Federal Government 2305--Web

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SYLLABUS

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To present the basic concepts of politics that will better enable you, the student, to understand American and Texas government and politics.

2. To motivate you, the student, to take an interest in and understand issues and problems facing the United States, Texas, and Odessa or city which you live in.

3. To stimulate you, the student, to exercise your privileges and obligations as a U.S. citizen, through participation in local, state, and national political activities.

DROP POLICY

You are responsible for dropping this class if you quit doing the work. The instructor **will not** do so . Failure to drop results in an F.

DISCUSSION GROUPS

We will have several discussion group topics in this course. The discussions are not 'at will' but are considered an integral part of your learning. The selected topics will be posted online with specific instructions and due date. You will receive a grade for your discussion and responses to the other students' comments. **You must participate in all four discussion topics**. **At the end of the discussion period, you must post your final "Summary" of the discussion topic on Blackboard under "Assginments"--the appropriate unit # and assignment name.** Please see the discussion topics for detailed instructions. To enter into the discussion area you will go to **Blackboard**. Please follow the instructions as given. If you have any questions, please contact your instructor. **Your grade will be based on the more detailed SUMMARY you will write on the discussion topic--elaborating on your initial comments and adding your views based on reading the posted comments of fellow students in the class.**

IMPORTANT: Failure to post a comment on the Discussion Board and/or to post at least one response to another student's comments will lead to a loss of a letter grade.

EXAMINATIONS

There will be four exams, each worth 100 points. They will consist of two parts: objective, multiple choice, and matching; and essay. Possible essay questions will be provided from each of the units to aid in your study. Exams 1, 2, 3 and 4 will be taken on-line. **You will have 50 minutes, after logging on, to complete the objective portion. A 200 point final exam over units 1-10 will be given, composed of all objective questions**. **Failure to take the exam on schedule will lead to a zero unless prior approval is given for exceptional circumstances." It could also lead to the loss of a letter grade.**

You must schedule the final exam to be taken on the assigned day in either the OC Student Success Center or a secure testing facility. Arrangement must be approved by the instructor.

I RESERVE THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE IF YOU HAVE A VALID REASON FOR MISSING AN EXAM. YOU WILL NOT HAVE THE CHANCE TO TAKE A MAKE-UP FOR AN INVALID REASON.

MAKE-UP EXAMS AND QUIZZES

If you are unable to take a test during the assigned time period, you need to contact the instructor ASAP. **Failure to do this will result in a loss of a letter grade on the exam.** Otherwise, there are **no make-ups**. **I RESERVE THE RIGHT TO DECIDE IF YOUR REASON FOR MISSING AN EXAM IS INVALID AND IF I SUSPECT IT IS, YOU WILL NOT HAVE THE CHANCE TO TAKE A MAKE-UP**.

DISCUSSIONS

Four discussion topics will be posted and **mandatory** for all students to participate in as part of the discussion grade. Each question will be worth up to 50 (fifty) points. **Discussion topics 1 and 2 will be posted for one week each and those two summaries will be due at midnight on Sunday. Discussion topics 3 and 4 will generally be posted for two weeks and your responses are due by 1 pm Friday of the second week.**

INTERNET ASSIGNMENTS

Four Internet assignments will be required. Each will be worth a total of 50 (fifty) points. Two of the **mandatory** Internet assignments are listed: one in Unit 6--on Political Parties- and one in Unit 8--on Congress. **The other two Internet assignments can be selected from any of the other assignments listed under web activities.**

UNIT OBJECTIVE SHEETS

Unit objective sheets are included in the lecture notes. They will serve both as guide to what the instructor considers important from the texts, lecture notes, research, and discussions, and what the student is expected to know at the completion of the unit. They will also serve as a good study guide for the exams because the exam questions will be drawn from these objective sheets.

PROJECTS

Additional projects (research papers, book reports, etc.) beyond those assigned are optional. Topics or book must receive **instructor approval**. A written description must be submitted by the seventh week of class. Projects are due **one week before** the last scheduled class A "Project Handout" explaining specific rules to follow and describing how the project will be graded will be posted on line. A project does not and cannot be substituted for a test grade. The project grade will be counted as an additional grade to be averaged in with all other grades.

