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 Prerequisites: 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.

Books Required

Technical Support:
Call 972-669-6402 or consult http://dallastelecollege.dcccd.edu/

Technology Requirements
Internet access (free access available in campus computer labs)
USB flash drive for back-up storage of electronic files
Active E-mail account (check at least three times per week)
Basic use of a personal computer (word processing and internet browsing).
Access to the DCCCD e-campus system: http://ecampus.dcccd.edu
Use your student ID number preceded by a lower case letter "e" as both your username and password to gain access to the course the first time. Use the following example:
Username: e1234567
Password: e1234567
Software Requirements: (free versions of these programs are available for download on e-campus and inside the course):
Microsoft Office or Open Office (word processor and presentation viewer)
Windows Media Player
Adobe Acrobat Reader

Core Curriculum Intellectual Competencies:
1. Analyze and interpret a variety of printed materials--books, documents, and articles--above the 12th grade level.
2. Produce clear, correct, and coherent prose adapted to purpose, occasion, and audience--above the 12th grade level.
3. Analyze and interpret various forms of spoken communication, possess sufficient literacy skills of writing, reading--above the 12th grade level.
4. Apply both qualitative and quantitative skills analytically and creatively to subject matter in order to construct alternative strategies.
5. Use computer-based technology in communication, solving problems, and acquiring information.

Course Objectives:
1. Develop an understanding of the basic character of American Federal Government.
2. Be aware of the forces and counter forces involved in making public policy on the federal level.
3. Be aware and informed of political events and phenomena in the United States and the world.
4. Develop the ability to analyze events from a political perspective.

Student Learning Outcomes:
After successful completion of this course the student should be able to:
1. Explain the origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the 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 in the political system.
6. Analyze the election process.
7. Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
8. Analyze issues and policies in U.S. politics.

Late Work Policy: Late work may or may not be accepted. If the work is accepted, the grade may be lowered.

Certification Procedures: The certification date for this course is February 2, 2016. Any student who has not logged in to the course and completed the orientation quiz before this date will be reported to financial aid as non-attending.

The withdrawal date for this class is April 14, 2016

Grade Scale (based on 1000 total points possible):
A = 900-1000
B = 800-899
C = 700-799
D = 600-699
F = 0-599

Chapter Work:
For each chapter, do the following:
1. Read the learning objectives.
2. Carefully read the chapter in the textbook assignment.
3. Watch the power point presentation for the chapter.
4. Watch the video lecture for the chapter
5. Reread the chapter one more time.
6. When you have mastered the chapter, take the chapter quiz.

Orientation Quiz (30 points):
After you have carefully proceeded through the first two steps of the Orientation process (that means you have read everything in Step 1 and have read the Syllabus in Step 2, then you should take the Orientation quiz.

Chapter Quizzes (420 points):
The quiz window for the assigned reading will be the start and end date of a given unit (see the course calendar for details). Each quiz must be completed within the unit it was assigned.

The format for each quiz is "open book" and each quiz has a time limit of 60 minutes. There are a plethora of resources that have been provided to help you succeed in the course, ranging from the textbook publisher’s website to PowerPoint presentations for chapter. It is the unsecured nature of the distance education environment that mandates that you are highly prepared before each quiz. These restrictions provide a measure of integrity for the course quizzes and help secure your identity.

Each student will have two attempts per quiz. The higher grade will be recorded. If you do not finish an attempt, it may count as a zero. The quiz questions are pulled from a larger group of questions, therefore no two attempts will have the exact same questions. By design, there is not enough time to look up each and every question, so study prior to taking the quiz. The quizzes are automated; they are generated from a pool of hundreds of questions. The grade will post immediately after submission.

You must be prepared for each quiz by reading the assigned chapter. Do not procrastinate; give yourself time to complete each quiz in sequence as you progress through the unit. You may, of course, move at your own pace ahead of each deadline.

If you are taking a quiz on a wireless connection, make sure it is stable one. It is also suggested that you keep an Internet radio station active without volume during the quiz to ensure your connection stays active during the examination. On rare occasions, there may be an issue with the quiz questions. Please let me know if that is the case. I always appreciate help in catching errors in the quizzes. Always feel free to check the answers against the book – if you have a question about an answer marked wrong, just email me with the question and your evidence from the book.

