INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Professor: Smith
Email: amysmith@dccc.edu
Office Phone: 972-860-4443 @ North, 972-273-3233 @ Central Campus
Office Location: NLC North Campus & A244 at Central Campus
Office Hours: Office hours are not available during Wintermester

COURSE INFORMATION:

Course title: Federal Government
Course number: 2305
Section number(s): 72420 and 72421
Credit hours: 3
Class meeting time(s): ONLINE ONLY. No campus meetings or testing center requirements.

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 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.

Required Textbooks and Materials

Barbour, Keeping the Republic Brief 7/e ISBN: 9781506379852

The textbook is a necessity. This is the only edition of the textbook that may be used. No other external resources or codes required for purchase. Additional resources are provided in eCampus.
Program-Level Objectives for GOVT 2305
Government 2305 develops the following objectives from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board:

- Communication Skills
- Critical Thinking Skill
- Personal Responsibility
- Social Responsibility

Course-Level Objectives for GOVT 2305 Federal Government
From the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

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

NLC GOVT 2305 Departmental Student Learning Outcomes (SLO’s)

Departmental Student Learning Outcomes—SLO’s are assessed via writing assignments found in Units I-IV in the course. SLO’s are common assessments required in every GOVT 2305 course at NLC.

1. SLO #1: Civil Rights versus Civil Liberties. 70% of students will successfully analyze the nuances between civil liberties and civil rights, as well as how the judicial branch interprets them. By researching the U.S. Supreme Court and selecting a contemporary civil rights and civil liberties decision, the students will be able to evaluate how these decisions impact our society. [SLO #1 fulfills the following Program Level Outcomes: Communication, Critical Thinking, Social and Personal Responsibility, as well as the following Course Level Outcomes: 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8.]

2. SLO #2: Social Media and the USA Presidency. 70% of students will successfully research and evaluate how the office of the President and Vice President uses social media as a platform for their agendas. [SLO #2 fulfills the following Program Level Outcomes: Communication, Critical Thinking, Social and Personal Responsibility, as well as the following Course Level Outcomes: 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8.]

3. SLO #3: News Media: How (and why) to spot "fake" news. 70% of students will successfully research and evaluate the news media in an effort to identify reputable journalism containing more accurate political content. Students will also evaluate the impact of "fake" news on the practice of our democracy. [SLO #3 fulfills the following Program Level Outcomes: Communication, Critical Thinking, Social and Personal Responsibility, as well as the following Course Level Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.]
For all assignments, including SLO Assessments, the following general requirements hold:

1. Assignments must be a minimum of 1000 words, typed per MLA formatting requirements. You will find more information regarding these requirements in the eCampus course.
2. Citations of material are required; both in-text citations and works cited page. Citations are not included in the minimum word count. They are in addition to the minimum word count.
3. Assignments must be turned in on eCampus by the deadlines. The deadlines are non-negotiable.

Contacting Your Instructor

If you have questions that cannot be answered by reading the syllabus or thoroughly checking eCampus, please email me at amysmith@dcccd.edu. Emails must follow the Email Etiquette guidelines explained in the eCampus course, under the Contacting Professor Smith button.

Timeline for email responses

Emails requiring assistance will be returned within 24-48 hours during the workweek (Monday after 8 a.m. through Friday at 5 p.m.) and will be returned within 72 hours over the weekends, starting at 5 pm. on Friday. I typically do not check emails after 5 p.m. on weekdays and not at all on weekends, unless an exam is due. I will be unavailable to students on college holidays. Please keep this in mind and do not wait until the last minute to contact me regarding questions about assignments, exams or any other matters that may need immediate assistance. Your procrastination is not my emergency. If your question in technical in nature, contact the eCampus help desk at 1-866-374-7169 or 972-669-6402.

Timeline for Grading

Unless otherwise stated, all grades are posted within ONE week of the due dates, excluding weekends and holidays. Exam grades are posted upon submission. In the event of an extreme circumstance on my end, an announcement will be posted in eCampus with an explanation of when grades will be posted. I will be checking eCampus at least twice a week and updating grades, per grading policies. It is the student’s responsibility to be diligent about viewing grades to check for grading feedback/potential errors. You have 72 hours after grades are posted to alert me via email to a grading error. Failure to contact me within this stated timeframe will result in the current grade standing. No exceptions.
Course Evaluation Grading Procedures

Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Four Content Exams</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>90% -- A (630-700)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Writing Assignments</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>80% -- B (560-629)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five Discussion Assignments</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>70% -- C (490-559)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syllabus/eCampus course quiz</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>60% -- D (420-489)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are 4 exams. They are worth 100 points each for a total of 400 points.
There are 3 assignments. They are worth 50 points each for a total of 150 points.
There are 5 asynchronous discussions. They are worth 20 points each for a total of 100 points.
There is one start of course syllabus/eCampus knowledge quiz. It is worth up to 50 points.

COURSE DROP DATE IS DECEMBER 22ND, 2017.

