



Behavioral Science, Humanities and Social Science Division

# AMERICAN GOVERNMENT: NATIONAL, STATE, AND LOCAL I

## CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

A survey of national, state and local government, including such topics as the U. S. and the Texas Constitutions; democratic theory, federalism, political culture, political socialization, and public opinion, political participation and electoral behavioral, political parties, and interest groups, press, and local government. These phenomena are examined at the national, state and local levels with an emphasis placed on linkages with the formulation of public policy.

This course satisfies state requirements for Teacher Certification in Texas (4510025142)

<b>Course Title:</b>	American Government: National, State, and Local I
<b>Course Number:</b>	GOVT 2301-3W001
<b>Credit Hours:</b>	3 semester credit hours/48 instructional contact hours
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	See Course Catalog for Prerequisite*
<b>Semester and Year:</b>	Spring 2009
<b>Class Days and Times:</b>	Distance Learning Class
<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Annie Johnson Benifield
<b>Office Location:</b>	S-257-D 7-8 TTH; 2-3:30 T
<b>Office Hours:</b>	12:30-2:00TH Other Times By Appointment Only
<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:annie.j.benifield@lonestar.edu">annie.j.benifield@lonestar.edu</a>
<b>Office phone:</b>	281-357-3761

**ADA STATEMENT:**

The LSCS colleges are dedicated to providing the least restrictive learning environment for all students. The college district promotes equity in academic access through the implementation of reasonable accommodations as required by the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title V, Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) which will enable students with disabilities to participate in and benefit from all post-secondary educational activities.

If you require reasonable accommodations because of a physical, mental, or learning disability, please notify the instructor of this course as soon as possible and preferably before the end of the first two weeks of class to arrange for reasonable accommodations.

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

- Understand the meaning of power, politics, and political culture, and evaluate the role of government.
- Identify the elements of democratic theory.
- Understand the roots of American political development from the founding of Plymouth Colony to the Declaration of Independence.
- Identify the major elements of the Declaration of Independence.
- Identify the characteristics and development of the U.S. and Texas constitutions.
- Analyze the concept of federalism and its operation in the U.S.
- Define public opinion, how it is measured, and its impact on public policy.
- Explain the role, activities, and major types of interest groups and describe various techniques used by groups to promote their interests.
- Trace the evolution of political parties and evaluate their role in the American political system.
- Analyze the dynamics of the electoral process.
- Analyze the dynamics of the Realigning Election phenomena.
- Assess the major functions of the media and its role in politics.
- Analyze the development of Texas political parties and the role of the primary elections and party conventions in shaping those parties.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND/OR MATERIALS:**

Ginsberg, Lowi, & Weir, et al.: *We The People: An Introduction to American Politics*, 6<sup>th</sup> Texas Edition (2007), ISBN #: 13:978-0-393-92955-3 or 10:0-393-92955-8

The Ginsberg, et al.: *We The People: An Introduction to American Politics*, 6<sup>th</sup> Texas Edition (2007) book is also available as an eBook at <http://wwnorton.com/studyspace>

**\*PREREQUISITES: ENGL 0305 OR ENGL 0316 AND ENGL 0307 OR 0326, OR HIGHER LEVEL COURSE (ENGL 1301), OR PLACEMENT BY TESTING.**

**ORIENTATION INFORMATION:**

ALL INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS COURSE WILL BE PROVIDED ONLINE WITHIN IN THE COURSE. FOR VISTA TUTORIAL VISIT: [HTTP://CTDLTUTORIALS.LONESTAR.CC](http://CTDLTUTORIALS.LONESTAR.CC)

## EVALUATION:

There will be three major exams. Each exam will be worth 100 points of your final grade. Each exam “will” include written essays, with the remainder being objective type questions- multiple choice, and/or true/false. All exams will be available during the first week of class (JANUARY 12, 2009), however, there are specific deadline dates listed on the syllabus and course schedule and calendar in Vista. Please pay close attention to these dates. **PLEASE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO TAKE EXAMS BECAUSE “ABSOLUTELY NO MAKE-UP EXAMS/EXTENSIONS WILL BE GIVEN.”**

