

Updated 07/18/2023



WACO, TEXAS

**COURSE SYLLABUS
AND
INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

Federal Government: Federal Constitution and Topics

GOVT 2305_O084

Tanya Snook

NOTE: This is a 16-week course.

NOTE: This is an Online course.

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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. NOTE: Must have passed the reading portion of the TSI Assessment or have credit for INRW 0302 or INRW 0402. Semester Hours 3 (3 lec)

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:

None

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:

A. Necessary Materials

1. Text: Wilson *American Government Institutions & Policies* Place of publication not identified: Cengage Learning Custom Publishing, 2020.
2. Notebook of your choice for notes

B. Required Activities

1. Projects: Projects will be given at throughout the course to cover the learning objectives. will be 50% of the grade.
2. Quizzes/Activities/Homework: 25% of the course grade will be comprised of a combination of quizzes, activities, daily assignments, or homework.
3. Discussion Boards – discussion boards will be required and will be counted as 25% of the grade.
4. Students will have an opportunity for an additional 3 points on the final grade if they submit a copy of their handwritten notes. Notes must be included from each module and must be substantial.
5. Student Learning Outcomes Assessment: Students are required to complete an essay to determine necessary mastery of the SLOs. This will count as a test grade for the class

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Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: Tanya Snook

MCC E-mail: tsnook@mclennan.edu

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: By appointment between the hours of 4:30 pm and 10:00 pm

Required Text & Materials:

Title: American Government: Institutions & Policies (0482 Custom)

Author: Wilson

Edition: 17th

Publisher: Cengage Learning Custom Publishing

ISBN: 9780357894910

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

Methods of Teaching and Learning:

Throughout this course, we will use the following methods of teaching and learning: reading assignments, group discussions, project-based learning activities, and personal reflection.

Projects will follow the same basic structure:

- Entry document
- Problem statement
- Know/Need to Know List
- Lessons and Problem Logs
- Product Presentation

Course Objectives and/or Competencies:

Courses in this category focus on consideration of the Constitution of the United States and the constitutions of the states, with special emphasis on that of Texas. Courses involve the analysis of governmental institutions, political behavior, civic engagement, and their political and philosophical foundations.

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- **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 our political system.
6. Analyze the electoral process.
7. Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens
8. Analyze issues and policies in U.S. politics.

Course Attendance/Participation Guidelines:

If a student is not in attendance in accordance with the policies/guidelines of the class as outlined in the course syllabus as of the course census date, faculty are required to drop students from their class roster prior to certifying the respective class roster. A student’s financial aid will be re-evaluated accordingly and the student will only receive funding for those courses attended as of the course census date.

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Before the 60% point of the semester, a student who is absent for 25% or more of a face-to-face or blended course or who miss 25% or more of assigned work for an online course will be withdrawn from the course with a grade of W. A student may also request to be withdrawn with a grade of W before the 60% point of the semester. After the 60% point of the semester, the student may request to be withdrawn if the student is passing, or be assigned the final grade earned at the end of the semester after grades have been updated to reflect missing work.

Course Outline or Schedule:

DATE SUBJECT ASSIGNMENT TO BE STUDIED BEFORE CLASS

Week 1 (Aug 21 – 26)	Introduction to course Ideology <i>Tolerance in America: Something to be proud of</i> <i>The Cost of the American Dream</i>	Syllabus scavenger Hunt Chapter 1 Fallacies Supplement Norms Supplement “I Side With” quiz
Week 2 (Aug 28– Sept 1)	Constitutional Origins <i>Constitutionally Speaking – No Problem More Significant</i> <i>An Introduction to the Political Philosophy of the Constitution</i>	Chapter 2 Reading Guide to Political Philosophy of Constitution Fighting Chance Project Launch
Week 3 (Sept 5 – Sept 8)	Constitution <i>Constitution Quiz</i> <i>Jaywalking Citizenship Test</i> <i>What the Founders Believed</i>	Chapter 2 Continued Constitution Supplement

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	Constitutional Change <i>Four Key Indicators of Authoritarian Behavior</i> <i>The Mueller Report</i> <i>Presidential Power</i>	
Week 4 (Sept 11 – Sept 15)	Federalism <i>Excerpts of Most Important American Speeches</i> Civil Liberties <i>Freedom of Speech: Black Lives Matter Supporters visit a Trump Rally</i> <i>Should you fear the police</i>	Chapter 3 Chapter 5 Civil Liberties supplement
Week 5 (Sept 18 – Sept 22)	Civil Rights <i>Implicit Bias Test</i> <i>Me Too: It's a Scary Time for Men</i>	Chapter 6 Civil Disobedience Supplement Affirmative Action Supplement Fighting Chance Project Due
Week 6 (Sept 25 – Sept 29)	Opinion <i>Rate Yourself: Interactive Quizzes</i> <i>(Pew Research Center)</i>	Chapter 7 Judging Media Sources Election Project Launch

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Week 7 (Oct 2 – Oct 6)	Polling Media <i>Media Biases</i> <i>Kellyanne Conway's Interview Tricks</i>	Public Opinion Polling Supplement Can We Believe This Activity Chapter 12 News Station Bias Article
Week 8 (Oct 9 – Oct 13)	Interest Groups <i>Stephen Colbert's SuperPAC</i> <i>Open Secrets.org: Center for Responsive Politics</i> <i>Federal Election Commission</i> Parties <i>Democratic vs Republican Occupations</i> <i>Diffen: Compare and Contrast Differences (Republicans vs Democrats)</i>	Chapter 11 Chapter 9 "I Side With" results
Week 9 (Oct 15 – Oct 20)	Campaigns and Districting <i>Daisy Ad</i> <i>Funny Campaign Advertisement</i> <i>Valerie Plame Ad</i> <i>Gerrymandering</i>	Chapter 10