LECTURE NOTES

Lecture notes for the class, emphasizing the major points of each unit, are available to supplement the textbook readings. These are found on the course Blackboard page under the "Lecture" button.

GRADING POLICY

The final course grade will be determined on a percentage basis:

90-100% = 900 points = A	**Exam #1 100 points = 10% of course grade**
80-89% = 800 points = B	**Exam #2 100 points = 10% of course grade**
70-79% = 700 points = C	**Exam #3 100 points = 10% of course grade**
60-69% = 600 points = D	**Exam #4 100 points = 10% of course grade**
Below 600 points or 60% = F	**Discussion Participation = 200 points = 20% of course grade**
	Four Internet Assignments = 200 points = 20% of course grade
	Final 200 points = 20% of course grade

BONUS POINTS

Twenty points for a current voters card will be given and added to your total point count before the course grade is averaged. Copies can be faxed, emailed or mailed to the instructor.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Online exams and papers are basically open book. However, I would prefer that you attempt to complete them without using the text or lecture notes. Exam taking should be done alone and not a collaborative effort performed with other students in the class or who have previously taken the class. Cheating or plagiarism will result in the grade of 0. **Remember, on your essays and papers, cite your sources and URL sites.**

TEXT

Politics in America, **by Thomas R. Dye, 8th edition, ISBN#: 13-978-0-13-602418-8**

Weeks	Units	Readings: C & W	Discussion Topics (All required)	Internet Assignments (4 must be completed)	Exams (All 4 are required)
1	1. Politics & Political Culture	Ch. 1 & 2		Optional	
2	2. The Constitution	Ch. 3		Optional	

3	3. The Federalism	Ch. 4		Optional	**Test #1-Units 1-3**
4	4. Opinion & Participation	Ch. 5		Optional	
5	5. Interest Groups	Ch. 9	**Topic on pros & cons of interest groups**	Optional	
6	6. Political Parties	Ch. 7		**Unit 6 Web on Political Parties Required**	**Test #2-Units 4-6**
7	7. Presidency	Ch. 11		Optional	
8	8. Congress	Ch. 10	_	**Unit 8 Web on Congress Required**	
9	9. Judiciary	Ch. 13	**Topic on pros and cons of death penalty**	Optional	
10	10. Bureaucracy	Ch. 12	_	Optional	**Test #3--Units 7-10**
11-12	11. Civil Liberties	Ch. 14	**Topic on Civil Liberties**	Optional	_
13-14	12. Civil Rights	Ch. 15	**Topic on Civil Rights**	Optional	
15	13. Foreign Policy & National Security	Ch. 18		Optional	**Test #4-Units 11-13**
Final Exam Week					**Final Exam** Units 1-10**

****The final exam must be taken at the Odessa College Student Success Center or in an instructor-approved proctored testing situation on the**

assigned day.

SOURCES FOR NEWS AND INFORMATION ON NATIONAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT

1. National: CNN AllPolitics.Com and The University of Michigan Federal Government Resources and GovSpot.Com

2. State: The University of Michigan Federal Government Resources and GovSpot.Com

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS LIST

(For bonus points on **the final exam** ONLY.)

For help in determining ***WHO*** represents you and which district you live in, either click the links below **to access the maps:**

- US Congressional Districts
- State Senate Districts
- State House Districts
- Ector County Commissioner Precincts
- Odessa City Council Districts
- Local Board Districts (ECISD, OC, MCH Boards)
- State Board of Education Districts
- Courts of Appeals Districts
- State District Courts Districts

FEDERAL			
Office	**Name**	**Party**	**Term Ends**
President	Barack Obama	D	Jan. 2013
Vice President	Joe Biden	D	Jan. 2013
U.S. Senate			
U.S. Senator	John Cornyn (TX)	R	Jan. 2015
U.S. Senator	Kay Bailey Hutchison(TX)	R	Jan. 2015
U.S. Senate Majority Leader	Harry Reid (Nev.)	D	Jan. 2013 by caucus
U.S. Senate Minority Leader	Mitch McConnell (Ky.)	R	Jan. 2013 by caucus
U.S. House of Representatives			

