

GOVT 2305: Federal Government Course Syllabus

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Ph.D.: Texas Tech University; M.A. in History and B.A. in Political Science:
UT Permian Basin; 8 years postsecondary teaching experience

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Office Hours: MWF: 11am-12pm; TTh: 10-11am & 12:30-1:30pm; W: 5:30-6:30pm

Times: W 6:30-7:50pm/Hybrid **Location:** DH 216 **Credit Hours:** 3

Objective: The student will disseminate information and interpret the development of American political thought, the origins and development of the U.S. Constitution, federalism, public opinion, and the political process of American Democracy. Additionally, the student will gain an understanding on the institutions of government including the presidency, Congress, the courts, the bureaucracy of the U.S. government, the study of domestic and foreign policy issues such as civil rights, national defense, managing the economy and welfare. All material in the textbook/lectures/Blackboard page is testable and it is your responsibility to read the chapters. SCANS 6 and 9.

Text: *Politics in America*, OC Edition, by Dye, ISBN # 978-0-205-82609 (9th, ISBN # 978-1-256-32047)

Grading Policy:

Quantity	Description	Points per item	Total Points
3	Exam	100	300
3	Current Event News Article Review (CE)	3 CE (40 points each)= 120 points 3 Replies (10 points each)= 30 points	150
1	Discussion Posts (DP)	10 Original Posts (10 points each)=100 points 10 Replies (5 points each)= 50 points	150
Total			600

Grading Scale: A = 540pts and above B = 480-539pts C = 420-479 pts D = 360-419 pts F = Below 359

Attendance & Participation: This is a hybrid course that requires face to face attendance and completion of online assignments. Regular attendance, participation, and reviewing the Blackboard course page is essential to achieving satisfactory progress; therefore it is the student's responsibility to attend class, regularly check the course webpage/OC e-mail, and to keep up with the assigned readings so that participation in class discussions and proper understanding of the material can occur. Please let me know if you require special accommodations.

Course Assistance: If you need technical assistance with the course you can contact the Student Success Center at 432-335-MORE (6673), visit this link: <http://www.odessa.edu/OCGlobal/blackboard/> or go to the "Tools" tab and click "Blackboard Help." If you have a question about the material you may contact me via e-mail, phone, or visit me in my office (E-mail is the best way to contact me and if I have not responded to you within 24 hours it means I did not receive your message so please resend it); You can also check the course chat room (Go to the "Tools" tab, then click "Collaboration," then "Chat Room") to see if I am, or another student is, in it and ask a question that way as well.

Tests & Final Exam: There will be a total of three tests, with the third exam being your Final. The tests will consist of multiple choice and essay questions. All exams will cover multiple chapters, including the Final Exam which is not comprehensive. It is imperative that students complete the reading assignments/discussion assignments in order to be better prepared for the exams- I do not drop any test grades. Make-up exams will only be allowed with permission from the instructor and will be a different version comprised of the textbook's test bank- Exceptions could be made at the Professor's discretion. No study guides will be provided although students will be allowed to use one index card on the test. If the material on the index card is typed, only one side of a 3x5 card can be used; if it is hand-written you may use both sides of a 5x8 card.

Extra Credit: In this age of technology it is imperative that college students master the art of internet research, therefore for every exam up to ten extra credit points can be earned if the student submits to me a summary describing a website they found pertinent to the test material- DO NOT use websites such as Wikipedia, Dictionary.com, etc.- Actually research a site related to the material. The assignment should include the URL, the date accessed, author and/or organization that maintain the site, and 2-3 sentences on your opinion of the webpage. The extra credit assignments are due by 4pm on the announced dates and only one extra credit assignment can be turned in per test. The assignment must be posted in the proper discussion board thread.

Discussion Posts (DP): The student will be responsible for posting ten original posts on the discussion board for this course (If a resource other than the textbook is utilized, then the post and/or reply needs to be properly cited). Original posts must be at least 250 words in length and should respond to the questions posed for each section. Additionally, all students are required to respond to one of their classmate's original posts; each reply should be at least 100 words in length and cannot simply be "I agree" or "Great comment" statements. When posting/replying, it is ok to disagree with someone's comments (that is what higher education is all about), although please be considerate and polite to your fellow classmates- Rude and derogatory comments will not be tolerated and will result in 0 points for that assignment.

