



WACO, TEXAS

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**COURSE SYLLABUS  
AND  
INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

**Federal Government: Federal Constitution & Topics**

**GOVT 2305 Section 0080**

**Mike Campenni**

**NOTE: THIS IS A SIXTEEN WEEK CLASS**

**NOTE: THIS IS AN ONLINE CLASS**

COURSE NAME  
COURSE NUMBER & SECTION NUMBER

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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.

**Prerequisites and/or Co-requisites:**

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

**Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:**

This is an online course that does not require a student's presence on campus, but does require strong self-discipline and time management skills.

**Instructor Information:**

Instructor Name: Mike Campenni

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

Office Phone Number: 254-299-8941

Office Location: MAC 323

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: Monday- Friday, 6:30am to 9:00am, 12:00 to 5:00 pm. Other times are available by request.

Other Instructional Information: It is a good idea to call or email to confirm appointments.

**Required Text & Materials:**

Title: ***We The People***

Author: Ginsburg, Lowi, Weir, et al.

Edition: 14th Edition Essentials (Etext-Inclusive Access-This book is included in Tuition Bill.)

Publisher: Norton

Interactive eBook ISBN: 978-1-324-03483-4

[MCC Bookstore Website](http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/)

<http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

**Methods of Teaching and Learning:**

This course utilizes online lectures, readings, videos, simulations and exercises to deliver content. It then uses thirteen (13), 20 multiple choice quizzes worth 20 points each, one Discussion Board worth 100 points, one (1) short essay worth 100 points and one Final Exam worth 100 points. There are 560 Total Points available in the class. The objective is to assess content mastery, critical thinking skills, reading comprehension and communications skills.

**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. Courses involve the analysis of governmental institutions, political behavior, civic engagement, and their political and philosophical foundations.

Student activities in this class will facilitate the development of the following competencies and the mastery of the following objectives.

**Competencies:**

- **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 (Course Objectives 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 NAME  
COURSE NUMBER & SECTION NUMBER

---

**Course Outline**

This class consists of the first thirteen chapters in the text. Essentially, the class starts at the front of the book and goes in the order of the Table of Contents through the first Thirteen Text Chapters. Due dates can be found on the class home page calendar in Bright Space and next to the topics under the CONTENT page. Each chapter has specific learning objectives, activities, instructional materials and assessments listed.

**Course Grading Information:**

This course uses an aggregate point total. There are 560 total points available in this class. An A will be worth **ABOUT** 90%, a B will be worth **ABOUT** 80% and so forth. I say about because I may use a course or individual curve. The Quizzes and Final Exam comes from the text and Brightspace Content. The essay and DBs come from the text and online research.

The 560 total points may be accumulated as follows:

1. There is a one week long Discussion Board. A DB requires reading and researching an issue assigned by the instructor to the class. It requires the student to think critically about what he/she reads and researches plus what he/she gets through the discussion with his/her classmates. The Discussion Board makes the student interact with his/her fellow students, the material and his/her instructor. It helps students to develop personal and social responsibility in terms of democratic governance. And finally, it helps students to effectively communicate. The Discussion Board is worth 100 points. The Rubric for grading a Discussion Board is as follows:

50% Discussion Board basic procedures:

- a. Reading at least 80% of all class Discussion Board posts,
- b. Posting new threads or replies on each of the 5 days the Discussion Board is open,
- c. Posting a minimum of 10 quality posts spread over the week of the Discussion Board (but doing the minimum number of posts will result in a minimum grade—no higher than a C), higher grades require more than minimum posting.
- d. Responding directly to comments addressed to you by classmates or the instructor in the Discussion Board;

40% Discussion Board basic requirements:

- a. Displaying accurate information in your posts,
- b. Using accurate information as the basis for critically thinking about

COURSE NAME  
COURSE NUMBER & SECTION NUMBER

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- the issues,
- c. Effectively communicating in the Discussion Board;
- 10% Developing and Displaying Personal and Social Responsibility in the DB:
- a. Formulating and displaying personally responsible positions on the subject issues,
- b. Communicating a socially responsible position on the issues.
2. One small semester essay found under CONTENT. It is worth 100 points. I expect each student to read and research the assigned topic. Based upon the reading and research, I expect a student to develop and defend an informed opinion on the assigned topic. I expect the student to communicate in his/her essay a personally and socially responsible position. This is not a research paper. It does require reading and research however. I do not care what your opinion is as long as it shows a basic understanding of the issue and displays critical thinking on your part in the development and defense of your opinion. The essay shall consist of a minimum of 2-3 typed pages (1000 words). It will address an issue that will be provided by the instructor. Your essay must be checked for grammar and spelling. If the grammar and spelling are such that I can't understand what you have written, you will be given a failing grade. I expect you to cite sources where applicable. Please follow the MCC policy on Academic Honesty which can be found on the school website. The Rubric for grading the essay is as follows:
- a. 40% Displaying an accurate understanding of the issue,
- b. 40% The Development of a critically thought out position on the issue,
- c. 10% Effectively communicating your position on the issue,
- d. 10% Communicating why your position demonstrates personal and social responsibility.
3. Thirteen Chapter quizzes. Each consist of twenty multiple choice questions. Each quiz is worth 20 points.
4. One Final Exam. This exam is a capstone type exam in that it will demonstrate the student's comprehension of the learning objectives set out in each chapter folder under the Texas Higher Education Co Board's requirements. It is timed for two and a half hours. It consists of one hundred multiple choice questions (drawn from the same test banks as the chapter quizzes). You may take the test only once. In addition to assessing how well a student has mastered the subject material, it also

COURSE NAME  
COURSE NUMBER & SECTION NUMBER

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assesses critical thinking skills by how well the student has chosen the single best answer on each question.