U.S. House Speaker	John Boehner (Oh.)	R	Jan. 2013 by caucus
U.S. House Majority Leader	Eric Cantor (Va.)	R	Jan. 2013 by caucus
U.S. House Minority Leader	Nancy Pelosi (CA)	R	Jan. 2013 by caucus
11th District (**Ector**, Andrews, Crane, Loving, Martin, Midland, Upton, Ward, & Winkler counties)	Mike Conaway	R	Jan. 2013
23rd District (Reeves, Pecos & Terrell counties)	Quico Canseco	R	Jan. 2013
U.S. Supreme Court			
U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice	John Roberts		Appointed for life

STATE			
Office	**Name**	**Party**	**Term Ends**
Governor	Rick Perry	R	Jan. 2015
Lieutenant Governor	David Dewhurst	R	Jan. 2015
Texas State Senate			
State Senator			
Dist. 31 -- (**Ector**, Andrews, Crane, Gaines, Glasscock, Howard, & Midland counties)	Kel Seliger	R	Jan. 2015
Dist. 28 -- (Reagan & Upton counties)	Robert Duncan	R	Jan. 2015
Dist. 19 -- (Loving, Pecos, Reeves, Terrell, Ward, & Winkler counties)	Carlos Uresti	D	Jan. 2015
Texas House of Representatives			
Speaker	Joe Strauss	R	Jan. 2013 by House
State Representatives			
81st District -- (**Ector**, Andrews, & Winkler Counties)	Tryon Lewis	R	Jan. 2013
82nd District -- (Crane, Martin, Midland, & Upton Counties)	Tom Craddick	R	Jan. 2013
74th District -- (Loving, Pecos, Reeves, Terrell, & Ward Counties)	Pete Gallegos	D	Jan. 2013

Local

Ector County

	Name	Party	Term Ends
County Judge	Susan Redford	R	Jan. 2015
County Commissioner Precinct 1	Freddie Gardner	R	Jan. 2013
County Commissioner Precinct 2	Greg Simmons	R	Jan. 2015
County Commissioner Precinct 3	Dale Childers	R	Jan. 2013
County Commissioner Precinct 4	Armando Rodriguez	R	Jan. 2015
Sheriff	Mark Donaldson	R	Jan. 2013
District Attorney	Bobby Bland	R	Jan. 2013
County Attorney	Cindy Weir-Nutter	R	Jan. 2013
County Treasurer	Carolyn Sue Bowen	R	Jan. 2015
County Clerk	Linda Haney	R	Jan. 2015
County Tax Assessor/Collector	Barbara Horn	R	Jan. 2013

City of Odessa

Mayor	Larry Melton	-	May 2012
City Council District 1	Bill Cleaver	-	May 2012
City Council District 2	James Goates	-	May 2012
City Council District 3	Barbara Graff	-	May 2014
City Council District 4	Dean Combs	-	May 2014
City Council District 5	Roy Hunton	-	May 2014
City Manager	Richard Morton	-	Appointed by Council

LOCAL SPECIAL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS

	E.C.I.S.D. Board of			Odessa College			Ector County	

DISTRICT	Trustees		Board of Trustees		Hospital Board of Trustees	
		TERM		TERM		TERM
1	Lisa Galvan	2014	Bruce Shearer	2016	Judy Hayes	2012
2	Faye Batch	2012	Richard Abalos	2016	Mary Lou Anderson	2014
3	Donna Smith	2014	Ralph McCain	2012	Richard Herrera	2012
4	Tom Pace	2012	J.E. "Coach" Pressly	2014	David Dunn	2014
5	Yollie Wilkins	2012	Ray Ann Zant	2014	Caretha Cartwright	2012
6	Dr. Ray Beaty	2014	Walter Smith	2012	Mary Thompson	2014
7	Donnie Norwood	2012	Gary Johnson	2014	Virgil Trower	2012
8			Tara Deaver	2016		
9			David Turner	2012		
Length of Term	Term: 4 years		Term: 6 years		Term: 4 years	

STUDENTS NOT LIVING IN ECTOR COUNTY OR ODESSA:
LEARN YOUR COUNTY AND CITY OFFICIALS.