Current Event News Article Review: The student will be responsible for submitting a review on their chosen current event news article pertinent to American Government (Current meaning no more than a month old)- Current Event news articles are at a "First Come First Serve" basis meaning that no two students can complete their review on the same news article. The review will be at least 600 words. The review will be a brief summary and opinion of a current event news article chosen by the student, and should include possible solutions and consequences that can occur- It will be graded on topic, content, and grammar. Additionally, all students are required to respond to one of their classmate's posts, each reply should be at least 100 words (Please see comments about replying in the "Discussion Posts" section). You will post your Current Event News Article review (Properly cited) at the designated discussion post thread. Late reviews will be penalized 5% of the final grade for every day that it is late. Below are some items to consider to help your grade:

- 1) Was your review mostly a summary? If it was it should have been mostly your opinion.
- 2) Was your review at least 600 words in length?
- 3) Did you respond to at least one of your classmate's post? If so, was it at least 100 words?
- 4) Did you submit your assignment on time (Remember, 5% for every day it was late)?
- 5) Did you cite your assignment (Link/Title of Article)?
- 6) Did you proofread (How many typos, etc. did your assignment contain)?

Scholastic Dishonesty: Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated and will be handled in accordance to the OC Student Code of Conduct/Board Policy Manual. The Professor has the right to, at his discretion, add or alter any assignments, exams, and or methods.

Classroom Etiquette: Please turn off all cell phones- DO NOT TEXT (Or hold non-course discussions) during class. If it is a necessity that you keep your cell phone on please put it on vibrate or discuss the matter with me before class. You may eat or drink in class...just keep in mind to be courteous to your fellow students.

The OC Course Blackboard page will contain a copy of the syllabus, discussion post threads, and deadline dates.

Tentative Schedule: Your reading assignments on the specified chapters should be read prior to class.

August	24 – Introductions & Discuss Syllabus; DP #1 31 – Chapter 1 "Politics;" DP #2
September	7 – Chapter 2 "Political Culture;" DP #3 14 – Chapter 3 "The Constitution;" DP #4 21 – Chapter 4 "Federalism;" Current Event #1 28 – Test 1, Chapters 1-4
October	3 - Last Day to Submit Extra Credit Assignment for Test 1 by 4pm 5 – Chapter 5 "Opinion and Participation" & Chapter 6 "Mass Media;" DP #5 12 – Chapter 5 "Opinion and Participation" & Chapter 6 "Mass Media;" DP #6 19 –Chapter 7 "Political Parties;" DP #7 26 – Chapter 8 "Campaigns and Elections" & Chapter 9 "Interest Groups;" Current Event #2
November	2 – Test 2, Chapters 5-9 7 - Last Day to Submit Extra Credit Assignment for Test 2 by 4pm 9 – Chapter 10 "Congress," Chapter 11 "The President," & Chapter 12 "The Bureaucracy;" DP #8 10 – Last day to drop with a grade of W 16 – Chapter 10 "Congress," Chapter 11 "The President," & Chapter 12 "The Bureaucracy;" DP #9 23 – No Class, Turkey Day Holiday; DP #10 30 – Chapter 13 "Courts;" Current Event #3
December	7 – Final Exam 6:30-9:00pm, Chapters 10-13 8 - Last Day to Submit Extra Credit for Final Exam by 4pm

Special Needs: Odessa College complies with Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have any special needs or issues pertaining to your access to and participation in this or any other class at Odessa College, please feel free to contact me to discuss your concerns. You may also call the Office of Disability services at 432-335-6861 to request assistance and accommodations. **Learning Resource Center (The Library):** The Library, known as the Learning Resources Center, provides research assistance via the LRC's catalog (print books, videos, e-books) and databases (journal and magazine articles). Research guides covering specific subject areas, tutorials, and the "Ask a Librarian" service provide additional help. **Student Email:** Please access your Odessa College Student E-mail, by following the link to either set up or update your account: <http://www.odessa.edu/gmail/>. **All assignments or correspondence will be submitted using your Odessa College email.** **Technical Support:** For Blackboard username and password help and for help accessing your online course availability and student email account contact the Student Success Center at 432-335-6878 or online at https://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/helpdesk_form.htm. **Important School Policies:** For information regarding student support services, academic dishonesty, disciplinary actions, special accommodations, or students' and instructors' right to academic freedom can be found in the Odessa College Student Handbook.