

**McLennan**  
C O M M U N I T Y  
**COLLEGE**

WACO, TEXAS

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**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**AND**

**INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

**INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**GOVT - 2304 - 01**

**ANDREW CLAYTON, ASHLEY CRUSETURNER, JEREMY LEHMAN**

**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 at <https://www.mclennan.edu/crisis-management/coronavirus-updates/index.html> on any changes to these guidelines.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION

FALL 2022

# INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

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## **Course Description:**

Together we will read the words that made us an American people. The United States exists as an act of self-creation in which aspiring Americans spoke a nation into existence with ambitious notions of liberty and human equality. Countless deeds and sacrifices fleshed out the aspiration, but the founding words (and compelling words added over time) remain an inspiring collection of core American values. Together we will examine the ongoing revelation that animates the United States of America.

## **Instructor Information:**

Instructor Names: Andrew Clayton, Ashley Cruseturner, Jeremy Lehman

MCC Emails: [aclayton@mclennan.edu](mailto:aclayton@mclennan.edu), [acruseturner@mclennan.edu](mailto:acruseturner@mclennan.edu), [jlehman@mclennan.edu](mailto:jlehman@mclennan.edu)

Office Phone Number: 299-8077

Office Location: MAC 310 (Clayton), MAC 332 (Cruseturner), MAC 313 (Lehman)

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: By appointment

## **Required Text & Materials:**

Readings will be provided on Brightspace which will include the following: the Declaration of Independence, United States Constitution, Bill of Rights, Federalists Essays, Abraham Lincoln's Lyceum Address, Gettysburg Address, and Second Inaugural Address, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> Amendments, Frederick Douglass's "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July," "What the Black Man Wants," and "Oration in Memory of Abraham Lincoln," FDR's "Second Bill of Rights," various Supreme Court rulings, the Truman Doctrine, Eisenhower's Farewell Address, JFK's Inaugural Address, Ronald Reagan's Remarks at the Brandenburg Gate, and MLK's "Letter From Birmingham Jail."

**MCC Bookstore Website:** <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

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

We will read and discuss together the assigned open-source documents in class, sharing insights and observations based on close readings and conversation. Grades based on attendance, participation, contributions, and comprehension.

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

Courses in this category focus on consideration of the Constitution of the United 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."

# INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

GOVT\_2304\_01

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- **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.”

## **Course Outline or Schedule:**

### **Friday, August 26:** Securing Certain Inalienable Rights

- Reading: Declaration of Independence, 1776

### Friday September 2: NO SEMINAR, Hybrid Asynchronous

- Our Constitutional Moment Podcast & Video
- Reading: United States Constitution, 1787, Lincoln Independence Hall Speech, 1861, Vaclav Havel Liberty Award Speech, 1994

### **Friday, September 9:** Forming a More Perfect Union

- Reading: United States Constitution, 1787

### **Friday, September 16:** First Freedoms

- Readings: Federalist Essays #10 and #51, 1788, Brutus I, 1788, Bill of Rights, 1791

### **Friday, September 23,** joint in-person seminar with Honors and Presidentials: The Perpetuation of Our Political Institutions and A New Birth of Freedom

- Readings: Abraham Lincoln’s Lyceum Address, 1838, and The Gettysburg Address, 1863

### **Saturday, September 24,** day trip to Dallas with Honors and Presidentials:

- Visit: Sixth Floor Museum & George W. Bush Library

### **Friday, September 30:** The Perpetuation of Our Political Institutions

- Readings. All Things Lincoln: Eulogy on Henry Clay, 1852, Second Inaugural Address, 1865; Frederick Douglass’s “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?” 1852

### Friday, October 7: NO SEMINAR – FALL BREAK

### **Friday, October 14:** Frederick Douglass, Lincoln, and the Reconstruction Amendments

## INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

GOVT\_2304\_01

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- Frederick Douglass Readings: “What the Black Man Wants,” 1865, “Oration in Memory of Abraham Lincoln,” 1877, and “Remembering the Civil War,” 1878

Wednesday, October 19: Online comprehensive exam

**Friday, October 21:** Privileges and Immunities, Due Process, and Equal Protection of the Laws

- Readings: Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments, 1865-1870, Selections from the 39<sup>th</sup> Congress Debate on 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment

Friday, October 28: NO SEMINAR, Hybrid Asynchronous Readings, Viewing, and Assignment:

