



WACO, TEXAS

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**COURSE SYLLABUS  
AND  
INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

**Federal Government (Federal Constitution & Topics)  
GOVT 2305.C24**

**TYLER YOUNG**

**NOTE: This is a 16-week course.**

**COVID 19 Notice:**

McLennan Community College is committed to providing you with every resource you need to reach your academic goals. We are also concerned for your safety. We are working through COVID-19 guidelines to make sure we offer a safe environment for you and our faculty. This will include smaller class sizes to manage social distancing and proper cleaning techniques. You will have the advantage of a physical classroom experience but may also need to work part of the time online as we adjust to limited classroom capacity. This will also allow us the flexibility to move online if so directed by federal, state and/or local COVID 19 guidelines. Faculty and staff are preparing now to ensure that you have the best experience in the midst of these uncertain times.

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### **Course Description:**

This course will cover 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.

### **Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:**

Prerequisite: Must have passed the reading portion of the TSI or credit for INRW 0402.

Recommended: Sophomore standing or completion of HIST 1301 and 1302 recommended.

Corequisite: May be taken before or after GOVT 2306 (or simultaneously).

### **Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:**

This course will be taught as indicated in the MCC Course Catalog. Therefore, you do not have to have any prior knowledge of government, but the course will be taught as if the student has successfully completed HIST 1301 and 1302. This will not be required, however. Also, students should have basic computer knowledge and skills in order to successfully navigate online.

### **Instructor Information:**

Instructor Name: Tyler Young

MCC E-mail: [tyoung@mclennan.edu](mailto:tyoung@mclennan.edu)

Phone Number: (512) 587-3753

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: By Appointment

### **Required Text & Materials:**

Title: *We the People*

Authors: Patterson

Edition: 13<sup>th</sup> (with Connect Code)

Publisher: McGraw

ISBN: 978-1-259-91240-5

[MCC Bookstore Website](#)

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### **Methods of Teaching and Learning:**

Power Point presentations are given in class daily with a narrative from the instructor. Each week students will complete a variety of assignments over a chapter. The class will have three units with a discussion and test for each one. Students are expected to meet the various deadlines for the class.

### **Course Objectives and/or Competencies:**

This course is designed to examine the key elements and components of the U.S. political system. We analyze the political and cultural milieu that surrounds the American political process and examine how that has an impact on subsequent policy outcomes. The framework for evaluating our unique federal and state structure considers the external players of the political game who have access and influence over the political decision-making process including: the media, interest groups, lobbyists, and political parties. We examine in detail the role of campaigns and elections in securing a representative government and question whether these external players subvert or enhance the policymaking process. Furthermore, we analyze the civil rights and civil liberties granted to individuals through the Constitution and Supreme Court. Courses in this category focus on consideration of the Constitution of the United States and the constitutions of the states. Courses involve the analysis of governmental institutions, political behavior, civic engagement, and their political and philosophical foundations.

- **Critical Thinking Skills (CT):** “to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.”
- **Communication Skills (COMM):** “to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.”
- **Social Responsibility (SR):** “to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.”
- **Personal Responsibility (PR):** “to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.”

In addition to the above listed competencies, 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.

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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 right and responsibilities of citizens.
8. Analyze issues and policies in U.S. politics.

#### **Technical Support:**

For technical support, please do one of the following:

- contact the Information Systems and Services Help Desk at (254) 299-8077
- e-mail the Information Systems and Services Help Desk at [helpdesk@mclennan.edu](mailto:helpdesk@mclennan.edu)
- visit the online link for Brightspace help at the following URL:  
[http://www.mclennan.edu/help/kb/c/11/\\_category](http://www.mclennan.edu/help/kb/c/11/_category)

#### **Other Links of Possible Interest:**

- MCC Library: <http://www.mclennan.edu/library>
- Student Support Services: <http://www.mclennan.edu/students/sss>

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## **Course Outline or Schedule:**

This course outline is subject to change. Instructor will notify students during class and will attempt to make an announcement on Brightspace upon any changes necessary during the course semester. Students are responsible for staying up-to-date with any changes made.

