

<b>GOVT-2305-24182 United States Government</b>		
Instructor: Ingram, Scott	Office: NE NFAC 2114	
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Term: Spring 2012	Last day to drop: 04/14/12	
Official day of record: 02/01/12		
100% Refund: 01-16-2012	70% Refund: 02-06-2012	25% Refund: 02-13-2012

Office Hours						
Day	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End
Mon						
Tue	02:00 PM	02:30 PM				
Wed						
Thu	02:00 PM	02:30 PM				
Fri						
Sat						
Sun						

Comments:  
Or, by appointment between approximately 10:15 and 10:50 am, Tues and Thursday



[District Course Requirements](#)

[Books](#)

**Student Accessibility Resources**

Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is required to contact the Student Accessibility Resources (SAR) Office located on each campus to schedule an appointment with the Coordinator of SAR. All discussions are confidential. Because SAR accommodations may require early planning and are not provided retroactively, students are encouraged to contact SAR as early in the semester as possible. SAR is responsible for approving and coordinating all disability-related services. TCC professors will honor requests for accommodation when they are issued by SAR.

**Campus Carry**

Effective August 1, 2017, the Campus Carry law ([Senate Bill 11](#) ) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public community college campuses, except in locations the College establishes as prohibited. Prohibited areas include but are not limited to Theater and Performance Halls, Health Services, Testing Services, Counseling Services, Physical Education, Early College High School Programs, Child Care Facilities, and the TCC Police Department. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more specific TCC regulations, <http://www.tccd.edu/services/police-department/open-carry/campus-carry-regulations/>. For emergency information, please go to the following link: <https://www.tccd.edu/about/emergency-information/>.

**Course Evaluation**

Student participation in the evaluation process is critical to the college's commitment to quality teaching and academic excellence. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in the process with constructive feedback that is relevant to teaching and course content. The average time to complete the course evaluation is approximately 5-8 minutes. Please take time to share your comments, suggestions, and concerns.

This course may be evaluated between 02/02/12 and 05/10/12. [Course Evaluation](#).

**Text(s):**

Patterson, Thomas E. 2011. **We the People: A Concise Introduction to American Politics**, McGraw-Hill. Ninth Edition.

Notes: This book is required. Please make sure you purchase or rent the Ninth Edition. You are not required to buy the book from the TCC bookstore. An eTextbook is available from [CourseSmart](#) (click for link).

Additional required readings may be assigned. If so, these readings will be posted in our course folder on Campus Cruiser and will not need to be purchased.

McGraw-Hill provides on-line learning resource designed specifically for this book. I strongly recommend you use these resources ([here](#)) to prepare for exams and quizzes.

**Special Materials:**

You will need to purchase eight Scantron test forms (Form No. 882-E). These are available in the bookstore and at various vending machines across campus. A pencil is needed to take the exam. Access to a computer and internet access are necessary to complete homework assignments.

**Focus:**

My focus in this class is to offer you the intellectual tools and knowledge you need to understand and evaluate political issues and your government.

The intellectual tools I can offer you include a method to evaluate what people are telling you about government, politics, laws, and policies. We are all often told by others: "this is the way it is," "this is right," "this is wrong," "do this." What is true, not true, or to what extent or for whom might it be true? The technique we will learn and practice to evaluate what we are told is the scientific method. With this method, any assertion or educated guess is a hypothesis and there's a way of testing the hypothesis using experiments and evidence. From our time together, it is my hope you learn the life-long skill of evaluating 'how we know what we know' with evidence.

The knowledge you need to understand how your government works is contained in your textbook. You can use this knowledge to get involved with issues you care about and influence the world around you. Class lectures will not summarize what is in the book. Lectures will instead focus on particular concepts and issues of specific interest or importance to our understanding of government. It is unlikely you will pass this class without reading the assigned chapters in the textbook and attending almost all lectures. Besides, learning is fun---your textbook is well written and I will work hard to make the lectures and class discussions intellectually stimulating.

Please also see the District Master Syllabus ([click here](#)) for the specific course goals and learning objectives for this course: GOVT 2305.

## Requirements:

**EXAMS:** There will be four exams including the final exam. Each exam is comprised of up to 50 multiple choice and true/false questions. Questions will come from the book and/or in-class lectures. Each exam is cumulative: this means that questions will come from any topic/chapter covered previously during the semester. Similarly, the final exam will cover material from throughout the course. I will drop the lowest of your first three exam scores; that is, it will not count toward your final grade. I will not drop your final exam score.

