Richland College
School of Learning Enrichment and Academic Development
Fall 2015

Note: This is a sample syllabus. Dates will be changed for the fall semester

Instructor: Dr. Michael S. Iachetta
B.A. in English, Columbia University
M.A./Ph.D. in Politics, University of Dallas

How to Contact Me: Email: MIachetta@dcccd.edu

All emails must contain your name and the course and section number of this class in the subject line. I will respond to emails within 24 hours except on weekends.

School of LEAD office: C243, 972-238-6230

American Government 2305.81464/91410 (3 credit hours)

Class meets: This is an online class, and there are no on-campus meetings.

Technical Support: For technical support, please call 1-866-374-7169 or 972-669-6402 or use this link.

Catalog Description: Prerequisite: Developmental Reading 0093, English as a Second Language (ESOL) 0044 or have met the TASP/Alternative Assessment Standard in Reading. This course is an introduction to the study of political science. Topics include the origin and development of constitutional democracy (United States and Texas), federalism and intergovernmental relations, local governmental relations, local government, parties, politics, and political behavior. (To ensure transferability, students should plan to take both Government 2305 and 2306 within the DCCCD). Coordinating Board Academic Approval Number 4510025142

Compliance with Core Curriculum Guidelines:
This Government 2305 Course develops the following Core Curriculum Intellectual Competencies:

1 - READING: the ability to analyze and interpret a variety of printed materials - books, documents, and articles - above 12th grade level.
2 - WRITING: the ability to produce clear, correct and coherent prose adapted to purpose, occasion and audience - above 12th grade level.
3 - CRITICAL THINKING: think and analyze at a critical level.
4 – LISTENING, SPEAKING: focus and participation
6 - COMPUTER LITERACY: understand our technological society, use computer based technology in communication, solving problems, acquiring information.

This course also addresses the following Core Curriculum Educational Objectives:
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.

**Learning Outcomes**
Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Explain the origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of our 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.
6. Analyze the election process.
7. Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
8. Analyze issues and policies in U.S. politics.


**Reading and Writing Assignments:**
It will be in your best interest to study the activities in the textbook and videos by the dates indicated below. Quizzes must be taken on the dates indicated. Quizzes are not cumulative: they only cover the material studies in the activities leading up to the quiz. Please note: the work load in Week 3 is slightly heavier than in the other weeks, so please plan accordingly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>April</th>
<th>20</th>
<th>Government that Protects Person and Property: Activities 1-4</th>
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<tr>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Government that Does Not Harm Person and Property: Activities 5-8</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Personal Liberty: Activities 9-12 (Take Quiz #1)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>(Complete Discussion Forum 1)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Personal Liberties: Activities 13-16</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Personal Liberties: Activities 17-20</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Self-Government: Activities 21-24 (Take Quiz #2)</td>
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<td>May</td>
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<td>(Complete Discussion Forum 2)</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Congress: Activities 25-28</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Executive Branch: Activities 29-32 (Submit Prep Sheet)</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Constitutionally Limited Government: Activities 33-36 (Take Quiz #3)</td>
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<td>(Complete Discussion Forum 3)</td>
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<td>Political Parties: Activities 37-40</td>
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Note: Federalism is discussed in relation to self-government, constitutionally limited government, independence, and constitutional change.

The Federal Courts are discussed in the sections on personal liberty, constitutionally limited government and constitutional change, in addition to the activities indicated above. Congress is discussed in the sections on self-government. Civil Rights are discussed in the sections on personal liberties and constitutional change, in addition to the activities indicated above.

**Course Evaluation Procedures:**

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quiz Average (lowest quiz dropped, no make-ups)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-term Writing Assignment</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Writing Assignment</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation (This grade is the adjusted quiz average plus points earned on Discussion Board)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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To calculate your final grade: add your quiz average, mid-term essay grade, final essay grade, and class participation grade and divide by 4.

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

**Drop Date and Final Grades:**
Discussion regarding an individual grade or final class grade must be completed within two weeks of the grade being assigned.

If you are unable to complete the course, it is your responsibility to withdraw from the course by May 8, 2015

Course policies:

Quizzes and Essays

There will be seven 20-question multiple choice quizzes and a mid-term and a final writing assignment (3-4 pages each)

Your quiz average will be 25% of your final grade. The mid-term and final writing assignments are each worth 25% of your grade.

If you are not satisfied with your grade on the mid-term essay, you may submit a revised copy (with changes in bold print) and receive partial credit for the improvements that you make.

Discussion Board Requirement

You will need to participate in all seven Discussion Board forums within the specified time period for each forum. You must post your own response to the prompt and respond to at least two of your classmates, with each of your posts being at least 4 complete sentences in length. The points you earn in the Discussion Board Forums (1 point for each completed Discussion Forum) will be added onto your adjusted quiz average, and this will be your class participation grade.

Netiquette

To receive credit, all of your Discussion Board posts must:

1. Be at least four complete sentences in length
2. Be respectful (including no profanity)
3. Apply one of the concepts we have learned in the class
4. Use quotation marks if you are using someone else's words

Academic Dishonesty

It is a violation of the student code of conduct to present someone else’s work as your own, whether by plagiarizing or colluding. Plagiarism is presenting someone else’s words as your
own and collusion is working together with others on a test or assignment when this has not be explicitly permitted by the instructor. See the DCCCD student code of conduct for details. Students who engage in academic dishonesty will be penalized at the discretion of the instructor and may be reported to the Vice President in charge of student discipline.

**Syllabus Changes**

The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus as needed.

| Richland College’s Quality Enhancement Plan ~ Learning to Learn: Developing Learning Power | Richland College is piloting its Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) in select classes. The QEP provides techniques, practices, and tools to help students develop the habits, traits or behaviors needed to be effective and successful lifelong learners in college and in life. For more information, please log onto http://www.richlandcollege.edu/qep2013/. |

For Institution Policies concerning withdrawing, repeating, financial aid, academic honesty, ADA statement, religious holidays, campus emergency plans, classroom policies, and disclaimer reserving right to change the syllabus, please go to:

www.richlandcollege.edu/syllabusinfo/syllabiInformation.pdf