INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Ms. Jeanne Callahan-Nance  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 972-494-8492  
EMAIL ADDRESS: jcallah@garlandisd.net  
CLASS DATES: January 6, 2015-June 4, 2015  
DROP DATE: May 1, 2015—Last day to drop without receiving a W on student transcript  
**Dual Credit students must complete this course for high school graduation credit

**THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO AMEND A SYLLABUS AS NECESSARY.**

I. 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 hours lecture)

II. PREREQUISITE  
Students must have met the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Reading standard and the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Writing standard.

III. COURSE MATERIALS  

IV. COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES  
Upon successful completion of this college 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, political parties and the media in the U.S. political system, past and present.  
6. Understand how geography can influence U.S. political divisions and policies.  
7. Understand why certain places or regions are important to the United States.  
8. Understand the roles played by local, state, and national government in both the private and public sectors of the U.S. free enterprise system.  
10. Analyze the election process.  
11. Understand the similarities and differences that exist among the U.S. system of government and other political systems.
12. Understand the relationship between government policies and the culture of the U.S.
14. Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
15. Apply critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired from a variety of valid sources, communicate in written, oral, and visual forms, and use problem-solving and decision-making skills, working independently and with others, in a variety of settings.

V. COURSE OBJECTIVE
The objective for this course is to allow students to learn the basics of our governmental system, including:
*the constitutional basis of the federal government
*federalism and how it impacts policy-making and the legal system,
*civil rights and civil liberties,
*the responsibilities and interrelatedness of the branches of the federal government, and
*the activities and interplay of political parties, interest groups and the media.

VI. EVALUATION and GRADING PROCEDURES
Cycle grades will be assigned based upon the following:
Major Tests: 35%
Quizzes: 30%
Class Activities: 25%
Homework: 10%
The final grade will include the final exam, which will be comprehensive.

Grades will be assigned based on Garland ISD grading cycles and final averages:
A 90-100%
B 80-89%
C 70-79%
F 69 and below

VII. HOLIDAYS – Spring Semester 2015
There will be no classes on the following dates:
Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday January 19
Spring Break March 9-13
Student/Staff Holiday April 3
Student/Staff Holiday (Bad Weather Day) April 27
Memorial Day Holiday May 25

VIII. CLASSROOM POLICY
Richland College/GISD policy states that food, drink (including water bottles), and smoking are not allowed in classrooms. No food is allowed in this classroom. Water is allowed provided it is in a bottle with a lid. All cell phones, electronic devices and pagers must be turned off and out of site during class time.

Late work is accepted in cases of excused absences in accordance with GISD policy. Work that is late when the student is present will be accepted one class period late, with a
25% deduction. If a student will miss class because of a pre-arranged field trip, work is due before the student leaves campus.

**Missed Tests** If a student misses a test they should talk to the instructor about making it up. If a student knows in advance they will be absent, they should discuss testing arrangements with the instructor.

**Test Corrections** In accordance with GISD Grading and Grouping, when an individual student has not mastered the TEKS by 70% or better, he/she should be afforded a reteach/retest opportunity. Students will be allowed to retake tests if they received a failing grade in tutorials only within one week of the test being returned to the students.

IX. **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Students are expected to attend and participate in class regularly. Garland High School attendance rules and tardy policy will apply. Any assessments or activities missed due to tardiness must be made up in tutorials.

X. **INSTITUTION POLICIES**

Refer to the Richland College website: www.richlandcollege.edu or to www.richlandcollege.edu/syllabusinfo/syllabiInformation.pdf.

*Academic Progress*: Students are encouraged to discuss academic goals and degree completion with their instructors, high school counselors, and Richland College Dual Credit Advisors. Individual advising is available throughout the semester.

*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/.

XI. **COURSE OUTLINE/SCHEDULE**

The schedule below is an overview of the topics to be covered. This is a lecture based course. Class meetings will include lecture, discussion, videos and group activities. Students will be required to complete outside reading and assignments.

*If a student is absent, it is his/her responsibility to make up all missed class activities and assignments, including any not appearing on the following schedule.*
4th Grading Cycle: 1/5/15-2/20/15

Unit 1—Origins of Government
Introductions
Syllabus & Expectations
Chapter 1: People, Politics, and Participation
Chapter 2: Constitution
Chapter 3: Federalism
Assessment: 3 Vocabulary Quizzes, Chapter Test, Unit Test

Unit 2—Congress
Chapter 11: Legislative Branch
Assessment: Vocabulary Quiz, Congress Project, Unit Test

5th Grading Cycle: 2/23/15-4/17/15

Unit 3—The President & the Bureaucracy
Chapter 12: Executive Branch
Chapter 13: Bureaucracy
Foreign & Domestic Policy
Assessment: 2 Vocabulary Quizzes, Unit Test

Unit 4—The Courts, Civil Rights & Liberties
Chapter 14: The Judicial Branch
Chapter 4: Civil Liberties
Chapter 5: Civil Rights
Assessment: 3 Vocabulary Quizzes, Case Brief Project, Unit Test


Unit 5—Political Participation
Chapter 6: Political Socialization and Public Opinion
Chapter 7: Interest Groups
Chapter 8: Political Parties
Assessment: 3 Vocabulary Quizzes, Interest Group Presentation, Unit Test

Unit 6—The National Election Process
Chapter 9: Elections, Campaigns, and Voting
Chapter 10: The Media
Chapter 11: Technology & Politics
Assessment: 2 Vocabulary Quizzes, Unit Test

Review

Final Exam: B2: 6/3/15