Unforeseen glitches during a quiz attempt can occur from time to time. There are several steps you can take to ensure you do not have a problem during an attempt. Go ahead and contact me if you have any problems with the quiz, if it is a tech support problem, call 972.669.6402

Written Projects (350 points):
There are four written projects for the course.
- Unit II – Legislative Profiles (75 points), Executive Branch Profiles (75 points), Supreme Court Chart (100 points)
- Unit III – Interest Group Project (75 points)

See instructions for each assignment in those Units on Blackboard. There will usually be an attached rubric given with the grade on the written assignment. Be sure to answer all questions for each assignment. Questions that require more work are always worth more points. Do not skip questions that require paragraph summaries or extended replies, you’re grade on the assignment will suffer greatly if you do.
Blackboard Discussion Board (100 points)
Each discussion board is worth 25 points. To get the full credit, write a 250-300 word response (use your word processor to count the number of words and include that at the end of your post). Your response should carefully address all parts of the question in a coherent, organized, and professional manner. You must also respond to someone else's post with a 100-word response (use word count again). Your responses should be your own words. Do not cut and paste - this is plagiarism. If you do quote the textbook or other sources, be sure to use parenthetical citation or footnotes for proper attribution.

You will primarily be graded on the completeness of your posts. If the professor asks a follow up question, be sure to reply and answer the question to get additional points. Make sure you read the comments on make on your posts. If I ask a follow up question, make sure you answer to receive more points for your post. To post, click "Create Thread" in the upper left hand corner of the Discussion Board.

Facebook Group (100 points):
There is a Facebook group assigned to your class. To join, click on S16 GOVT 2305 63401 MVC. You may join this group without being Facebook “friends” with the professor or with your other students. You are free to, of course, friend your classmates and the professor, if you wish. But it is not required.

You are required to post at least four times a week and to comment to someone else’s post four times a week. Your post should have something to do with topics discussed in the class readings, or politics in general. You can post political cartoons, videos, links to article, comment on a political issue and so on. If you post something (e.g. an article or video), be sure you have read the article or watched the video and be sure to comment on the post. Your comment should be at least a couple of sentences stating whether you agree, disagree, or why you found the content of the post interesting. Please utilize the Facebook group to also ask each other questions that you might not understand. If you have an issue with joining or using Facebook, there is a replacement assignment (a film review) posted on Blackboard under “Optional Film Project.”

The Facebook group welcomes views from all sides of the political spectrum. Posts and comments on the Facebook board should be respectful, not contain inappropriate language, and should never contain personal attacks. These comments should be written with the same respect that one would show in the classroom setting. If a student is found to violate this policy, they may be removed from the Facebook group and be required to obtain these points via the film project.

I will be keeping track of the number posts and comments, and the quality of your posts. To get the full amount of points means full, thoughtful participation. Again, this means at least the four posts/four comments a week plus responding to my posts that are for the benefit of the whole class. Almost all students find this Facebook discussion board a fun and engaging activity.

Academic Dishonesty: https://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/ss/code.cfm.

Institution Policies:
Course Schedule
Next to each unit is the time allotted for that unit’s work to be completed. All Deadlines are by 11:55 pm on the date indicated. All the activities for a particular Unit should be done by the due date indicated. Do each chapter quiz after proceeding through the readings, power points, and video lecture for each chapter. Do the projects in the order you find them in each Unit. Be sure to keep pace and stay on schedule.

Orientation Activities (due 1-20)
Introductory Discussion Board
Orientation Quiz

Unit I- Foundations (due 2-18)
Chapter 1 Readings, Power Point, Video Lecture, and Quiz
Chapter 2 Readings, Power Point, Video Lecture, and Quiz
Rights Project
Chapter 3 Readings, Power Point, Video Lecture, and Quiz
Chapter 4 Readings, Power Point, Video Lecture, and Quiz
Chapter 5 Readings, Power Point, Video Lecture, and Quiz
Discussion Board #1
Facebook Discussion Posts and Comments

Unit II- Institutions (due 3-13)
Chapter 6 Readings, Power Point, Video Lecture, and Quiz
Legislative Profiles
Chapter 7 Readings, Power Point, Video Lecture, and Quiz
Executive Branch Profiles
Chapter 8 Readings, Power Point, Video Lecture, and Quiz
Chapter 9 Readings, Power Point, Video Lecture, and Quiz
Supreme Court Chart
Discussion Board #2
Facebook Discussion Posts and Comments

Unit III – Political Behavior (due 4-8)
Chapter 10 Readings, Power Point, Video Lecture, and Quiz
Chapter 11 Readings, Power Point, Video Lecture, and Quiz
Interest Group Project
Chapter 12 Readings, Power Point, Video Lecture, and Quiz
Discussion Board #3
Facebook Discussion Posts and Comments

Unit IV – Public Policy (due 5-5)
Chapter 13 Readings, Power Point, Video Lecture, and Quiz
Chapter 14 Readings, Power Point, Video Lecture, and Quiz
Discussion Board #4
Concluding Discussion Board
Facebook Discussion Posts and Comments

Note: The professor reserves the right to make changes or modifications, if necessary, to this syllabus. Students will be notified of any major changes or modifications.