### Brief Course Outline:

Orientation Quiz

Introduction Discussion

- Chapter 1: Critical Thinking and Political Culture
- Chapter 2: Constitutional Democracy
- Chapter 3: Federalism
- Chapter 4: Civil Liberties
- Chapter 5: Equal Rights

Unit 1 Discussion

Unit 1 Test (50 Multiple-Choice Questions)

- Chapter 6: Public Opinion & Political Socialization
- Chapter 7: Political Participation
- Chapter 8: Political Parties: Candidates and Campaigns
- Chapter 9: Interest Groups
- Chapter 10: The News Media and the Internet
- Chapter 11: Congress

Unit 2 Discussion

Unit 2 Test (50 Multiple-Choice Questions)

### Term Paper Proposal

- Chapter 12: The Presidency
- Chapter 13: The Federal Bureaucracy
- Chapter 14: The Federal Judicial System
- Chapter 15: Economic and Environmental Policy
- Chapter 16: Income, Welfare, and Education Policy
- Chapter 17: Foreign Policy

Unit 3 Discussion

### Term Paper Final Draft

Unit 3 Test (50 Multiple-Choice Questions)

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## Tentative Course Outline

All items due by 11:59PM on their respective date.

Week	Reading(s) for the Week	Assignments, Quizzes and Exams
August 24-30	Syllabus	Log onto Brightspace/Complete Orientation Quiz (Due 8/27) and Introduction Discussion (Due 8/28)
August 31-September 6	Patterson Chapter 1	Chapter 1 Activities Due on September 4.
September 7-13	Patterson Chapter 2 Patterson Chapter 3	Chapter 2 Activities Due on September 8. Chapter 3 Activities Due on September 11.
September 14-20	Patterson Chapter 4 Patterson Chapter 5	Chapter 4 Activities Due on September 15. Chapter 5 Activities Due on September 18.
September 21-27	Review Chapters 1-5	Unit 1 Discussion Due on September 22. Unit 1 Test Due on September 25.
September 28-October 4	Patterson Chapter 6 Patterson Chapter 7	Chapter 6 Activities Due on September 29. Chapter 7 Activities Due on October 2.
October 5-11	Patterson Chapter 8 Patterson Chapter 9	Chapter 8 Activities Due on October 6. Chapter 9 Activities Due on October 9.
October 12-18	Patterson Chapter 10 Patterson Chapter 11	Chapter 8 Activities Due on October 13. Chapter 9 Activities Due on October 16.
October 19-25	Review Chapters 6-11	Unit 2 Discussion Due on October 20. Unit 2 Test Due on October 23.
October 26-November 1	Term Paper Proposal Instructions	Term Paper Proposal Due on October 30.
November 2-8	Watch Election Night Coverage Patterson Chapter 12	Chapter 12 Activities Due on November 6.
November 9-15	Patterson Chapter 13 Patterson Chapter 14	Chapter 13 Activities Due on November 10. Chapter 14 Activities Due on November 13.
November 16-22	Patterson Chapter 15 Patterson Chapter 16	Chapter 15 Activities Due on November 17. Chapter 16 Activities Due on November 20.
November 23-29		No Class - Thanksgiving
November 30-December 6	Patterson Chapter 17	Chapter 17 Activities Due on December 1. Unit 3 Discussion Due on December 4 Term Paper Due on December 6.
December 7-11	Review Chapters 12-17	Unit 3 Test Due on December 10.

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### **Course Grading Information:**

*Orientation Quiz:* Review the syllabus and take the multiple choice and short answer quiz as many times as you like before the deadline; this is worth 1% of your overall course grade.

*Introduction Discussion:* Review the instructions for the introduction discussion and be sure to post a photo and respond to two classmates; this is worth 2% of your overall class grade.

*Chapter Assignments:* Each chapter has a chapter assignment, these may be weighted slightly differently from each other based on length and complexity, they will combine for 5% of your overall course grade.

*Chapter Assessments:* Each chapter has a chapter assessment, these may be weighted slightly differently from each other based on length and complexity, they will combine for 10% of your overall course grade.

*Smartbook Chapter Activities:* Each chapter has a Smartbook activity, these will be weighted equally and will combine for 15% of your overall course grade.

*Term Paper Proposal:* This will be a brief description of your research to answer the issue you will investigate for your term paper; this is worth 4% of your overall course grade.

*Term Paper Final Draft:* This will be an investigation into a unique political question and will follow-up on your Term Paper Proposal; this is worth 13% of your overall course grade.

