



WACO, TEXAS

---

**COURSE SYLLABUS  
AND  
INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

**Federal Government: Federal Constitution & Topics**

**GOVT 2305 Section 005 & 030**

**Mike Campenni**

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

**NOTE: THIS IS A FACE TO FACE COURSE**

COURSE NAME

COURSE NUMBER & SECTION NUMBER

---

**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 a Face to Face course that requires good attendance. It also requires note taking and extensive use of Brightspace. It requires strong commitment and time management skills to be successful.

**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. Zoom meetings are available for meetings and tutoring.

Other 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: 15th Edition Essentials (Etext-Inclusive Access-This book is included in Tuition Bill.)

Publisher: Norton

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

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

**Methods of Teaching and Learning:**

This course utilizes lectures, readings, videos, simulations and exercises to deliver content. It then uses thirteen (13), 20 multiple choice quizzes worth 20 points each, two (2) one week Discussion Boards each worth 50 points, one Midterm Exam worth a 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 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. Please listen carefully in class and take notes. Please keep up with Announcements made on class and in Brightspace. Please keep up with your MCC email.

### **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 are two (2) one week long Discussion Boards. 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. It requires the student to make and post in the DB one major 500 word statement plus two separate replies commenting upon other students' statements. 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. Each Discussion Board is worth 50 points. The Rubric for grading a Discussion Board is as follows:
  - a. Reading all class Discussion Board Statements.
  - b. Post one 500 word statement as a New Thread.
  - c. Posting two Reply statements of 300 words each for a classmate.
  - d. Displaying accurate information in your posts,
  - e. Effectively communicating in the Discussion Board;
  - f. Formulating and displaying personally responsible positions.
  - g. Communicating a socially responsible position on the issues.

2. Thirteen Chapter quizzes. Each consist of twenty multiple choice questions. Each quiz is worth 20 points.
3. One Midterm Exam worth 100 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 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 or by the timely submission of work in the class. If something comes up that prevents the timely completion of assignments or attendance in class the student should immediately contact the instructor. You may view your attendance/participation in Bright Space.

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 a Face to Face class and I expect attendance at the class sessions. I expect you to be courteous and respectful in class, in DBs and in email exchanges with me and other students.

This class centers to a large extent on interaction between the students, the course material and the student and the instructor. I am available for one on one meetings in my office, via Zoom or phone and or email. 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, 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).
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 unit chapter by taking notes in class, reading the chapter and doing the activities in the Brightspace unit folder. 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. Make sure you keep up with quizzes, tests and DBs.
7. You can get help with your technical problems from the instructor and/or the IT 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 49 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 Recognition. 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 President (2) and the Vice President (1) 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 and be successful at MCC. 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

---

06/24/2025



## 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 Accommodations (Disability Services) as soon as possible to begin the steps for requesting accommodations. 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 Accommodations (Disability Services). 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

### **Title IX:**

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a Federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs and activities that receive Federal funds. 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 a Title IX incident 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.

Additionally, Title IX provides rights and protections for pregnant and newly parenting students which can include educational accommodations such as excused absences

and the opportunity to make up assignments and tests. Lactation spaces are also available on campus. Please email [titleix@mclennan.edu](mailto:titleix@mclennan.edu) for more information.

MCC employees are mandatory reporters and must report incidents immediately to the Title IX Coordinator. Faculty and Staff may email [titleix@mclennan.edu](mailto:titleix@mclennan.edu) to submit a report.

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 <https://www.lighthouse-services.com>

Visit McLennan's Title IX webpage at <https://www.mclennan.edu/titleix/> to learn more about Title IX protections, reporting, and resources.

### **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/>

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>.

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/>)

### **Success Coaching Services is here for you.**

We know life can be overwhelming sometimes—and that challenges outside the classroom can impact your success inside it. That's why our Success Coaches provide personalized support to help you navigate it all.

Success Coaching is available to every MCC student, no matter where you're starting from. Whether you're looking for direction, need quick advice, or just want someone to talk to, our coaches are here to listen, celebrate your strengths, and help you move forward with confidence. At Success Coaching Services, your voice is heard, your goals matter, and your future is our focus.

To learn more or schedule an appointment, visit [www.mclennan.edu/successcoaching](http://www.mclennan.edu/successcoaching), call 254-299-8226, or email [success@mclennan.edu](mailto:success@mclennan.edu).

College personnel also recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources and other essential resources, we encourage you to contact the CREW - Campus Resources Education Web by calling 254-299-8561 or emailing [crew@mclennan.edu](mailto:crew@mclennan.edu).

Success Coaching Services, the CREW, and Paulanne's Pantry are located on the second floor of the Student Services building in Success Coaching Services, suite 249.

The Student Counseling Center offers confidential mental health counseling to currently enrolled students at no charge. Counselors are trained to help students with problems related to personal, social, and emotional concerns. Sessions focus on short-term goals in order to facilitate students college success and adjustment. This service is available to students in person or through Zoom.

Make an appointment to meet with a counselor by visiting the center in the Wellness & Fitness building, room 101, calling 254-299-8210, or emailing [counseling@mclennan.edu](mailto:counseling@mclennan.edu).

### **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/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html>

### **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:**

For online and blended/hybrid courses, students must have access to a reliable computer and internet. For more information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system go to: <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty-and-StaffCommons/requirements.html>

**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.