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	<i>Play the Redistricting Game!</i> <i>Ugly Gerry</i> Presidential Election <i>Interactive Electoral College Map</i> <i>How Red and Blue are the 50 States</i>	Chapter 14 Election Project Due
Week 10 (Oct 23-Oct 27)	Political Participation <i>Party Polarization in Congress</i> <i>Eric Reid: Why Colin Kaepernick And I Decided to Take a Knee</i> <i>The Student Vote is Surging: So are Efforts to Suppress It</i> Evaluating “Democracy”	Chapter 8 Chapter 20 Rep. Democracy in Theory vs. Am. Practice
Week 11 (Oct 30 – Nov 3)	Judiciary Supreme Court <i>Oyez: Audio Recordings of Supreme Court Oral Arguments</i>	Chapter 16 Launch Xlandia Project (final exam)
Week 12 (Nov 6 – Nov 10)	Congress	Chapter 13

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	<p><i>Are you reflected in the New Congress?</i></p> <p><i>The 118th Congress</i></p> <p><i>GovTrack – Track the Progress of Bills being considered in Congress</i></p> <p>Lawmaking and the Budget</p> <p><i>Senior Citizens React to Benefit Changes</i></p> <p><i>Stabalize the National Debt: How Would You Do It?</i></p> <p><i>New York Times Budget Puzzle</i></p>	<p>Lawmaking Process Supplement</p> <p>Chapter 17</p> <p>Tax and Lawmaking Process</p> <p>Supplements</p>
Week 13 (Nov 13 – Nov 17)	<p>Presidency</p> <p><i>Executive Actions</i></p> <p><i>Groupthink</i></p> <p>Bureaucracy</p> <p><i>Senator vs Administrator</i></p>	<p>Chapter 14</p> <p>War Power Act</p> <p>8 Presidential Roles</p> <p>Chapter 15</p> <p>Tax Supplement</p>
Week 14 (Nov 27 – Dec 1)	<p>Economic Policy</p> <p><i>Monetary Policy Cartoon</i></p> <p><i>Regulation</i></p> <p><i>Tragedy of the Commons</i></p> <p>Trade Policy</p>	<p>Chapter 18</p> <p>Chapter 19</p> <p>Free Trade & Prot supplement p. 1-3, 6-9</p>

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	Foreign Policy Lessons	Foreign Policy Lesson Supplements (1 page and PP)
Dec 5	Final Exam: Xlandia DUE	Final Exam: Xlandia DUE

Please note this schedule can be changed at any time upon instructor discretion. Changes will be posted on Brightspace.

Course Grading Information:

Grades will be accounted for using the following categories and percentages:

Quizzes and Daily Assignments	25%
Discussion Boards	25%
Projects	50%

Students will have an opportunity for an additional 3 points on the final grade if they submit a copy of their handwritten notes. Notes must be included from each module and must be substantial.

Late Work and Make Up Work Policies:

All work is due on the due date presented in Brightspace. If you are unable to meet the deadline, please communicate that with the instructor as soon as possible. **Please note, for every day past the due date, there is a 10 point deduction on your assignment grade.**

Since this is an online course, attendance is taken through discussion boards. Your initial post is a day of attendance and your responses ON A DIFFERENT DAY is a day of attendance. A late assignment is always better than no assignment.

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Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:

Participants are expected to maintain classroom decorum that includes respect for other participants and the instructor, regular attendance, and an attitude that seeks to take full advantage of the educational opportunity. Students will be expected to interact appropriately online and in response to classmates. Disagreement is expected, attacks are not tolerated.

[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 www.mclennan.edu/disability.

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

disabilities@mclennan.edu 2542998122 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 acting Title IX Coordinator at titleix@mclennan.edu or by calling, Dr. Claudette Jackson, (Accommodations/Title IX) at (254) 299-8465. MCC employees are mandatory reporters and must report incidents immediately to the Title IX Coordinator. Individuals may also contact the MCC Police Department at (254) 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center 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.

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/>

Academic Support and Tutoring is here to help students with all their course-related needs. Specializing in one-on-one tutoring, developing study skills, and effectively writing essays. Academic Support and Tutoring can be found in the Library and main floor of the Learning Commons. This service is available to students in person or through Zoom. You can contact the Academic Support and Tutoring team via Zoom or email (ast@mclennan.edu) by going to our website (<https://www.mclennan.edu/academic-support-and-tutoring/>).

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 either MCC CREW – Campus Resources Education Web by calling (254) 299-8561 or by emailing crew@mclennan.edu or a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu. Both are located in the Completion Center located on the second floor of the Student Services Center (SSC) which is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff. To schedule an appointment, go to https://mclennan.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_07byXd7eB8iTqJg. Both the Completion Center and Paulanne's 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.

MCC Academic Integrity Statement:

Go to www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity for information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating. The unauthorized use of artificial intelligence (AI) for classwork can be a violation of the College's General Conduct Policy. Whether AI is authorized in a course and the parameters in which AI can be used in a course will be outlined by each instructor.

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

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teachingandlearning/FacultyandStaffCommons/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 (<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. For more information about your student email account, go to www.mclennan.edu/studentemail.

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.

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.

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.