Extra Credit and Extra Point Policy

The only extra credit offered is the Intro Discussion at the start of the semester. It is found in the Start Here button and must be completed by the deadline. It is worth 10 points. The submission link for this will close at 8 p.m. on DECEMBER 9TH. I will be using this activity, in part, as a Certification assignment for financial aid purposes. There will be no other extra credit offered for any reason. Do not ask.

Keep up with all work, deadlines and requirements. This class is points-based, not percentage-based. Your final grade is based on the number of points you have earned throughout the semester. I also do not “bump” up grades at the end of the semester. To be fair to all students, everyone gets the grade earned by doing the required coursework. Grades are non-negotiable.

Make Up Assignment and Exam Policy

All submission links close at 8 p.m. You must start uploading assignments, taking exams as well as posting in discussions PRIOR to this time. You may make up assignments and exams (no extensions on exam 4) in EXTREME extenuating circumstances, with proper documentation (i.e. death of immediate family, an unexpected hospitalization of yourself or immediate family, illness WITH doctor’s note—this does include sick children, but not sick pets). There will be no consideration for “missing” deadlines, having busy work or school schedules, confusing deadlines with other classes, etc. Everyone is busy and juggling many responsibilities. Do not ask for favors. The established syllabus guidelines maintain fairness to all students, so no one will receive special treatment.

It will be your responsibility to alert me within 24 hours of the missed item, if you meet the requirements for a make-up exam or assignment. Documentation of the excuse must be provided with this communication for my consideration. Discussions cannot be made up for ANY reason, including those listed above. No retakes on exams for poor grades and assignments may not be resubmitted for higher grades. Be committed to doing it right the first time.

Online Course Time Commitments

Students should expect to spend a minimum of 4-6 hours weekly in our online course.
Instructor’s Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism Policy

Throughout this course, you will pursue your studies with integrity and honesty; this means any words, thoughts, ideas, and data that is not your own you will provide the appropriate credit. Plagiarism includes, but is not exclusively limited to:

- Failure to cite the source of any material borrowed from an outside source properly, including failure to use quotation marks, paraphrases, and in-text citations and bibliographic information. Remember, papers are checked for plagiarism, both within the eCampus system as well as the entire World Wide Web.
- Submitting any assignment that you did not write for THIS class, during this semester and for this specific course section. This includes papers written by you for another class, essays purchased online or in person, written by someone else for financial gain or free, papers written by parents, etc.
- “Sharing” ideas that appear to be replicated in another student's work, for this class or any other. This includes “viewing” someone else’s paper and then using part of all of that information in your paper. This is collusion and is cheating.

If a student is caught cheating or plagiarizing ANYTHING in this class, you will be reported to the Dean of Liberal Arts for the 1st offense and a 0 for the item. Further cheating will result in an F for the course. All assignments, including SLO’s are submitted to Safe Assign and/or Turnitin.com (both plagiarism checkers).

Course Schedule

All submission links close at 8:00 p.m. on the stated due dates. Please keep this in mind and schedule yourself accordingly. Deadlines come faster than you may realize and are non-negotiable.

Extra Credit Introduction Discussion—Due December 9th
Syllabus/eCampus Quiz—Due December 10th

Unit I: Forming a Nation contains the following:

- Discussion 1: Is it time to rewrite the Constitution? —Due December 11th
- Discussion 2: Fracking Federalism: Article VI vs the 10th Amendment—Due December 13th
- Exam 1—Due December 15th
  - Chapter 1—Power and Citizenship in the American Founding
  - Chapter 2—The Politics of the American Founding
  - Chapter 3—Federalism

Unit II: Federal Policy and Rights contains the following:

- Assignment 1: Civil Rights versus Civil Liberties—Due December 18th
- Discussion 3: Foreign Policy in the 21st Century—Due December 20th
- Exam 2—Due December 22nd
  - Chapter 4—Fundamental American Liberties
  - Chapter 5—The Struggle for Equal Rights
  - Chapter 14—Domestic and Foreign Policy
Unit III: Policymaking contains the following:

Assignment 2: Social Media and the USA Presidency—Due December 24th
Discussion 4: How a bill becomes a law. Should it be this hard? Due December 27th
Exam 3—Due December 29th
    Chapter 6—Congress
    Chapter 7—The Presidency
    Chapter 8—The Bureaucracy
    Chapter 9—The American Legal System and the Courts

Unit IV: The Party System and Outside Influences contains the following:

Discussion 5: Political Campaigns—Due January 2nd
Assignment 3: News Media—How to spot “fake” news—Due January 3rd
Exam 4—Due January 5th
    Chapter 10—Public Opinion
    Chapter 11—Parties and Interest Groups
    Chapter 12—Voting, Campaigns, and Elections
    Chapter 13—The Media

**NOTE: SUBMISSION LINKS FOR ALL ASSIGNMENTS, DISCUSSIONS AND EXAMS CLOSE AT 8 P.M. ON THEIR RESPECTIVE DEADLINES.**

NLC INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES

Institutional Policies relating to this course can be accessed from the following link:
[www.northlakecollege.edu/syllabipolicies](http://www.northlakecollege.edu/syllabipolicies)