Eastfield College  
Social Science, Human Services & Business Division  
Spring 2015

**Course Number:** GOVT 2305 **Section:** 43404

**Course Title:** American Government I

**Instructor’s Information:**  
Instructor’s Name: Robert C. Chalwell  
Office Number: Virtual  
Office Hours: Via e-mail, responses will be giving anytime between 9am-12am daily.  
Contact Information: Phone: 954.201.8912  
Email: robertchalwell@dcccd.edu  
(This is the best way to get and stay in touch with me. I try to check email on a daily basis during the week, so you can usually expect a response within 24 hours Monday-Friday. Weekend emails (including those from Friday afternoons will usually be responded to on Mondays.)

**Class Information:**  
Class Meeting Times: This is an Internet (online) class that meets from Jan 20th-May 14th, 2015.  
Class Meeting Location: All course content will be delivered online.

**Course Description:** This course is an introduction to the study of political science. We will study the 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, and political behavior. (3 Lec.)

**Coordinating Board Academic Approval Number 4510025125**

**Prerequisite:** Developmental Reading 0093 or English as a Second Language (ESOL) 0044 or have met the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) standard in Reading.

**Course Delivery Method:** Via eCampus and mypoliscilab.com

Use mypoliscilab course ID: chalwell77777
**Supplies:** Students enrolled in this class **are required to** have reliable computer and Internet access.

- You must be able to READ MSOffice 2007 files. Assignments may be submitted in MSOffice 2003 but you MUST have the capability to read MSOffice 2007 files. You can find links to MS Office and Adobe Reader applications on the web by Googling them.
- You must be able to hear through your computer: some presentations are oral so you must be able to hear files, not just read files. It is HIGHLY recommended that you buy a set of headphones with a microphone attached – although this is NOT required.

**General Description:** This course is divided into four segments and will cover the following topics in each Segment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Segment 1</strong></th>
<th><strong>Segment 2</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Government: Roots, Context, and Culture</td>
<td>Campaigns &amp; Elections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The U.S. Constitution</td>
<td>Public Opinion and the News Media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Federal System</td>
<td>Political Parties and Interest Groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>Civil Liberties &amp; Civil Rights</td>
<td>Campaigns, Elections, &amp; Voting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congress, the Presidency, &amp; the Judiciary</td>
<td>Social and Economic Policy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Foreign and Defense Policy</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Major Course Requirements:**

- Weekly Topic(s) Flashcard Quiz 10 @ 10 pts each (Due Tues 11:59pm) 100
- Weekly Chapter Exams 10 @ 10 pts each (Due Sun 11:59pm) 100
- Discussion Posts 4 @ 100 pts each 400
- Constitution Project 100
- Segment 1 Exam - Midterm Exam 100
- Research Paper Assignment 100
- Segment 2 Exam - Final Exam 100

**Segment Exams:** There will be two (2) Segment Exams. Each segment exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions. Each exam will count 100 points toward your course grade. The material for the exams will come from assigned readings in the textbook, and the MyPoliSciLab [http://www.mypoliscilab.com/](http://www.mypoliscilab.com/) website for each topic. **The exams are to be completed individually,** but are open book and open notes. **Exams will be made available to you through e-campus via the Course Menu tab.** Make sure your Internet connection is dependable (for example, I don’t recommend trying to submit an exam during a thunderstorm!).

**Chapter Exams & Flashcard Speed Drill Quiz:** There will be ten (10) Chapter Exams & ten (10) Flashcard Quizzes. They are found in mypoliscilab. You must complete and pass each with a minimum of 80% correct. You have an unlimited number of attempts to achieve 80% correct. **THE GRADES ARE NOT AVERAGED AS PART OF YOUR FINAL GRADE. EACH COMPLETION IS WORTH 10 PTS. YOU MUST UPLOAD A SCREENSHOT OF YOUR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF EACH EXAM AND QUIZ TO ECAMPUS.**
Discussion Posts: You will access our blog-style discussion board through ecampus. During the semester, I will post four (4) discussion topics. The topic will be open for one week. You should prepare a 150-250 word, thoughtful, well-written response to the topic. **Your post should have an introductory sentence and concluding sentence that ties your post together.** While you may respond to other students, I will only grade the posts that respond to the topic I post. **The Discussion Posts are worth 50 points each and evidence of the textbook readings, current events, your own critical thinking, grammar, spelling and punctuation all count.**

Always refer to your syllabus for inquiries as to the reading assignments and due dates/times of Exams, discussions posts, writing assignments and special assignments.