Requirements	Points
Exam 1	100
Exam 2	100
Exam 3	100
Quizzes	150
Chapter Assignments	45
Discussions	15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>510</b>

## LETTER GRADE ASSIGNMENT:

Final letter grades will be assigned after computing the total number of points earned as follows:

Final Average in Points	Letter Grade
500-448	A
447-398	B
397-348	C
347-298	D
297-below	F

## ASSIGNMENTS/EXAMS:

All assignments are to be completed and submitted to the instructor on/before the scheduled deadline date. No late assignments will be accepted. No make-up exams will be given since all exams will be made available to the students in the Lone Star Assessment Centers within the first week of class with specified deadline dates. Grades for all assignments will be posted approximately one week after the deadline date.

**STUDENTS CAN ASSESS THEIR FINAL GRADE BY USING MY RECORDS BEGINNING MAY 11, 2009.**

## GUARANTEED GRADUATE POLICY:

The Lone Star College System guarantees that graduates of its Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, or Associate of Applied Science and all Certificate programs, providing under certain circumstances, additional education and training tuition free to students lacking appropriate mastery of specified competencies. For additional information, refer to the LSCS college catalog.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Participation in all assigned course work is required. It is the responsibility of each student to actively participate in any dialog and discussions on the board. Failure to participate or submit assignments due within the first two weeks of this class may result in a lock out from this course.

## **WITHDRAWAL POLICY:**

Withdrawal from the course after the "official day of record" (see current catalog) will result in a final grade of "W" on the student transcript and no credit will be awarded. Prior to the official day of record, it is the student's responsibility to initiate and complete a request for withdrawal from any course. **THE LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW/DROP AND RECEIVE A "W" IS APRIL 6, 2009.**

## **STUDY GUIDE**

The Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, et al. textbook has a website with chapter reviews, outlines, summaries, vocabulary, flashcards, preview and diagnostic quizzes, and other critical data related to the study of American and Texas Government. This information is also available within this course. Please utilize the information found within the course and/or visit the website below when preparing for class assignments, quizzes, exams, etc. It is located at the following address:

<http://wnorton.com/studyspace>

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

### **Examinations**

Three major examinations are required for this course. All exams will be available during the first week of class JANUARY 12, 2009 **"ONLY"** in The Lone Star College System Assessment Centers until the scheduled exam deadline date. The format of the exams **"may"** include a combination of multiple choice and/or essay questions over the assigned chapters from the Ginsberg, et al. (American and Texas Government) combined textbook. Students should contact the assessment centers to determine their hours of operation. **Each student is required to notify the instructor at least two weeks in advance if he/she cannot take the exams at any of the specified locations. You may take the exams in advance of the deadline dates; however, no extensions and/or make-ups will be allowed in this course for any reason.**

**Exam #1 DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 21, 2009**

**Exam #2 DEADLINE: MARCH 31, 2009**

**Exam #3 DEADLINE: MAY 5, 2009**

\*\*\*A PHOTO I. D. is required to take an examination at any LSCS Assessment Center. If students cannot take exams at The Lone Star College System Assessment Centers, the students must arrange to take the exams with an acceptable proctor (approved by the instructor) at their own expense. **This process for taking an exam at another site must be initiated and completed two weeks prior to the exam deadline date.** No examination will be given by any Assessment Center (1) one hour prior to closing. It is the student's responsibility to ascertain the hours of operation for the assessment centers. This information is available at:

<http://www.lonestar.edu> through a search. You may want to call The Lone Star College System Assessment Centers in advance to insure the hours of operation are current.