**Missed Exams:** There will be no make-up exams, no matter what the reason is for missing the exam. Instead, the missed exam will be your lowest score and it will automatically be dropped and will not count toward your final grade. If you are more than 15 minutes late for an exam, you may not be allowed to take the exam. If you leave the classroom once a test begins, you may be required to turn in your test and will not be allowed to finish the exam. There are no make-up exams given for the final exam. If you miss the final you will receive '0' points.

**QUIZZES:** There will be four quizzes. The quizzes are designed to help you prepare for each exam. The lowest quiz score will be dropped. There are no surprise "pop" quizzes.

**Missed Quiz:** There will be no make-up quizzes, no matter what the reason is for missing the quiz. Instead, the missed quiz will be your lowest score and it will automatically be dropped and will not count toward your final grade.

**Note:** I strongly recommend you use the on-line resources provided by McGraw-Hill ([here](#)) to help you study and prepare for the exams and quizzes.

**HOMEWORK:** There are two homework assignments.

**Assignment 1:** Complete the "Researching My Member of Congress" assignment. Read the [slides](#) (click link or use url: <http://prezi.com/cjrahefyn3f1/meet-your-members-of-congress/>) and complete the handout, titled "Researching My Member of Congress" posted in our course "Shared Files" folder on Campus Cruiser. Download the Microsoft Word file, type and save your answers, then upload the completed document to Campus Cruiser. Go to "Student Tools", Select "My Assignments" and select item 9, "Homework 1." The assignment is due 27 March at 3:00 pm on Campus Cruiser. We will discuss this assignment in class.

**Assignment 2:** Write a letter to your U.S. Senator or Representative on an issue of interest and importance to you. Use the research you completed for Assignment 1 to inform your letter. Submit the letter to me in class no later than 29 March. The letter must be in a stamped, addressed envelope. I will read, seal, and mail the letters.

**How to turn in your homework:** You will turn in your homework (Assignment 1) online via the "My Assignments" tab found in Campus Cruiser. The document must be submitted in a format that I can open. The following formats are acceptable: .doc, .docx, .wps, and .rtf, pdf. If I cannot open your submission, I cannot grade it and you will get a zero. I will not accept any assignments via email so please do not wait until the last minute to submit your papers.

**Grading of homework:** Homework assignments will be graded based on the extent to which you have followed the required format, answered the questions, and/or argued your point effectively.

**Missed or late homework:** Assignments may be submitted at any time during the semester before the deadline specified on the syllabus. Once the deadline passes, the link to submit your assignment will no longer be available and you cannot submit your assignments. As a result, no late work is accepted. All homework assignments count toward your final grade; none will be dropped.

## OPTIONAL EXTRA CREDIT

If you would like to earn extra credit, complete the following assignment: On the McGraw Hill, POLIcentral website ([here](#)), select one of the debate topics provided (under the "Content by Topic" heading), complete the exercise, print out the results, and turn them in to me no later than the day/time of the final exam. You must read and follow the Debate Guide carefully. Each submitted assignment must include the four elements listed on the website (Position, Opening Statement, Talking Points, Closing Statement). I will add up to 25 points to your Final Exam score, depending on the quality of your work.

**Grading Criteria:**

- 4 Exams @ 100 points each (lowest of Exams 1-3 dropped) = 60% of grade
- 4 Quizzes @ 25 points each (lowest dropped) = 20% of grade
- 2 Homework assignments @ 100 points each = 20% of grade

- 90 to 100% = A
- 80 to 89% = B
- 70 to 79% = C
- 60 to 69% = D
- 0 to 59% = F

All grades will be kept in Campus Cruiser. Please verify your grades are correct and notify me immediately if you see a mistake.

**Class Dates:**

- 7 February: Quiz 1
  - 9 February: Exam 1
  - 6 March: Quiz 2
  - 8 March: Exam 2
  - 27 March: Homework Assignment 1 due by 3:00 pm on Campus Cruiser
  - 29 March: Homework Assignment 2 due in class
  - 10 April: Quiz 3
  - 12 April: Exam 3
  - 3 May: Quiz 4
- Week of 7 May: Final Exam as determined by the College. Optional Extra Credit Assignment due day/time of exam.

**Daily Assignments:**

Note: The schedule below is tentative and subject to change. Please read the assigned chapter prior to the class meeting. Class discussions can only be meaningful if you understand what we are talking about.