- Teddy Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, and the Progressive Impulse: “Government Can and Should Make Life Better for People”
- Readings: TBA, Incorporation Cases? Brandeis, Wilson

**Friday, November 4:** FDR and a Discussion of Modern Freedoms and Expanded Rights

- Readings: Four Freedoms Address, 1941, FDR’s “Second Bill of Rights,” 1944, *N.L.R.B. v. Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation*, *Steward Machine Co. v. Davis*

**Friday, November 11:** A Long Twilight Struggle

- Readings: Woodrow Wilson’s Fourteen Points, 1917; Truman Doctrine, 1947; JFK: Inaugural Address, 1961; RR: Remarks at the Brandenburg Gate, 1987

Friday, November 18: NO SEMINAR, Hybrid Asynchronous

- From the Great Society to a Shining City on a Hill
- Readings: IKE: Farewell Address, 1961; LBJ: Remarks at the University of Michigan, 1964; Ronald Reagan Farewell Address, 1989

Friday, November 25: NO SEMINAR, Thanksgiving Holiday

**Friday, December 2:** An Apostle for Justice

- Reading: MLK: Letter From Birmingham Jail, 1963
- CLASS LUNCH, 12:15

### **Course Grading Information:**

Attendance/Participation: 25%

In-class Assessment: 50%

Midterm Exam: 15%

Final Oral Exam: 10%

## INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

GOVT\_2304\_01

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**Attendance/Participation**—Attendance for all ten Friday sessions is required and essential to your success in our class. Seventy-five percent of your course grade will come from your preparation, participation, contributions, and in-class assessments connected to those ten seminars. We expect you to attend every Friday class. Exceptions are for extraordinary circumstances and are granted on a case-by-case basis. Please consult us personally, and as soon as possible, if an emergency arises.

**In-class Assessment**—At the end of each session, students will respond to a short essay prompt related to the discussion and documents within the class. As the class progresses, prompts will include references to previous documents or topics of discussion, because of the way the class naturally will build upon itself. Essays will be used as assessment, and will be useful in training students in writing for upper level classes in all disciplines. Students are also encouraged to use notes and the documents discussed in class in writing these short essays. The work will be graded weekly, and can be picked up either in the offices of the instructors, or will be distributed at the beginning of the next class. Direct feedback will be provided each week.

**Midterm Exam**—There will be a comprehensive midterm exam that will be taken online approximately halfway through the semester. The exam will have a combination of short essay, multiple choice, and fill in the blank questions.

**Final Oral Exam**—There will be one oral examination at the end of the semester. The three instructors will ask questions related to the course readings. More information will be provided before each exam.

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

Make up assignments will be provided on a case by case basis.

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

All students are expected to abide by the “General Conduct Policy” outlined in the MCC student handbook. Academic dishonesty in any form (e.g. plagiarism or cheating) is a serious offense and it constitutes grounds for *failure* in this course according to the instructor’s discretion. *Do not cut and paste. Do not look at other resources during quizzes and exams unless given permission.* The first infraction, however large or small, will result in an immediate failure of the assignment or exam. The second infraction, however large or small, will result in a failure in the course.

All the following acts are considered plagiarism or cheating:

- Turning in someone's work as your own or modifying another's work and representing it as one's own work

## INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

GOVT\_2304\_01

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- Copying words or ideas or visuals from someone else (like the internet) without giving credit
- Failure to cite sources for written or visual work
- Giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
- Submitting as your own any written assignments prepared totally or in part by another (this includes “cutting and pasting” from websites for assignments and essays).
- Providing, accepting, or copying answers to an exam
- Permitting someone else to take a test for you or completing a test for another

**[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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## ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

### **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 <https://www.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

### **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](mailto: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 <https://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/incidentLandingPageV2-MCC.asp>.

Go to McLennan's Title IX webpage at <https://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.

**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](mailto: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](https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf).

**MCC Academic Integrity Statement:**

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

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

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

**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.

**Email Policy:**

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy regarding college email, which can be found at <https://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf>. 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. For more information about your student email account, go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/student-email/>.

**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](mailto:Helpdesk@mclennan.edu) for help.

You can find help on the McLennan website about connecting your McLennan email account to your mobile device:

- [Email Setup for iPhones and iPads](#)
- [Email Setup for Androids](#)

**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.

For more helpful information about technology at MCC, go to [MCC's Tech Support Cheat Sheet](#) or email [helpdesk@mclennan.edu](mailto:helpdesk@mclennan.edu).

**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.