### **QUIZZES:**

THERE WILL BE A TOTAL OF THREE (3) QUIZZES DURING THIS COURSE. EACH QUIZ IS WORTH 50 POINTS. FOR EACH PHASE OF THE COURSE AT LEAST ONE QUIZ WILL BE INCLUDED. THERE ARE DEADLINE DATES FOR EACH QUIZ; HOWEVER, ALL QUIZZES WILL BE AVAILABLE BEGINNING THE WEEK OF JANUARY 12, 2009. YOU CAN TAKE EACH QUIZ TWICE AT ANY TIME PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE DATE THROUGH WEBCT VISTA. THERE IS A BUILT IN DELAY TIME BETWEEN TAKE 1 AND TAKE 2 FOR THE QUIZZES. THE HIGHEST QUIZ SCORE WILL POST IN THE GRADE BOOK AUTOMATICALLY. QUIZZES WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE AFTER THE POSTED DEADLINE DATE. NO ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR COMPLETING THIS WORK. THE TIME ALLOTTED FOR EACH QUIZ IS 60 MINUTES.

### **DISCUSSION BOARD TOPICS/ CHAPTER ASSIGNMENTS WORTH 60 POINTS**

THREE TOPICS WILL BE PLACED ON THE DISCUSSION BOARD DURING THE COURSE OF THIS SEMESTER. EACH STUDENT MUST POST COMMENTS ON THE TOPICS PROVIDED. YOU WILL RECEIVE A MAXIMUM OF FIVE (5) POINTS FOR EACH TOPIC WHEN YOU PROVIDE THE REQUIRED INFORMATION ON THIS TOPIC.

Three chapter assignments will be required during the course of the semester. Each chapter assignment is worth fifteen (15) points each. These assignments will be included under the appropriate module for submission over the course of the semester. These grades will automatically post in the Vista grade book so that each student can monitor individual progress in the course. Please complete and save the assignment document as a rich text file or pdf file on your computer then add as an attachment under the appropriate assignment heading to insure access.

Pay close attention to all due dates because no late chapter assignment will be accepted under any circumstances. **NO EXCUSES.**

This is an individual effort therefore make sure that your papers are not identical or similar to someone else's. This will result in an automatic zero ("0") for the work in question. Plagiarism collaboration or cheating on any assignments will not be tolerated in this class.

Please read the Academic Integrity statement included in this syllabus thoroughly so you will gain a comprehension understanding of The Lone Star College System policy on matters concerning plagiarism, cheating, collaborative or copying or sharing other students' work.

**A deadline date is assigned for each Learning Module. You may submit any chapter assignment prior to the deadline date; however, no late assignments are accepted. If you have problems with submission, please call the DL Helpdesk 832-813-6700 for assistance.**

**\*\*\* ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE ON THE DATE SPECIFIED. NO LATE QUIZZES, EXAMS OR OTHER ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED. NO EXTENSIONS FOR ANY ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE GRANTED. YOU MAY SUBMIT ANY WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE DATES LISTED ON THE SYLLABUS AND/OR COURSE SCHEDULE. ALL GRADES FOR ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE POSTED APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK AFTER THE SPECIFIED DUE/DEADLINE DATE.**

## **GOVT 2301-3W001 IS DIVIDED INTO THREE MODULES:**

### **I. PHASE ONE: JANUARY 12 – FEBRUARY 21, 2009**

- 1. TEXTBOOK CHAPTERS-GINSBERG, ET AL. : 1, 2, 3, 20 & 26**
- 2. DISCUSSION BOARD TOPIC #1 DEADLINE JANUARY 23, 2009**
- 3. CHAPTER # 1 YOU DECIDE EXERCISE DEADLINE FEBRUARY 21 , 2009**
- 4. QUIZ #1 DEADLINE FEBRUARY 21, 2009**
- 5. EXAM #1 DEADLINE DATE FEBRUARY 21, 2009**

### **II. PHASE TWO: FEBRUARY 23- MARCH 31, 2009**

- 1. TEXTBOOK CHAPTERS: GINSBERG, ET AL.:1, 8, 6, 19 & 21 (PPS817-825)**
- 2. DISCUSSION BOARD TOPIC #2: DEADLINE: MARCH 7, 2009**
- 3. CHAPTER 8 YOU DECIDE EXERCISE DEADLINE: MARCH 31, 2009**
- 4. QUIZ: #2 DEADLINE: MARCH 31, 2009**
- 5. EXAM #2 DEADLINE DATE: MARCH 31, 2009**

