



WACO, TEXAS

COURSE SYLLABUS

AND

INSTRUCTOR PLAN

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

GOVT - 2305 – O082

ANDREW CLAYTON

NOTE: This is a 16-week course.

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: We the People
Author: Thomas Patterson
Edition: 15th Edition
Publisher: McGraw-Hill
ISBN: 1265026688

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 two 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 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:

Week	Topic	Readings	Assignments
Week 1 January 8 – January 15	The Study of American Government	WP 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 WP Chapter 1) Supplemental Quiz on Political Bias
Week 2 January 15 – January 22	Constitution and Founding	WP 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 22 – January 29	Federalism	WP Chapter 3 Secondary Readings: Martin Diamond and Epstein on Federalism	Quiz 3 (on Chapter 3) Supplemental Quiz on Diamond, Epstein and Loyola

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Week 4 January 29 – February 5	Congress	WP Chapter 11 Secondary Readings: Making Congress Responsible	Quiz 4 (on Chapter 11) Supplemental Quiz: Making Congress Responsible
Week 5 February 5 – February 12	Exam I	Exam I	Exam I
Week 6 February 12 – February 19	The Presidency	WP Chapter 12 Secondary Reading: On the Electoral College	Quiz 5 (on Chapter 12) Supplemental Quiz on the Electoral College Reading
Week 7 February 19 – February 26	The Administrative State	WP Chapter 13 Secondary Reading: Confronting the Administrative State	Quiz 6 (on Chapter 13) Supplemental Quiz: The Administrative State
Week 8 February 26 – March 4	The Judiciary	WP Chapter 14 Secondary Reading: TBA	Quiz 7 (on Chapter 14) Supplemental Quiz: TBA
Week 9 March 11 – March 17	Political Parties and Elections	WP Chapter 8	Quiz 8 (on Chapter 8)
Week 10 March 11 – March 18	Exam II	Exam II	Exam II
Week 11 March 18 – March 25	Civil Liberties and Civil Rights	WP Chapter 4 Supplemental Reading:	Quiz 9 (on Chapter 4) Supplemental Quiz: 14th Amendment Quiz

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		Kurt Lash on the 14th Amendment	
Week 12 March 25 – April 1	Civil Rights	WP Chapter 5 Supplemental Reading: <i>Shelby County v. Holder</i>	Quiz 10 (on Chapter 5) Supplemental Quiz: <i>Shelby County v. Holder</i>
Week 13 April 1 – April 8	Foreign Policy	WP Chapter 17 Secondary Readings: The Moral Roots of American Foreign Policy	Quiz 11 (on Chapter 17) Supplemental Quiz: Foreign Policy
Week 14 April 8 – April 15		TBA	TBA
Weeks 15 and 16 April 15 – April 29	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. The points are insignificant in this class. The weight of the grade is what matters.

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 (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.

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

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. 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/. 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 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

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.

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](#) 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.