**Turn around for graded work:** Exam grades will be available 24 hours after the exam. Writing assignment grades will usually be posted within a week of the due date. Discussion post grades will usually be posted within a week after the topic closes.

**Grading Scale:** Grades in this class are **NOT** based on effort or perceived effort. Grades in this class are based on **PERFORMANCE** on the methods of evaluation as described above. Grades for the course will be **earned** by adding up all the points on the above items plus any additional bonus points *(if offered)*. Grades will be assigned based on the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points Earned</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>900-1,000</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800-899</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>700-799</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600-699</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-599</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Grades are not curved!** In other words, 809 points is a B! You should expect to earn the minimum number of points for the grade that you are seeking. Please note that C is the average or default grade if all the work is completed, and it is possible to receive a “0” as a grade on any of the above items.
Tentative Course Calendar:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 20</td>
<td>Chapter 1 Foundations of U.S. Democracy Roots, Context, and Culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tuesday – Introductions, Accessing Blackboard. Attendance Verification (due by 1/25) is registering for mypoliscilab (MPL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 26</td>
<td>Chapter 1 (Flashcard Quiz &amp; Chapter Exams: MPL)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Discussion Post No 1 (Due Wednesday 1/28 at 11:59pm Submit via Blackboard)</td>
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<td>February 2</td>
<td>Chapter 2 The U.S. Constitution (Flashcard Quiz &amp; Chapter Exams: MPL)</td>
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<td>February 9</td>
<td>Chapter 3 Federalism (Flashcard Quiz &amp; Chapter Exams: MPL)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Constitution Project (due 2/13 by 11:59pm)</td>
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<td>February 16</td>
<td>Chapter 4 Civil Liberties (Flashcard Quiz &amp; Chapter Exams: MPL)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Discussion Post No 2 (Due Wednesday 2/18 at 11:59pm Submit via Blackboard)</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 23</td>
<td>Chapter 5 Civil Rights (Flashcard Quiz &amp; Chapter Exams: MPL)</td>
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<td>Midterm Segment Exam (Due Friday 3/26 by 11:59pm)</td>
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<td>March 1</td>
<td>Chapter 6 Congress (Flashcard Quiz &amp; Chapter Exams: MPL)</td>
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<td>March 9-13</td>
<td>Spring Break No Assignments</td>
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<td>March 16</td>
<td>Chapter 7 The Presidency (Flashcard Quiz &amp; Chapter Exams: MPL)</td>
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<td>Discussion Post No 3 (Due Wednesday 3/18 at 11:59pm Submit via Blackboard)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 23</td>
<td>Chapter 8 The Executive Branch and the Federal Bureaucracy</td>
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<td>Midterm Exam - Segment Exam 1 (due Sunday 3/27 by 11:59pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 30</td>
<td>Chapter 9 The Judiciary (Flashcard Quiz &amp; Chapter Exams: MPL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 6</td>
<td>Chapter 10 Public Opinion and The News Media (Flashcard Quiz &amp; Chapter Exams: MPL)</td>
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<td>April 13</td>
<td>Chapter 11 Political Parties</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Discussion Post No 4 (Due Wednesday 4/15 at 11:59pm Submit via Blackboard)</td>
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<td>April 16th Last Day to Withdraw with a “W”</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 20</td>
<td>Chapter 12 Campaigns, Elections and Voting</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 27</td>
<td>Chapter 13 Social &amp; Economic Policy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Research Assignment Due (Friday 5/1 by 11:59pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>Chapter 14 Foreign &amp; Defense Policy (Flashcard Quiz &amp; Chapter Exams: MPL)</td>
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<td>Make-ups or Late Assignments due by May 8th, (no exceptions)</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 11</td>
<td>Final Segment Exam (Due Monday 5/11 by 11:59pm)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Last Week of Class, Final Grades Available 5/14</td>
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**ARE YOU READY TO TAKE AN ONLINE/DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE?**

To be successful taking online courses, you should be able to answer “yes” to all the following questions:

1. Can you create, save and find files on your computer?
2. Can you open, close and resize windows on your computer?
3. Can you click, double click and right click using a mouse?
4. Can you cut and paste using a mouse?
5. Do you know how to use spell check?
6. Do you know how to install software on your computer if you need to?
7. Do you know how to send and receive email attachments?
8. Can you save, delete, reply to and forward email?
9. Can you access email and the World Wide Web at least five times a week?
10. Do you know the difference between an email address and a website URL?
11. Do you know how to access the Internet and go to a website URL?
Netiquette:
1. Standards of courtesy and respect must be maintained at all times in our online "classroom." Join in to the discussion, but remember that this is still a “classroom” setting and that respect and consideration are crucial for any intellectual discussion.
2. Discussion areas are the place for intelligent and respectful airing of ideas. Name-calling and personal attacks are not permitted.
3. Any violation of the standards of appropriate behavior online will be reported to the Dean of Students and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken by the college.

