

GOVT 2305.0U1: Federal Government

Instructors: Les Stanaland and John Eaton

Semester: Summer 2020

E-mail: les.stanaland@utdallas.edu & john.eaton@utdallas.edu

Coursepage: **American Government**

Office Hours: held concurrently with the Wednesday 2pm chat session on Teams

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.

Required Materials

- Technology
 - A reliable, internet-connected device with camera and microphone capabilities.
 - A reliable internet connection. While none of the material we will be using is data heavy, slow speeds can be frustrating.
 - Access to our e-learning course. All material required for the course will be there.
 - Microsoft Teams installed on device (free)
- Ginsberg, Lowi, and Weir. *We the People, 12th Edition*. Available as an ebook; cost \$39.95 + tax. Will be purchased through our e-learning site.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Explain the origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the federal system.
- Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government.

- Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in the political system.
- Analyze the election process.
- Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
- Analyze issues and policies in the U.S. politics.

Course Rules & Policies

- Americans with Disabilities Act Statement: the University of Texas at Dallas will adhere to all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the [OSA](#) office, located in AD 2.224 or call at 972.883.2098 to arrange for appropriate accommodations.

Academic Ethics

Every member of the UTD community is expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. UTD may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of scholastic dishonesty.

- Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts, or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work material that is not one's own. Scholastic dishonesty may involve, but is not limited to, one or more of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion, use of annotated texts or teacher's editions, use of information about exams posted on the Internet or electronic medium, and/or falsifying academic records. While specific examples are listed below, this is not an exhaustive list and scholastic dishonesty may encompass other conduct, including any conduct through electronic or computerized means:
- 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.
- Cheating is the willful giving or receiving of information in an unauthorized manner during an examination; 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; copying computer or Internet files; using someone else's work for assignments as if it were one's own; 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; 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.

University policies

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment for the course syllabus. Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

Makeup work / late work

Since this is an accelerated online course, it is important that students stay current in the work. This course should take no more than 4.5 hours per week. Furthermore, feedback is essential to student success; since most of the feedback will come in the form of answers to multiple choice questions, makeup work will only be allowed in cases of documented medical emergency or other drastic changes in life circumstances. If you feel these exceptions apply to you, please let us know.

Time management is an essential skill to learn, not only for University but for life as well. Therefore, we have a "no late work" policy. The deadlines are set in advance and are known to all. One of the benefits of online education is that it frees students to craft their own working schedule around what works best for them. So you may complete the work at your own pace and timing, but each week's work must be completed within that week. The large number of students makes tracking down late work quite daunting; it is a task we unfortunately cannot do.

Comet Creed

"As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do."

Personal Policies

Communicating with us doesn't have to be a formal affair; however, it is also not like texting your friend about where to meet after class. This is a great time to learn professional communication strategies, especially since the course will be online. Allow 24 hours for us to reply to all emails. Also, kindly put "GOVT 2305" in the subject line of any emails to us. Lastly, we advise to send any emails to both of us to ensure you can receive a prompt reply.

Lastly, we have a 24-hour "no discussing the results" policy. Upon receiving feedback, the grade you get may not be what you hoped, causing confusion and/or anger. Therefore, the 24-hour policy protects us from saying things in the heat of the moment which we may regret later. Many times, after waiting that day, a reassurance sets in that one bad grade is not the end of the world or the course, and life can proceed. After that 24-hour period, feel free to contact us for a regrade; however, the regrade may be the same, higher, or lower than the original grade.

Course Structure

All content, lectures, text, videos, and assignments will be in the e-learning course. We advise that you complete the work on a weekly basis *in the order it is listed in e-learning*. The material is purposefully scaffolded, which means that the "easier" and "low-stakes" assignments are to be completed first so that you can learn and master the material, followed by more difficult and

higher stakes assignments in which you will apply the knowledge gained. **The course week will run from midnight Monday until 11:59pm on Sunday; therefore all work for the week is due by each Sunday at 11:59pm.**

We recommend the following approach to ensure a maximum likelihood of success in this course:

- Monday: watch recorded lecture & take lecture quiz
- Monday - Wednesday: Read the text, using the InQuizitive adaptive learning system to ensure comprehension
- Wednesday afternoon from 2:00 to 3:00pm: Engage (live or delay) in the chat session via Teams to have questions answered
- Wednesday - Thursday: Take the reading quiz
- Wednesday - Thursday: Take the simulation and/or video quiz
- Friday - Sunday: Work on the essay question

If the material makes more sense to you when it is completed in one sitting on any given day, that can work provided you have allotted yourself approximately 5 hours (to be on the safe side) of *uninterrupted* time. Should you choose this approach, we recommend completing the assignments in the order they are listed above.

Method of Evaluation

All quizzes will be graded automatically by e-learning, and you will be able to receive the correct answers after the due date has passed. This is another reason late work cannot be accepted. The written work will be graded on a 1-5 scale. The letter grade moves 5 = A to 1 = F. More information regarding how the written work will be assessed will be posted prominently in e-learning.

Assignments

- 25% Lecture Quizzes
- 15% Reading Quizzes
- 30% Simulation or Video Quizzes
- 30% Written essays

Lecture quizzes are given every week after the content has been distributed to ensure you understand the text and other assignments. Reading quizzes serve the same purpose; since we are not in a classroom, the text and the short lectures (you don't want to watch us talk for 4 hours

a week, trust us) *are* the way you will interface with the course material. Therefore, it is essential that you do so.

Interactive activities such as simulations and videos will be used to engage you with the material. Examples may include, but are not limited to: making decisions as a member of the Federal Reserve or planning a campaign for Congress.

Lastly, the written essay assignments will allow you to critically think about the material and offer informed analyses about difficult topics. This means the answers to the questions won't be "in the book" but rather you will have to critically think about the material and come to your own conclusion. To that end, we recommend reading the essay question(s) *before* the weekly Wednesday chat session so that you can ask any questions about how to craft your answers. Furthermore, we will drop the lowest two (2) essay grades out of the total of 11 questions you will write answers for.

The grade distribution will be the commonly accepted one; no plusses or minuses will be given:

A: 90 - 100	B: 80 - 89	C: 70 - 79	D: 60 - 69	F: 0 - 59
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Schedule

The schedule is tentative and subject to change.

Week 01, 05/25 - 05/31: The Citizen and Government

- GLW Chapter 1
- **Class begins on Tuesday 26 May**
- **Add/Drop/Swap ends Friday 29 May**

Week 02, 06/01 - 06/07: The Founding and the Constitution

- GLW Chapter 2

Week 03, 06/08 - 06/14: Federalism

- GLW Chapter 3
- **Last day to drop with a W is Wednesday 10 June**

Week 04, 06/15 - 06/21: Congress

- GLW Chapter 9

Week 05, 06/22 - 06/28: Presidency & Bureaucracy

- GLW Chapters 10 & 11

Week 06, 06/29 - 07/05: Judiciary

- GLW Chapter 12
- **Midterm grades viewable on Monday 29 June**

Week 07, 07/06 - 07/12: Civil Rights & Civil Liberties

- GLW Chapter 4

Week 08, 07/13 - 07/19: Public Opinion & Media

- GLW Chapters 5 & 6

Week 09, 07/20 - 07/26: Political Parties, Participation, and Elections

- GLW Chapter 7

Week 10, 07/27 - 08/02: Interest Groups

- GLW Chapter 8

Week 11, 08/03 - 08/09: Domestic and Foreign Policy

- GLW Chapters 13 & 14
- **There will be no essay questions this week.**
- **ALL work must be completed by Sunday the 9th at 11:59pm.**