

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

GOVT 2305.C09



WACO, TEXAS

**COURSE SYLLABUS
AND
INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

**Federal Government (Federal Constitution & Topics)
GOVT 2305.C09**

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 including your safety. We will continue to monitor the evolving situation with COVID 19 and adjust our safety guidelines to make sure we offer a safe environment for you and our faculty. Please make sure to consult your faculty and the MCC website on any changes to these guidelines.

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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

Phone Number: (512) 587-3753

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: By Appointment

Required Text & Materials:

Title: *American Government: Institutions & Policies*

Authors: Wilson

Edition: 17th

Publisher: Cengage

ISBN: 978-0-357-89491-0

This class is utilizing the IncludED program wherein students have access to the material through their tuition.

[MCC Bookstore Website](#)

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.
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
- visit the online link for Brightspace help at the following URL:
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>

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: The Study of American Government
- Chapter 2: The Constitution
- Chapter 3: Federalism
- Chapter 4: American Political Culture
- Chapter 5: Civil Liberties

Unit 1 Discussion

Unit 1 Test (50 Multiple-Choice Questions)

- Chapter 7: Public Opinion
- Chapter 8: Political Participation
- Chapter 9: Political Parties
- Chapter 10: Elections and Campaigns
- Chapter 11: Interest Groups

Unit 2 Discussion

Unit 2 Test (50 Multiple-Choice Questions)

- Chapter 13: Congress
- Chapter 14: The Presidency
- Chapter 15: The Bureaucracy

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- Chapter 16: The Judiciary
- Chapter 17: Domestic Policy

Unit 3 Discussion

Unit 3 Test (50 Multiple-Choice Questions)

Term Paper on approved topic

Final Exam (100 Multiple-Choice Questions; Chapters 1-17)

Tentative Course Outline

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

Week	Reading(s) for the Week	Assignments, Quizzes and Exams
August 23-29	Syllabus	Log onto Brightspace/Complete Orientation Quiz (Due 8/26) and Introduction Discussion (Due 8/27)
August 30-Sep 5	Wilson Chapter 1	Chapter 1 Activities Due on August 31.
September 6-12	Wilson Chapter 2 Wilson Chapter 3	Chapter 2 Activities Due on September 7. Chapter 3 Activities Due on September 10.
September 13-19	Wilson Chapter 4	Chapter 4 Activities Due on September 14.
September 20-26	Wilson Chapter 5 Review Chapters 1-5	Chapter 5 Activities Due on September 21. Unit 1 Discussion Due on September 22. Unit 1 Test Due on September 23.
September 27-October 3	Wilson Chapter 7	Chapter 7 Activities Due on September 28.
October 4-10	Wilson Chapter 8	Chapter 8 Activities Due on October 5.
October 11-17	Wilson Chapter 9 Wilson Chapter 10	Chapter 9 Activities Due on October 12. Chapter 10 Activities Due on October 15.
October 18-24	Wilson Chapter 11 Review Chapters 7-11	Chapter 11 Activities Due on October 19. Unit 2 Discussion Due on October 20. Unit 2 Test Due on October 21.
October 25-31	Wilson Chapter 13	Chapter 13 Activities Due on October 26
November 1-7	Wilson Chapter 14	Chapter 14 Activities Due on November 2.
November 8-14	Wilson Chapter 15 Wilson Chapter 16	Chapter 15 Activities Due on November 9. Chapter 16 Activities Due on November 12.
November 15-21	Wilson Chapter 17 Review Chapters 17-17	Chapter 17 Activities Due on November 16. Unit 3 Discussion Due on November 17 Unit 3 Test Due on November 18.
November 22-28	Thanksgiving Week	
November 29-December 5	Term Paper	Term Paper Due December 2
December 6-10	Review Chapters 1-5, 7-11 and 13-17	Final Exam Due by December 9.

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.

Cengage Chapter Assignments: Each chapter has a number of chapter assignments, these may be weighted slightly differently from each other based on length and complexity, they will combine for 10% of your overall course grade. Examples include: *Why Does...*, *Learn It*, *What Would You Do?*, and *Case Study*. Links to these assignments are within each chapter folder; this category is worth 15% of your overall course grade.

Chapter Quiz: Each chapter has a chapter quiz, they will combine for 15% 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.

Term Paper: There will be one term paper of 500-1000 words; this is worth 12% of your 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 25% of your overall course grade.

Final Exam: There will be one final exam covering content from all 17 chapters. The test will be taken through Brightspace. Test questions will come from the chapter readings. Your lowest unit test score will be replaced with what you earn on the final exam (assuming at least one of the unit test scores was less than the final exam score. This is worth 15% 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.

Grade Breakdown:

Orientation Quiz	1%	A = 90.00+%
Introduction Discussion	2%	B = 80.00-89.99%
Chapter Assignments	15%	C = 70.00-79.99%
Chapter Quizzes	15%	D = 60.00-69.99%
Term Paper	12%	F = Less than 60.00%
Unit Discussions	15%	W or I = as appropriate
Unit Tests	25%	
Final Exam	15%	
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 MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html)

(<https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html>)

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

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C O M M U N I T Y

COLLEGE

ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

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/>

College personnel recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources or want to explore strategies for balancing life and school, we encourage you to contact a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu. Students may visit the Completion Center Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. to schedule a meeting with a Success Coach and receive additional resources and support to help reach academic and personal goals. Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff based on household size. Text (254) 870-7573 to schedule a pantry appointment. The Completion Center and pantry are located on the Second Floor of the Student Services Center (SSC).

MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund:

Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html> to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found at https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf.

Minimum Technical Skills:

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

Backup Plan for Technology:

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be notified via your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace:

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty%20and%20Staff%20Commons/requirements.html> for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

Email Policy:

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy (<http://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf>) regarding college email. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails.

Instructional Uses of Email:

Faculty members can determine classroom use of email or electronic communications. Faculty should expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis. Faculty should inform students in the course syllabus if another communication method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

If a faculty member prefers not to communicate by email with their students, it should be reflected in the course syllabus and information should be provided for the preferred form of communication.

Email on Mobile Devices:

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails. If you need assistance with set-up, you may email Helpdesk@mclennan.edu for help.

Forwarding Emails:

You may forward emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may be lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

MCC Academic Integrity Statement:

Go to www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity for information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

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. For additional information, please visit www.mclennan.edu/disability.

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

disabilities@mclennan.edu

254-299-8122

Room 319, Student Services Center

Title IX:

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 or by calling Dr. Drew Canham (Chief of Staff for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion/Title IX) at (254) 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at MCC at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>.

Go to McLennan's Title IX webpage at www.mclennan.edu/titleix/. It 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.

Disclaimer:

The resources and policies listed above are merely for informational purposes and are subject to change without notice or obligation. The College reserves the right to change policies and other requirements in compliance with State and Federal laws. The provisions of this document do not constitute a contract.