### **III. PHASE THREE: APRIL 1 – MAY 5, 2009**

- 1. TEXTBOOK CHAPTERS – GINSBERG, ET AL.: 9, 11, 7, 21 (PP.805-817, 825-830)**
- 2. & 22**
- 3. DISCUSSION TOPIC #3: DEADLINE: APRIL 11, 2009**
- 4. CHAPTER 7: YOU DECIDE EXERCISE DEADLINE: MAY 5, 2009**
- 5. QUIZ #3 DEADLINE: MAY 5, 2009**
- 6. EXAM #3 DEADLINE DATE: MAY 5, 2009**

***\*The instructor reserves the right to modify/change the syllabus during the semester.***

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

LSCS is committed to a high standard of academic integrity in the academic community. In becoming a part of the academic community, students are responsible for honesty and independent effort. Failure to uphold these standards includes, but is not limited to, the following: plagiarizing written work or projects, cheating on exams or assignments, collusion on an exam or project, and misrepresentation of credentials or prerequisites when registering for a course. Cheating includes looking at or copying from another student's exam, orally communicating or receiving answers during an exam, having another person take an exam or complete a project or assignment, using unauthorized notes, texts, or other materials for an exam, and obtaining or distributing an unauthorized copy of an exam or any part of an exam. Plagiarism means passing off as his/her own the ideas or writings of another (that is, without giving proper credit by documenting sources). Plagiarism includes submitting a paper, report or project that someone else has prepared, in whole or in part. Collusion is inappropriately collaborating on assignments designed to be completed independently. These definitions are not exhaustive. When there is clear evidence of cheating, plagiarism, collusion or misrepresentation, a faculty member will take disciplinary action including but not limited to: requiring the student to retake or resubmit an exam or assignment, assigning a grade of zero or "F" for an exam or assignment; or assigning a grade of "F" for the

course. Additional sanctions including being withdrawn from the course, program or expelled from school may be imposed on a student who violates the standards of academic integrity.

**SOFTWARE PIRACY:**

Law strictly prohibits unauthorized copying of software purchased by Lone Star College-Tomball for use in laboratories. Lone Star College-Tomball administration will take appropriate disciplinary action against anyone violating copyright laws.

**COMPUTER VIRUS PROTECTION:**

Computer viruses are, unfortunately, a fact of life. Using the diskettes on more than one computer creates the possibility of infecting computers and diskettes with a computer virus. This exposes the computers of the college, your personal computer, and any others you may be using to potentially damaging viruses. The college has aggressive anti-virus procedures in place to protect its computers, but cannot guarantee that a virus might not temporarily infect one of its machines. It is your responsibility to protect all computers under your control and use and ensure that each diskette you use, whenever or wherever you use it, has been scanned with anti-virus software. Since new viruses arise continually, your anti-virus software must be kept current. And, since no anti-virus software will find every virus, keeping copies of data (backups) is extremely important.

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT:**

It is the policy of The Lone Star College System to provide equal employment, admission and educational opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

The Lone Star College System strives to provide an excellent learning environment free from harassment or intimidation directed at any person's race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability. Any form of harassment will not be tolerated.

**SCANS MATRIX:**

The U.S. Department of Education Secretary's Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills (SCANS) has researched and listed the skills and competencies that make up the know-how employees will need for workplace success. You can view the SCANS skills that are included in the course objectives at the Lone Star College System web site at:

<http://www.lonestar.edu>, under Catalog & Description, then Course Descriptions.

**To locate information concerning the libraries and/or Lone Star College System Assessment Center, go to: <http://www.lonestar.edu>**

**THE TOMBALL COLLEGE LIBRARY HOURS AND PHONE:**

The phone number is 832-559-4211.

Monday – Thursday:  
8:00 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Friday:

8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday:

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**THE LSC-TOMBALL ASSESSMENT CENTER:**

The phone number is 281-357-3698

Monday – Thursday:

8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Friday:

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday:

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.