Week	Dates	Lecture Topic	Your Responsibility
1	17 January	Why study government? Introduction to class	
1	19 January	Introduction to study of government	Read Chapter 1
2	24 January	Public Opinion, Socialization	Read Chapter 6
2	26 January	Political Participation, Parties	Read Chapter 7
3	31 January	Political Parties	Read Chapter 8
3	2 February	Political Parties	Read Chapter 8

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4	7 February	Interest Groups	Read Chapter 9, <b>Quiz 1</b>
4	9 February	<b>Exam 1</b>	
5	14 February	Constitutional Democracy	Read Chapter 2
5	16 February	Constitutional Democracy	Read Chapter 2
6	21 February	Federalism	Read Chapter 3
6	23 February	Federalism	Read Chapter 3
7	28 February	Civil Liberties	Read Chapter 4
7	1 March	Civil Liberties	Read Chapter 4
8	6 March	Equal Rights	Read Chapter 5, <b>Quiz 2</b>
8	8 March	<b>Exam 2</b>	
9	20 March	Congress	Read Chapter 11
9	22 March	Congress	Read Chapter 11
10	27 March	Presidency	Read Chapter 12, <b>Homework Assignment 1 due by 3:00 pm.</b>
10	29 March	Presidency	Read Chapter 12, <b>Homework Assignment 2 due in class.</b>
11	3 April	Federal Bureaucracy	Read Chapter 13
11	5 April	Federal Bureaucracy	Read Chapter 13
12	10 April	Federal Judicial System	Read Chapter 14, <b>Quiz 3</b>
12	12 April	<b>Exam 3</b>	
13	17 April	News Media	Read Chapter 10
13	19 April	Environmental Policy	Read Chapter 15
14	24 April	Environmental Policy	Read Chapter 15
14	26 April	Foreign Policy	Read Chapter 17
15	1 May	Foreign Policy	Read Chapter 17
15	3 May	Review for Final Exam	<b>Quiz 4</b>
16	Week of 7 May	Final Exam	<b>Final Exam:</b> see TCC calendar. Optional Extra Credit Assignment due at time of exam.

Please bring a Scantron Form No. 882-E to quizzes and exams.

### Additional Class Information:

**Communication:** Email is the best way to contact me. You must email me using your Campus Cruiser email account to my Campus Cruiser account (Scott.Ingram@my.tccd.edu). I cannot respond to emails from other accounts. I am also happy to meet with you during my office hours and/or immediately after class.

**Code of Student Behavior:** TCC has the responsibility and authority to formulate and enforce rules of student conduct that are appropriate and necessary to further the educational goals of the College and its students. Students who enroll must accept responsibility for their behavior and for their ultimate success in higher education. To create a positive climate for learning, TCC expects all students to abide by a Code of Student Behavior. The District Handbook for Students, available at [TCCD's Website](#) has full information regarding this. To summarize: Students must maintain high standards of scholastic honesty. Violations of the TCC Code of Student Behavior include but are not limited to cheating on tests or assignments, plagiarism, and collusion; violence or threats of violence; loud or abusive language; and failure to comply with the direction of College officials and instructors. Students are responsible for adhering to the TCCD policy on academic dishonesty as stated in the online Student Handbook at the following address ([click here](#)).

**Plagiarism:** Please see the TCC website resources on plagiarism: [click here](#)

**Attendance Policy:** Regular and punctual class attendance is expected at Tarrant County College. Student absences will be recorded from the first day the class meets. In case of absence, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor. Students absent on official school business are entitled to make up coursework missed. In all other cases, the instructor will judge whether the student will be permitted to make up work and will decide on the time and nature of the makeup. However, the student is expressly responsible for any work missed regardless of the cause of the absence. The student must discuss such work with the instructor and should do so immediately on returning to school. Communication between the student and instructor is most important, and it is the student's responsibility to initiate such communication. If students do not appear at the prearranged time or meet the prescribed deadline for makeup work, they forfeit their rights for further makeup of that work. Students who stop attending class for any reason should contact the instructor and the Registrar's office to officially withdraw from the class. Failure to officially withdraw may result in a failing grade for the course.

Class attendance and participation are essential to student success. Effective with the Spring 2012 term, the following attendance guidelines will apply: A student in an on-campus course missing a cumulative of 15 percent of the class meetings and not keeping up with the course assignments may be dropped at the discretion of the instructor.

[TCCD Academic Calendar](#) for important College Dates.

[TCCD Student Handbook](#) for information on attendance and withdrawal policy, dishonesty and plagiarism, and student accessibility resources.

[Access Course Evaluations](#) for instructions on evaluating courses.

[Attendance](#) for attendance requirements.