

McLennan C O M M U N I T Y C O L L E G E

WACO, TEXAS

COURSE SYLLABUS

AND

INSTRUCTOR PLAN

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

GOVT - 2305 - 89

ANDREW CLAYTON

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.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

GOVT_2305_89

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.

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:

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

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: Andrew Clayton
MCC email: aclayton@mclennan.edu
Office Phone Number: 299-8227
Office Location: MAC 310
Office Hours: Online by appointment only

Required Text & Materials:

Title: *American Government: Institutions and Policies*
Author: James Wilson, et al.
Edition: 17th Edition
Publisher: Cengage
ISBN: 9780357894910

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

Methods of Teaching and Learning:

The method of instruction and teaching for this course will be a combination of videos, quizzes and exams. Students will be expected to take multiple quizzes online each week in preparation for the exams and to ensure that the material is read. There will be a total of three exams.

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.”
- **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.”

Learning Outcomes:

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.

Course Outline or Schedule:

For this schedule, *We the People* is AG.

The “topic” does not correspond to the chapter titles in the AG textbook. The work week goes from Monday at **midnight** to the following Monday at **11:59 pm (midnight)**. The exception to this is the abbreviated first week.

The instructor from time to time may change the due date of an assignment. If he does so, he will push back an assignment deadline—never forward

Please notice that the quiz numbers do not always correspond with the chapter numbers!
Moreover, the topic does not correspond with the chapter titles.

Week	Topic	Readings	Assignments
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Week 1 January 10 - January 17	The Study of American Government	AG Chapter 1 --“When Facts are in the Eye of the Beholder” --“Have you Ever Been Wrong” --“You’re Not Going to Change your Mind”	Quiz 1 (on AG Chapter 1) Supplemental Quiz on Political Bias
Week 2 January 17 - January 24	Constitution and Founding	AG Chapter 2 Secondary Reading: Martin Diamond “Revolution of Sober Expectations” and Herbert Storing on the Constitutional Convention	Quiz 2 (on Chapter 2) Supplemental Quiz on “Revolution of Sober Expectations” Supplemental Quiz on “Constitutional Convention”
Week 3 January 24 - January 31	Federalism	AG Chapter 3 Secondary Readings: Martin Diamond and Epstein on Federalism	Quiz 3 (on Chapter 3) Supplemental Quiz on Diamond, Epstein and Loyola
Week 4 January 31 - February 7	Congress	AG Chapter 13 Secondary Readings: Making Congress Responsible	Quiz 4 (on Chapter 13) Supplemental Quiz: Making Congress Responsible
Week 5 February 7 - February 14	Exam I	Exam I	Exam I
Week 6 February 14 - February 21	The Presidency	AG Chapter 14 Secondary Reading: On the Electoral College	Quiz 5 (on Chapter 14) Supplemental Quiz on the Electoral College Reading

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Week 7 February 21 - February 28	The Administrative State	AG Chapter 15 Secondary Reading: Confronting the Administrative State	Quiz 6 (on Chapter 15) Supplemental Quiz: The Administrative State
Week 8 February 28 - March 7	The Judiciary	AG Chapter 16 Secondary Reading: TBA	Quiz 7 (on Chapter 16) Supplemental Quiz: TBA
Week 9 March 14 - March 21	Political Parties and Elections	AG Chapter 9	Quiz 8 (on Chapter 9)
Week 10 March 21 - March 28	Exam II	Exam II	Exam II
Week 11 March 28 - April 2	Civil Liberties and Civil Rights	AG Chapter 5 Supplemental Reading: Kurt Lash on the 14th Amendment	Quiz 9 (on Chapter 5) Supplemental Quiz: 14th Amendment Quiz
Week 12 April 2 - April 9	Civil Rights	AG Chapter 6 Supplemental Reading: <i>Shelby County v. Holder</i>	Quiz 10 (on Chapter 6) Supplemental Quiz: <i>Shelby County v. Holder</i>
Week 13 April 9 - April 16	Foreign Policy	AG Chapter 19	Quiz 11 (on Chapter 19)
Week 14 April 16 - April 23	TBA	TBA	TBA
Week 15/16 April 23 - April 30	Exam III	Exam III	Exam III

Course Grading Information:

The grade in this course will be based on the following:

Chapter Quizzes/Attendance: 20%

Supplemental Quizzes: 20%

Exam I: 20%

Exam II: 20%

Exam III: 20%

The grades are simply weighted by the above percentages. The total weighted grade will be provided at every point in the semester. To be clear, the points are insignificant in this class. The weight of the grade is what matters.

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Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:

Students must abide by the MCC's attendance policy. By MCC's policy, all students must attend. The quizzes make up the weekly attendance. If a student fails to complete 25% of the quizzes that will constitute an automatic failure (F) in the course according to the MCC policy on attendance. If the class becomes too much of a burden, contact the professor immediately to withdraw from the course. Quizzes and exams cannot be made up. In rare cases, the instructor may allow it, but the student needs to speak to the instructor as soon as possible and within the week it is due.

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
- 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

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(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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C O M M U N I T Y

COLLEGE

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

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.

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.

MCC Academic Integrity Statement:

Go to 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 (<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.

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.