Social Science and Human Services Division
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Course Credit Hours: 3
Lecture Hours: 3

Federal Government
This is a Texas Common Course Number.
Prerequisite: The following must be met: (1) DREA 0093 or English as a Second Language (ESOL) 0044 or have met the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Reading Standard AND (2) DWRI in 0093, or English as a Second Language (ESOL) 0054 or have met the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Writing Standard.

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. (3 Lec.)

Coordinating Board Academic Approval Number 4510025125

Course Objectives:
1. Demonstrate knowledge of the basic principles of American and an understanding of the operation of the American political system.
2. Demonstrate an appreciation of the interaction between and among various participants at all levels of the American political system and rights of citizens under the American Constitution.
3. Develop critical thinking skills.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the application of the above material to contemporary American politics.
5. Encourage students to read, think, write and speak at an appropriate intellectual level.
6. Equip students with the tools necessary to become informed citizens.

Student 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.

Overview of Semester/Year
Last day to drop with a “W” Jan. 5, 2015
This class goes from Dec. 15, 2014 – Jan. 8, 2015
This is a self-paced online class.

Ch. 1 American Government: Roots, Context and Culture
Ch. 2 Constitution
Ch. 3 Federalism
Exam

Ch. 10 Public Opinion and Media
Ch. 11 Political Parties and Interest Groups
Ch. 12 Campaigns & Elections and Voting
Exam

Ch. 6 Congress
Ch. 7 The President
Ch. 8 The Bureaucracy
Ch. 9 Courts
Exam

Ch. 13 Social and Economic Policy
Ch. 14 Foreign and Defense Policy
Ch. 4 Personal Liberty
Ch. 5 Civil Rights
Final Exam

Grading Procedures: Students are evaluated on a point system. Points can be earned in a variety of ways. A total of 400 points can be earned from exams. 100 points are earned from discussions.

Students have an opportunity to earn 500 points during the semester. Letter grades are assigned as follows:

450-500 Points......... A
400-549 Points......... B
350-399 Points......... C
300-349 Points......... D

Tests: Tests will be multiple-choice. You will have 1hr 30min to complete the fifty-question exam. There are no make-ups.
Discussion Posts: Each week or so I will post a discussion question. In order to earn points you must post an original opinion and then at least one response to someone else’s post. Good Netiquette is mandatory. Postings should be civil, respectful, show an understanding of the question and critical thinking. Stereotyping, put-downs, slurs, and profanity are inappropriate and will not be tolerated.

Discussion Posts will add up to 100 points (same as a test grade).

Dropping Class: “If a student is unable to complete the course(s) in which he/she is registered, it is the student's responsibility to withdraw from the course by the appropriate date, which is published in the class schedule. The instructor cannot initiate the drop process. If the student stops attending class but does not officially withdraw, he/she will receive a performance grade, usually a grade of F”.

STOP BEFORE YOU DROP

For students who enrolled in college level courses for the first time in the fall of 2007, Texas Education Code 51.907 limits the number of courses a student may drop. You may drop no more than 6 courses during your entire undergraduate career unless the drop qualifies as an exception. Your campus counseling/advising center will give you more information on the allowable exceptions. Remember that once you have accumulated 6 non-exempt drops, you cannot drop any other courses with a “W”. Therefore, please exercise caution when dropping courses in any Texas public institution of higher learning, including all seven of the Dallas County Community Colleges. For more information, you may access: https://www1.dcccd.edu/coursedrops

Student E-Mail:
Legal privacy issues prevent your instructor from discussing your grades on commercial e-mail accounts (like yahoo or hotmail). If you wish to send your request grade information by e-mail you must open a student e-mail account. The account is free. You may set it up by going to www.dcccd.edu and selecting Student Services, Online Services, and Student E-Mail. All students receiving financial aid must open a student NetMail account.

ADA STATEMENT: It is the policy of Dallas County Community College to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This college will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required affording equal educational opportunity. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the Services for Special Populations (room C-246, phone 7032) Office in a timely manner to arrange for appropriate accommodations.
**Scholastic Dishonesty:** If you are caught cheating in any way you will fail the course. You are expected to do your own work. Do not download written work from the Internet and try to pass it off as your own. The College may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of scholastic dishonesty.

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, and/or falsifying academic records.

**Non-Discrimination Policy:** It is against the policy of the District to discriminate against, or exclude from participation in any benefits or activities either on the staff or in the student body, any person on the grounds of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age or handicap.

**Equal Educational and Employment Opportunity Policy:** The DCCCD is committed to providing equal educational and employment opportunity regardless of sex, marital or parental status, race, color, religion, age, national origin or disability. The District provides equal opportunity in accordance with federal and state laws.

**Please Note:** I do not check my email more than once a day so expect at least a 24 hr lag between sending me email and an answer….I generally do not check my email on weekends so it will probably be Monday before you hear from me for problems arising Friday through Sunday.