Course Number: GOVT 2305.83930

Course Title: Federal Government (Federal Constitution and Topics)

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.

Course Credit Hours: 3
Lecture Hours: 3

Prerequisites: One of the following must be met: (1) DREA 0093 AND DWRI 0093; (2) English as a Second Language (ESOL) 0044 AND 0054; or (3) have met Texas Success Initiative (TSI) in Reading and Writing standards.

Division Information: School of Learning Enrichment and Academic Development, Crockett Hall, 243, (972)238-6230.

Student Learning Outcomes:
- 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)

Course Drop Dates:

Last date to drop without a “W” is Monday, February 2, 2015

Last date to drop with a “W” is Thursday, April 16, 2015
INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor's Name: Ryan McMahon
Office: Access Center, Alamito Hall, A-110
Office Hours: By Appointment Only
Phone Number: (972)238-6140
Email: rmcmahon@dcccd.edu

Class Information:

Section Number: 83930
Meeting Times: M/W 7:25 am-8:55 am
Meeting Location: TBD

Course Resources (Required): We The People A Concise Introduction to American Politics (10th Ed.) by Thomas E. Patterson
ISBN: 0-07-337917-4
Supplies: None.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is mandatory and students are expected to arrive on time.

Method of Evaluation:

Exam #1=15%
Exam #2=15%
Exam #3=15%
Research Paper=15%
Visual Prompt Assignment=10%
Extra Credit=5%
Final Exam=30%

Effective Spring 2015
Grade Scale:

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

Assignments:

Exams 1-3 will measure the students’ knowledge of material discussed prior to the date of the exam.

Research Paper will be a 3-5 page, double-spaced, APA formatted paper analyzing a controversial issue relating to the US government.

Visual Prompt Assignment will be a one page, double-spaced assignment wherein students will critically analyze a visual prompt (chart, photo, or video) of the professor’s choosing that is related to course material.

Final Exam will be cumulative, covering all coursework from the beginning of the semester until the final lecture.

Important Rules to Consider

1. If a student misses my final exam without a doctor’s note or some physical proof that missing my final was absolutely unavoidable, said student will receive a grade of 0 for their final exam.

2. If a student misses a regular exam and does not take that exam within 1 week’s time, said student will receive a grade of 0 for that exam.

3. The grade you receive at the end of the semester is the grade that you have earned in the course according to the grade scale listed above. You may NOT negotiate a higher grade at the end of the semester.

Course Calendar:

Week 1

January 19-MLK Day, No Classes

January 21-Intro to Course

Week 2

January 26-Writing Workshop and Topic Discussion

January 28-American Political Culture
Week 3
February 2-American Political Culture

February 4-The Founding and The Constitution, Research Paper Topic Due

Week 4
February 9-The Founding and The Constitution
February 11-Federalism

Week 5
February 16-Federalism
February 18-Civil Rights

Week 6
February 23-Exam #1
February 25-Campaigning for Office

Week 7
March 2-Political Ideology
March 4-Political Ideology

March 9-Spring Break, No Classes
March 11-Spring Break, No Classes

Week 8
March 16-Domestic Policy
March 18-Civil Liberties

Effective Spring 2015
Week 9
March 23-Interest Groups
March 25-The Media and Cyberpolitics

Week 10
March 30-The Media and Cyberpolitics
April 1-Exam #2

Week 11
April 6-Economic Policy
April 8-Economic Policy

Week 12
April 13-Public Opinion and Political Socialization, Research Paper Due*
April 15-The Congress

Week 13
April 20-The President
April 22-Exam #3

Week 14
April 27-Foreign and Defense Policy
April 29-Foreign and Defense Policy, Visual Prompt Assignment Due*

Week 15
May 4-Voting and Political Parties
May 6-Review for Final Exam

Effective Spring 2015
### Institution Policies

| **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. |
| **6Drop** | 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/6drop](https://www1.dcccd.edu/6drop) |
| **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 the official drop date for this course (see Course Drop Date mentioned earlier in this syllabus). 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/Student Records office at 972-238-6100 or 6101 (Thunderduck Hall, T170), or contact the division office. |
| **Repeating 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/) |
| **Financial Aid** | If you are receiving any form of financial aid, you 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. |
| **Academic Honesty** | 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) (Select Purpose) |
| **ADA Statement** | If you are a student with a disability and/or special needs who requires accommodations, please contact |
the college Disability Services Office at 972-238-6180 (Voice/TTY), visit Thunderduck Hall, suite T120, or go to [http://www.dcccd.edu/Current+Students/Student+Services/Disability+Services/](http://www.dcccd.edu/Current+Students/Student+Services/Disability+Services/)

(CTRL + Click to access “Current Students” site to “Student Services” to “Disability Services”)

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<tr>
<th>Religious Holidays</th>
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<td>Absences for observance of a religious holy day are excused. 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 a reasonable time after the absence.</td>
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<th>Campus Emergency Operation Plan</th>
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<tr>
<td>Richland College and the Dallas County Community College District have developed policies and procedures for dealing with emergencies that may occur on campus.</td>
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To familiarize yourself with these procedures, please take time to watch the overview video: [http://video.dcccd.edu/rtv/DO/emergency_dcccd.wmv](http://video.dcccd.edu/rtv/DO/emergency_dcccd.wmv)

The complete Emergency Operations Plan can be viewed and printed at the following website: [http://www.rlc.dcccd.edu/emergency](http://www.rlc.dcccd.edu/emergency)

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Richland College Office of Emergency Management. This office can be reached by phone (972/238-3794) or by e-mail (rlcoem@dcccd.edu).

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<th>Disclaimer Reserving Right to Change Syllabus</th>
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<td>The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as necessary.</td>
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<th>Optional: Classroom Policies</th>
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<td>Regarding food and drink in the classroom: Instructional staff are responsible for setting policy regarding use of food and drink in each class they teach. In accordance with OM EJ-801 (<a href="http://INTRANET.dcccd.edu/intranet/rlc/Operational/EJ801.pdf">http://INTRANET.dcccd.edu/intranet/rlc/Operational/EJ801.pdf</a>), faculty will include a statement in course syllabi detailing their policy. Exceptions: This right does not extend to classrooms/areas with or near computers, lab materials, equipment, and/or college-owned books—these are restricted from food and drink.</td>
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**Note:** Instructors should use the exact wording of the element statements on Academic Honesty, Withdrawal Policy, Repeating a Course, Financial Aid, and 6DROP. (8/20/09)