College Required Material for the Syllabus

State-mandated Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students will:
1. Explain the origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States. (Communication Skills)
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the federal system. (Communication Skills)
3. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice. (Social Responsibility)
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government. (Communication Skills; Personal Responsibility)
5. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in the political system. (Critical Thinking; Personal Responsibility)
6. Analyze the election process. (Critical Thinking)
7. Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens. (Personal Responsibility; Social Responsibility)
8. Analyze issues and policies in the U.S. politics. (Critical Thinking; Social Responsibility)

Developmental Courses:
The Texas Success Initiative (TSI) is a statewide program designed to ensure that students enrolled in Texas public colleges and universities have the basic academic skills needed to be successful in college-level course work. The TSI requires assessment, remediation (if necessary), and advising of students who attend a public college or university in the state of Texas. The program assesses a student’s basic academic skills in reading, writing, and math. Passing the assessment is a prerequisite for enrollment in many college-level classes such as English 1301/1302, History 1301/1302, Math 1414, etc. Students who do not meet assessment standards may complete prerequisite requirements by taking developmental courses in the deficient area and passing them with a grade of C or higher. In some cases retesting will also be required. It is up to each student to be aware and informed about requirements that are subject to change. Additional information is available from the TSI Office. [https://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0910/admiss/tsi.cfm?loc=4](https://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0910/admiss/tsi.cfm?loc=4)

Obtaining Final Course Grades Using eConnect:
Final Grade Reports are no longer mailed. Convenient access is available online at www.econnect.dcccd.edu. Use your identification number when you log onto eConnect, an online system developed by the DCCCD to provide you with timely information regarding your college record. Your grades will also be printed on your Student Advising Report, which is available in the Admissions Office.
**Eastfield College Email Policy:**
Faculty and students must have and use a DCCCD account for all correspondence relating to academic coursework. For information on setting up a DCCCD student email account go to: [http://www.dcccd.edu/netmail/home.html](http://www.dcccd.edu/netmail/home.html)

**Financial Aid Statement:**
Students who are receiving any form of financial aid should check with the Financial Aid Office prior to withdrawing from classes. Withdrawals may affect your eligibility to receive further aid and could cause you to be in a position of repayment for the current semester. Students who fail to attend or participate after the drop date are also subject to this policy.

**Financial Aid Statement for Distance Learning Classes:**
If you are receiving Financial Aid grants or loans and are enrolled in a Distance Learning class, you must show participation in this class prior to the certification date by either e-mailing or contacting the instructor or logging on to eCampus. Do not drop or stop attending any class without consulting the Financial Aid Office. Changes in your enrollment level and failing grades may require that you repay financial aid funds.

**Repeating This Course: (Third Attempt to Enroll in a Course):**
Effective for Fall Semester 2005, the Dallas County Community Colleges will charge additional tuition to students registering the third or subsequent time for a course. All third and subsequent attempts of the majority of credit and Continuing Education/Workforce Training courses will result in additional tuition to be charged. Developmental Studies and some other courses will not be charged a higher tuition rate. Third attempts include courses taken at any of the Dallas County Community Colleges since the Fall 2002 Semester. See Third Attempt to Enroll in a Course at: [http://www.dcccd.edu/thirdcourseattempt/](http://www.dcccd.edu/thirdcourseattempt/)

**Academic Honesty Statement:**
Scholastic dishonesty is a violation of the Code of Student Conduct. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion.

As a college student, you are considered a responsible adult. Your enrollment indicates acceptance of the DCCCD Code of Student Conduct [published in the DCCCD Catalog at](http://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0506/ss/code.cfm)

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on tests, plagiarism and collusion. **Cheating** includes copying from another student’s test or homework paper, using materials not authorized, collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test, knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, or soliciting the contents of an un-administered test, and substituting for another person to take a test. **Plagiarism** is the appropriating, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one’s own written work. **Collusion** is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work for fulfillment of course requirements. Academic dishonesty is a serious offense in college. You can be given a failing grade on an assignment or test, can be failed for the class, or you can even be suspended from college.
ADA Statement:
Students with a physical, mental or learning disability who require accommodations should contact the college Disability Services Office in C237. Call 972.860.8348 or email efdso@dcccd.edu. For more information: http://www.eastfieldcollege.edu/SSI/DSO/index.html

Religious Holidays:
Absences for observance of a religious holy day are excused. Notification of the absence must be given to the instructor in writing at least two weeks prior to the date of the holy day. A student whose absence is excused to observe a religious holy day is allowed to contract with the instructor to take a make-up examination or complete an assignment within at a mutually agreed upon time after the absence.

