesty offense(s) will receive an appropriate disciplinary penalty or penalties from the Dean of Students Office. The student may also receive an academic penalty in the course where the scholastic dishonesty took place. The faculty member will determine the appropriate academic penalty, which may range from a grade of zero (0) on the assignment to failing the course.

To view the Board policies associated with this section, go to [http://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Download/304?filename=FLB\(LOCAL\).pdf](http://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Download/304?filename=FLB(LOCAL).pdf) ([http://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Download/304?filename=FLB\(LOCAL\).pdf](http://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Download/304?filename=FLB(LOCAL).pdf))

## Academic Etiquette and the College Experience

Students and professors at Collin College share a responsibility to promote, develop, and maintain a positive learning environment. Students are expected to show respect to other students and professors at all times. For more information regarding academic etiquette and the college experience, specifically student academic success and seeking out resources, disruptive use of electronic devices, and tardiness and absences, please refer to the [Student Handbook](https://www.collin.edu/studentresources/deanofstudents/pdf_documents/2019-2020%20Student%20Handbook.pdf) ([https://www.collin.edu/studentresources/deanofstudents/pdf\\_documents/2019-2020%20Student%20Handbook.pdf](https://www.collin.edu/studentresources/deanofstudents/pdf_documents/2019-2020%20Student%20Handbook.pdf)).

## Institutional Deadlines

The Census Date is the 12th class day in a regular 16-week semester, or the fourth (4th) class day in a short summer semester. The census date varies for mini-semesters and express classes. Students are required to attend class prior to the census date. For more information, go to <https://www.collin.edu/gettingstarted/register/census%20dates.html> (<https://www.collin.edu/gettingstarted/register/census%20dates.html>).

Students may withdraw from a course(s) with a grade of “W” through the end of the eighth (8th) class week during a regular 16-week semester, through Tuesday of the third (3rd) week of classes in a short 5-week summer term, and through Thursday of the fifth (5th) week of classes in a long 10-week summer term. Withdrawals will appear on the student’s official transcript, but have no effect on his or her grade point average (GPA). Contact the admissions area in the Student and Enrollment Services Office for withdrawal deadlines for other terms.

Prior to initiating a withdrawal, students should contact their professor(s) and/or an academic advisor. Withdrawal from Collin College must be initiated by the student. Students who discontinue class attendance and do not officially withdraw will receive a performance grade for the course(s). Students who need to withdraw from a class(es) may do so online or in person in the Student and Enrollment Services Office at any campus. For more information and withdrawal dates, please go to <https://www.collin.edu/gettingstarted/register/withdrawal.html> (<https://www.collin.edu/gettingstarted/register/withdrawal.html>).

## Additional Support

Collin College is dedicated to providing information and support to students. Please click on the following links for more information and to learn about support the College offers: [Mental Health Resources \(Counseling\)](https://www.collin.edu/studentresources/counseling/index.html) (<https://www.collin.edu/studentresources/counseling/index.html>), [Strategies of Behavioral Intervention \(SOBI\)](https://www.collin.edu/studentresources/SOBI/) (<https://www.collin.edu/studentresources/SOBI/>), [Financial Aid and Veteran Benefits](https://www.collin.edu/gettingstarted/financialaid/) (<https://www.collin.edu/gettingstarted/financialaid/>), Anthony Peterson Center for Academic Assistance ([Writing Centers](http://www.collin.edu/studentresources/writingcenter/index.html) (<http://www.collin.edu/studentresources/writingcenter/index.html>) and [Math Labs](http://www.collin.edu/studentresources/mathlab/index.html) (<http://www.collin.edu/studentresources/mathlab/index.html>)) and [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](https://www.collin.edu/gettingstarted/register/ferpa.html) (<https://www.collin.edu/gettingstarted/register/ferpa.html>).

For any other College Academic Policies, please also refer to the [Student Handbook](http://www.collin.edu/studentresources/deanofstudents/pdf_documents/2018-2019%20Student%20Handbook.pdf) ([http://www.collin.edu/studentresources/deanofstudents/pdf\\_documents/2018-2019%20Student%20Handbook.pdf](http://www.collin.edu/studentresources/deanofstudents/pdf_documents/2018-2019%20Student%20Handbook.pdf)).

## Additional Items

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### Criminal Background Notice

If your program requires a criminal background check, your placement in a required clinical site, cooperative, practicum, internship, and/or licensure/certification opportunity may be impacted. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your program director and check with your licensing/certifying entity, if any, to determine your status.

### Hybrid Class Information

Since a substantial portion of this course will be done online, you must have access to a reliable internet-connected device as well as reliable internet access. Any modern (last 6-7 years) computer should do the trick; embedded videos from various websites are the most data-heavy components for the course, and those aren't data-heavy at all.

Online assignments will be graded automatically, I will have the lit review assignments graded within one week. I will reply to weekday emails within 24 hours; I do my best not to check emails on the weekend, so please do not expect a reply until Monday.

## Additional Instructor Student Learning Outcomes

Learning how to research, write, and present findings are critical skills for the 21st century workforce. However, how can you learn them unless someone will teach you? Many times people assume others can somehow magically perform these tasks with little to no instruction. You will receive that instruction this semester. Your final deliverables, a completed and properly done (ie - not written at the last minute) literature review and its presentation will be items you can take pride in, and in the case of the paper, something you may use on a future application.

## Covid-19 Special Policies

It goes without saying at this point, but the covid-19 pandemic and various government responses have created a situation in which a "regular" class experience isn't possible. Trust me, no one is more upset about that than I. It is nonetheless here, and that creates a litany of possibilities previously undiscussed or even imagined. Therefore, this section of the syllabus attempts to account and adequately deal with any potential situations that may arise. This list is likely not exhaustive.

First, if you ever feel unwell, do not come to class. Coughing, sneezing, and the like will only put everyone on edge. It may not be fair, but it is what it is. You are allowed two excused absences without penalty, so if you need them, take them.

Second, masks/face coverings are mandatory. This is a state and college level policy over which I have no control. Summer students seemed to have little difficulty in adhering to the mandate; I don't envision any problems for the fall either.

Next, if you are unfortunate enough to catch the virus, first off the data suggests you at your young age will recover nicely. However, you can't come to class (obviously) and there are guidelines as to when you can return. If you test positive, please contact the Dean of Students at [dos@collin.edu](mailto:dos@collin.edu) and inform them. Also, inform me and I will also contact the Dean. Please note your privacy will ALWAYS be protected.

Ancillary to that unfortunate event, and while this never crossed my mind, it is apparently a thing: Do not "fake" covid to get out of coming to class. If you use the magic word "covid", the school will want to see a positive result (and a subsequent negative result to get back into class), as will I. Nobody is playing around with this virus, and that's a good thing.

For any other questions, I suggest reading <http://www.collin.edu/covid19/> to get more info. We're all doing the best we can under difficult circumstances.

Finally, if you simply do not feel you want to be in an in-person class, I understand. Collin is offering numerous online-only options for you. However, this class will meet in person for one hour a week under all CDC guidelines regarding coverings, social distancing, and cleanliness.