COURSE SYLLABUS
AND
INSTRUCTOR PLAN

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
GOVT - 2305 – M2

ANDREW CLAYTON

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION
WINTER MINIsemester 2018
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: Each Course day between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. (online)

Required Text & Materials:

Title: We the People
Author: Ginsburg, Benjamin; et al.
Edition: 11th Essentials
Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company ISBN: 978-0-393-64738-9

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

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/

* Click Here for the Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC’s D2L|Brightspace (www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/teaching-commons/requirements)
Click on the link above for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC’s D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

Methods of Teaching and Learning:
The method of instruction and teaching for this course will be a combination of both 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 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.

- **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 Grading Information:**

The grade in this course will be based on the following:
Chapter Quizzes/Attendance: 25%
Supplemental Quizzes on Secondary Readings: 25%
Exam I: 25%
Exam II: 25%

The grades are simply weighted by the above percentages. The total weighted grade will be provided throughout the semester.

90%–100% = A  80%–89.99% = B  70%–79.99% = C  60%–69.99% = D

**Course Outline or Schedule:**

Please see Brightspace for a complete course schedule.

**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, exams and discussion boards 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.

**Parent Involvement and FERPA (Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act):**

Because this is a college class, under no circumstances is the instructor legally allowed to speak to parents about a student’s work, class conduct, attendance, or any other matter dealing with this course. The “Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act” provides students who are 18 or who are in a non-high school class certain rights, which include a greater amount of privacy. Per one government website, “FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level.” For more information regarding your rights as a student under FERPA, please see the following website:


**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) is a serious offense and it constitutes grounds for failure in this course according to the instructor’s discretion. *Do not cut and paste.* The first infraction, however large or small, will result in an immediate grade deduction. The second infraction, however large or small, will result in a failure in the course.
All the following acts are considered plagiarism:

· 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 Academic Integrity Statement
(www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity)
The link above will provide you with information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

* Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy
(www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies)
Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have guidelines specific to this course.

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. Instructors should not provide accommodations unless approved by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit 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
* Click Here for more information about Title IX
(www.mclennan.edu/titleix)
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 (Vice President for Student Success) at 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at MCC by calling 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students.

McLennan’s Title IX webpage (http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix/) 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.

* You will need to access each link separately through your Web browser (for example: Internet Explorer, Mozilla, Chrome, or Safari) to print each link’s information.