OPTIONAL PROJECTS

To replace the lowest test grade. (EXCEPT Final Exam)

PURPOSE: To encourage personal involvement in a candidate's campaign, the election, issue, or interest group activities.

Grade earned on volunteer work can be used to replace the lowest test grade.	
20 hours of work and written report	A - 90-100 points.
17 hours of work and written report	B - 80-89 points.
14 hours of work and written report	C - 70-79 points.
11 hours of work and written report	D - 60-69 points.

OPTION 1: Work in a candidate's or party's campaign and hand in a 2-3 page-typewritten report of the work done, knowledge learned, and conclusions drawn.

OPTION 2: Work for an interest group and contribute your time and efforts to their cause and activities - letter writing, picketing, lobbying, petition drives, etc. (A list of interest groups - including local ones - are posted outside my office, DH 209.) Hand in a 2-3 page-typewritten report of the work done, knowledge learned, and conclusions drawn.

Arrangements must be made in advance, with prior instructor approval.

As to which option is chosen and what campaign or interest group is being worked with and the instructor must be able to verify hours worked, for whom, and the nature of the work. **A letter from the candidate or the organization you worked for must be mailed to the instructor for verification of your work.**

FORMAT FOR ALL ASSIGNMENTS--WEB ASSIGNMENTS & DISCUSSION TOPIC SUMMARIES

- **All Assignments are to be posted on Blackboard under "Assignments"--the appropriate unit # and assignment name.**
- **All assignments must be written in Microsoft Word or RTF-Rich Text Format.**

When posting an assignment on Blackboard under "Assignments" please include the following information in the body or text of your assignment and use the following format:

1. Name
2. OC ID Number (ex.: #0000999)
3. Unit # (ex. 1)
4. Type of Assignment (ex.: web or discussion Summary)
5. Title of Assignment (ex.: Web Assignment #1)
6. Date Submitted (ex.: Jan. 18, 2011)
7. Course (ex.: Govt. 2305 Web)

Failure to include the above information will lead to a one-letter grade deduction on the assignment.

IMPORTANT: ***NO ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED MORE THAN 3 DAYS AFTER THE DUE DATE*** **(All late assignments will lose at least one letter grade.)**

ODESSA COLLEGE CODE OF STUDENT VIRTUAL COLLEGE EXPECTATIONS

How well you do in college is connected, at least in part, to how well you can adjust to the various expectations attached to your new role as a college student. Teachers will judge you by how well or poorly you conform to their expectations of a successful student. These guidelines do not represent those of all instructors, but it pays you to know, ***in general***, what behaviors define a good student. Obviously, I may have slightly different expectations that you should ask about if they are not made clear to you early in the semester. What follows is a general description of what I expect from my students:

1. Good students behave in ways that enhance the learning experience for everyone in the class.
2. Good students are engaged in the class, often actively participating in discussion.
3. They use appropriate language in discussion: no profanity or foul language.
4. Good students practice personal and academic integrity.
5. They do not cheat on tests or other assignments.
6. They do not plagiarize on assignments: hand in the work of others as their own.
7. They do not lie or make excuses.
8. They complete assignments, projects, papers, and exams in a timely manner.
9. Good students respect the dignity and opinions of all people.
10. They do not compromise or demean the dignity of others by taunting, teasing, insulting, sexually harassing or discriminating.
11. They encourage the equal rights and treatment of all students, regardless of age, gender, race, religion, ethnic heritage, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation and/or political ideology.
12. They recognize it is their responsibility to communicate any problems or concerns to the appropriate Odessa college personnel, such as instructors, counselors, and coaches. This includes extended absences, health problems, job conflicts, emergencies, incarcerations, family problems, and documented learning disabilities.
13. They follow appropriate procedures if they a grievance. After discussing the problem with the instructor, coach, or counselor first, they proceed in a hierarchical order as diagramed below, following the steps outlined in the Student Right to Due Process, available in full text from the office of the Vice-President for Student Life.

Grievance Policy - Chain of Command

Student -> Instructor -> Department Chair -> Division Dean -> Vice President -> President -> Board of Trustees

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