*Unit Discussions:* There will be three unit discussions requiring a unique post and two thoughtful responses to classmates. These will be weighted equally and combine for 15% of your overall course grade.

*Unit Tests:* There will be three required Unit Tests in this class. The tests will be non-cumulative and comprised of fifty multiple-choice questions. The tests will be taken through Brightspace. Test questions will come from the chapter readings for their respective unit. Each test will be weighted equally, and they will combine for 35% of your overall course grade.

According to MCC policy, students may not miss more than 25% of the required classes. If this occurs, students will be administratively dropped from the course for —non-attendance.

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#### **Grade Breakdown:**

Orientation Quiz	1%	A = 90.00+%
Introduction Discussion	2%	B = 80.00-89.99%
Chapter Assignments	5%	C = 70.00-79.99%
Chapter Assessments	10%	D = 60.00-69.99%
Smartbook Chapter Activities	15%	F = Less than 60.00%
Term Paper Proposal	4%	W or I = as appropriate
Term Paper Final Draft	13%	
Unit Discussions	15%	
Unit Tests	35%	
Total	100%	

#### **THE FIRST TIME YOU RECEIVE A GRADE THAT YOU ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH ... GET IN TO SEE ME IMMEDIATELY!**

Too frequently students wait until the end of the semester to try to rectify poor grades received throughout the term. I am here to help, so utilize me. However, once all the grades are said and done there is not much that I can do. But if you get with me earlier in the semester, chances are that grades can be rectified. Remember, there is no stupid question!

#### **Late Work, Attendance, and Make-Up Work Policies:**

Late chapter work will not be allowed for any reason.

Make up exams must be completed within a week of original administration and will have a 20% penalty.

The most important stance is to communicate quickly in the event you will be late on any assignments and the best way forward is to plan ahead and complete work early when possible.

#### **Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:**

*Attendance:* As an online student you must display a great deal of personal responsibility to do well in this class. You need to manage your time, keep up with deadlines and anticipate that technology problems may happen. You should identify a backup plan in the event you have computer and/or internet issues.

*Classroom Behavior:* Simply be respectful. I encourage students to advocate for certain ideas and it is quite all right to disagree with your classmates. However, we can do both of these things with respect and acknowledgement of people having unique experiences from our own.

*Technology Requirement:* Everyone must use e-mail, the Internet, and Brightspace in this course. You will need your MCC login and password in order to access the course on Brightspace. All students registered for the class have been added. You are responsible for any announcement,

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assignments, or other information that I distribute on Brightspace. Additionally, I will post your grades on Brightspace so that you can keep track of them easier. Check these regularly (*i.e.* at least once a week) to help ensure sure that all of your grades are accurate. It is much easier to fix a problem early on than at the end of the semester.

\* **[Click Here for the Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's Brightspace](http://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/teaching-commons/requirements)**  
([www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/teaching-commons/requirements](http://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/teaching-commons/requirements))

Click on the link above for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's Brightspace learning management system.

\* **[Click Here for the MCC Academic Integrity Statement](http://www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity)**  
([www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity](http://www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity))

The link above will provide you with information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

\* **[Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](http://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies)**  
([www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies](http://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies))

Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have guidelines specific to this course.

### **Student Support/Resources:**

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at <http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/>

### **Accommodations/ADA Statement**

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact the Accommodations Coordinator as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. Instructors should not provide accommodations unless approved by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit [mclennan.edu/disability](http://mclennan.edu/disability).

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

[disabilities@mclennan.edu](mailto:disabilities@mclennan.edu)  
254-299-8122, Room 319, Student Services Center

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**\* [Click Here for more information about Title IX](#)**  
**([www.mclennan.edu/titleix](http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix))**

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We care about your safety, and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report an incident of sexual misconduct are encouraged to immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator at [titleix@mclennan.edu](mailto:titleix@mclennan.edu) or by calling Dr. Drew Canham (Vice President for Student Success) at 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at MCC by calling 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting the following website: <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>.

McLennan's Title IX webpage (<http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix/>) contains more information about definitions, reporting, confidentiality, resources, and what to do if you or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence or the crimes of rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence or domestic violence.

*\* You will need to access each link separately through your Web browser (for example: Internet Explorer, Mozilla, Chrome, or Safari) to print each link's information.*