Withdrawal Policy:
If you are unable to complete this course, it is your responsibility to withdraw formally. The withdrawal request must be received in the Registrar’s Office by April 16th, 2015. Failure to do so will result in your receiving a performance grade, usually an “F.” If you drop a class or withdraw from the college before the official drop/withdrawal deadline, you will receive a “W” (Withdraw) in each class dropped. For more information about drop deadlines, refer to the current printed Credit Class Schedule, contact the Admissions/Registrar’s Office at 972-860-7167 (Room C119), or contact the division office.

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

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA):
In compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), the College may release information classified as “directory information” to the general public without the written consent of the student. Directory information includes: (1) student name, (2) student address, (3) telephone numbers, (4) date and place of birth, (5) weight and height of members of athletic teams, (6) participation in officially recognized activities and sports, (7) dates of attendance, (8) educational institution most recently attended, and (9) other similar information,
including major field of student and degrees and awards received. Students may protect their
directory information at any time during the academic year. If no request is filed, directory
information is released upon written inquiry. No telephone inquiries are acknowledged. No
transcript or academic record is released without written consent from the student, except as
specified by law.

**Note:** The professor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus. Notice of major changes
will be provided via an announcement in ecampus.

**Accessing eCampus**

*(Accessing your course on the Internet – Student Handout)*

Access your internet browser *(recommended browsers with eCampus: IE 8 -in compatible mode - or 7, and Mozilla Firefox 3.6.x or 3.5.x. Java setting is Java 6.13.)*

**NOTE:** There is a listing of other Operating Systems and Browsers on the
eCampus Online Classroom Services access page. Please click on the link
located below the “Access Fall 2011 Courses”.

**To Login to your course(s):**

- Go to [http://eCampus.dcccd.edu](http://eCampus.dcccd.edu)
- Click on the link labeled “Access Fall Courses”
- Go to the “Login Here” box and enter your student ID number, with an “e” in front
  of it, for both the Username and the Password (example: e1234567)
- Click on the Login button
- **VERY IMPORTANT:** If this is your first time to log in to this eCampus system,
  find the "Login Here" box above. Type an "e" followed by your seven digit
  Student ID# for **BOTH** the **USERNAME** and the **PASSWORD** as in the example
  below:

  username: e9876543
  password: e9876543

  **You will be immediately prompted to change your password (passwords expire every 90 days)**

This will take you to your DCCCD eCampus homepage.

- On your eCampus homepage there are 3 major tabs labeled: My DCCCD, Courses and Community.
- There are 4 minor tabs labeled: eCampus, Notifications Dashboard, Training and Help & FAQs.
Under the box titled “Tools” there are links that will allow you to check your grades for your eCampus courses, read the course announcements, send email to your instructor, change your password, input your email address and your personal information on eCampus.

To Access Your Course:

- On your eCampus homepage scroll down to the box titled “My Courses” to view “Courses in which you are enrolled:” or click on the Courses Tab
- Click on the underlined title of your course

You may then click on the links in the menu on the left side of your screen to access specific areas within your course. **NOTE: If you see “>” tab and do not see your menu buttons to the left side, please click on the “>” tab to see the menu list.**

To Input Your E-mail Address

- Click on the "My DCCCD" tab
- Click on the Personal Information (in the Tools area)
- Click on Edit Personal Information
- Input your E-mail address
- Scroll down to the bottom and click Submit (on the bottom right side of your screen)

To Change Your Password

- Click on the "My DCCCD" tab
- Click on the Personal Information (in the Tools area)
- Click on Change Password
- Input your new password
- Input the new password again to confirm it
- Click Submit

Once you change your password, you will have to use your new password to login in the future **(passwords expire every 90 days).**

To Check Your Grades

- Click on the "My DCCCD" tab
- Click on View Grades (in the Tools area)
- Then click on underlined title of the course
To E-mail Your Instructor (or Classmate)

- Click on the "My DCCCD" tab
- Click Send E-mail (in the Tools area)
- Select the appropriate course
- Select one of the options that are listed (e.g. Selected Groups, Selected Users, etc)
- Type in the Subject and the message
- Check the square radio button if you want to send a copy to self
- Scroll down and click Submit

If you have any questions or need assistance, please email the Tech Support at eCampus.support@dcccd.edu or call (972) 669-6402.