**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.

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 (instructor's prerogative) 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.

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

The instructor reserves the right to drop students for lack of attendance which is measured by the timely submission of work in an Online class. If something comes up that prevents the timely completion of assignments, the student should immediately contact the instructor. You may view your attendance/participation in Bright Space. If you fall behind on assignments or work in the class you will show absent. That's why it is important to contact me when things happen.

I promise to do my best to make this class work for you. I promise to work as hard as you do to get you through it. If you have problems and needs, I will do my best to address and solve them.

The instructor reserves the right to accept late work, or to assign make up work at his own discretion.

**Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:**

This is an online class. I expect you to be courteous and respectful in email exchanges with me and other students.

This class centers to a large extent on interaction between the student and the course

COURSE NAME  
COURSE NUMBER & SECTION NUMBER

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material and the student and the instructor. I expect you to read and respond to my emails. Many of them are about your performance on assessments, sometimes they are inquiries about trends I see and sometimes I am exploring Government with you. Please view the email process with the same commitment that I do. Remember that we solely use the MCC Email system in this class.

**Specific Course Policies For Govt 2305:**

1. Please consult the Brightspace course's **ANNOUNCEMENTS** page daily for course updates, scheduling changes, lesson materials, essay information, tests and ideas. You can get help with Brightspace problems by contacting me, Academic Support Services and Network Services.
2. MCC has extensive filters and security protocols. Because of this, some email accounts may not work. I will use MCC email to contact you as per school policy. To access your MCC email, go to the MCC home page at: [www.mclennan.edu](http://www.mclennan.edu) and click on the student email icon. Please place your course and section number on the subject line of all emails. It is up to you to make sure that I am receiving your EMAILS and work product. I will always respond to your EMAIL within a day during the week and two days on a weekend. If I do not respond inside that time frame, assume that I didn't get your message and contact me again, or by phone.
3. If you have exceptional circumstances, please consult with the instructor about your individual case. New regulations make dropping classes very expensive and limited in number. Let me help you through any problems you have in this class. Something which you may consider insurmountable may be fairly easy to fix. **I AM HERE TO HELP YOU SUCCEED.** Remember that the school follows the state mandated **SIX DROP POLICY** (see catalog for an explanation). Again, I'm happy to work with you to make this class work.
4. Any student requiring special accommodations, due to a disabling or other condition, should contact the instructor as soon as possible. I'm here to make the class work for you. I'm happy to work with your special needs.
5. I suggest that you do a chapter by first looking over the Course Objectives. You may wish to print them out. Then you can look over the objectives while you do a first skim of the chapter. Perhaps you could write the page numbers where those objectives are discussed. Look over the Chapter Summary. Next read the chapter for comprehension. I suggest you outline or highlight the chapter. Then you should look over the film clips and simulations as they pertain to specific items in the chapter. Use the Flashcards—they come straight from the test questions. Finally, take the quiz. The quiz uses critical thinking skills by asking you to select the *best* answers. If you get a low score on a quiz, contact me and let's visit about it. I may be able to help.
6. I suggest that you download free software from the internet for FIREFOX, CHROME, WORD, REAL PLAYER, and QUICK Time.

COURSE NAME  
COURSE NUMBER & SECTION NUMBER

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7. You can get help with your technical problems from the instructor and/or the Network Services people. You can reach them from 8 until 5 on weekdays at 254-299-8077.

**Faculty Bio and Teaching Statement**

Hello! My name is Mike Campenni. I am the instructor for this course. I have been teaching college for right at 46 years. I am a tenured, full professor in Government at MCC.

At MCC, I have won a NISOD (State-wide) Outstanding Teacher Award and the school's Minnie Piper state-wide Professor Nomination. Over the years, I have had research published in *Comparative Political Studies*, a book chapter on Public Finance and have presented at multiple American Political Science Association Conventions and the American Public Administration Conventions. In addition, I have presented at regional conferences. I am on the MCC Speakers' Bureau and speak frequently to civic groups. I have served on most of the standing faculty and institutional committees at MCC. I have served multiple terms on Faculty Council and have been both the Vice President and President of the Council. I am a member of the Texas Community College Teachers Association and have served as a state wide committee member (Services, Members and Legislative committees). I have served as a Faculty Advisor for the Ranch Club, the Non Traditional Students Club and the Politics Club.

My teaching philosophy is relatively straight forward. My job is to help you learn about government. Everything that I do is aimed towards that end. If I have done a good job, then your grades will reflect that effort. Generally, my lodestar is to do whatever helps the student learn about government. To that end, I'm willing to do whatever is ethical, equitable and possible to make this class work for you. The key is for you to let me know what you need from me to be successful and for us to work hard together.

**[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. In this class we use the timely submission of work to "take" attendance.



COURSE NAME  
COURSE NUMBER & SECTION NUMBER

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10/09/2023



## **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](http://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. 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 may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>

Additionally, Title IX provides rights and protections for pregnant and newly parenting students. Go to McLennan's Title IX webpage at [www.mclennan.edu/titleix/](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:crew@mclennan.edu) or a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing [success@mclennan.edu](mailto:success@mclennan.edu).

Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff. To schedule an appointment, go to <https://calendly.com/paulannespantry-mcc/15min>.

The CREW, Success Coaches, and Paulanne's Pantry are all located on the second floor of the Student Services building in Success Coaching Services.

**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:**

Please view our [Academic integrity statement](#) for more 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-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. For more information about your student email account, go to [www.mclennan.edu/studentemail](http://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](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](#) 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.