



Behavioral Sciences, Humanities and Social Science Division

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT: National, State, and Local II

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

An examination of the institutional elements of the American political system: Legislature, Executive, Judiciary, and Bureaucracy. These elements are examined at the national, state and local levels with a special emphasis on their roles in the development of public policy.
(4510025142)

Course Title:	American Government: National, State, and Local II
Course Number	GOVT 2302-31007
Credit Hours/Contact Hours	3 semester credit hours/48 instructional contact hours
Prerequisites	See course catalog for Prerequisites *
Semester and Year	Spring 2009
Instructor	Dr. Annie Johnson Benifield
Class days and times	TTH: 11:00 – 12:20
Class Room Location	Tomball S 267
Office Location	Tomball S-257-D TTH: 7:00-8:00 T: 2-3:30
Office Hours:	TH: 12:30-2:00 MF: By Appt only
Office Phone:	281-357-3761
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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.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: GOVERNMENT 2302

- ◆ Explore the institutional role of the legislative branch at both the state and federal levels.
- ◆ Explain the institutional role of the executive branch, including the bureaucracy, at both the state and federal levels.
- ◆ Discuss the institutional role of the judicial branch at both the state and federal levels.
- ◆ Analyze the development of civil rights and liberties.
- ◆ Acquire a basic understanding of domestic and foreign policy.

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

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

GINSBERG, LOWI & WEIR (2007) WE THE PEOPLE: AN INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN POLITICS, SIXTH TEXAS EDITION

PLEASE PLACE ALL CELLPHONES/BEEPERS/BLACKBERRIES ON VIBRATE UPON ENTERING THIS CLASSROOM

CONTENT AND PURPOSE:

This course is mainly “about” the Legislature Branch (Congress), the Executive Branch (Presidency) and the Bureaucracy, the U.S. Courts (Supreme Court and Lower Courts) and National Public Policies (Economic, Social/Domestic and Foreign/Defense) and secondarily “about” the Texas Legislature, the Governor/Plural Executive, and the Texas Court System and Public Policy at the state level. The focus will be on the internal dynamics of our public institutions and how they go about producing the public policies that touch our daily lives.

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY:

Class lectures/discussions and textbooks/internet sources are to be the primary emphasis in this course. Special care has been taken to incorporate related material from public policy to better understand the institutions of governments. Approximately fifty percent of the examination content will be taken from the textbooks, any supplemental readings and the remainder from lectures/classroom discussions.

CARDINAL RULES OF UNDERSTANDING GOVERNMENT:

1. Informal things are at least as important as the formal
2. Structure affects Process affects Outcomes

EVALUATION:

There will be three major exams in this course during the semester, on the major sections delineated on the course syllabus – the Constitution and the Legislature, the Executive/Bureaucracy and the Judiciary and different types of Public Policies. Each examination will be worth **100** points. Each exam **"may"** include any combination of the following: short answer written essays, with the remainder being objective type questions-multiple choice, true/false, completions and/or identifications. These items will be defined before each exam. So please pay close attention, it is critical that you read all assigned chapters and take notes during lectures and discussions in class.

REQUIREMENT	POINTS
EXAM 1	100
EXAM 2	100
EXAM 3	100
QUIZZES	150
DISCUSSIONS/CHAPTER ASSIGNMENTS	60
TOTAL	510

LETTER GRADE ASSIGNMENT:

Final letter grades will be assigned after determining total points earned, computing individual final averages in percent as follows:

Final Grade Scale	Letter Grade
500– 448	A
447 – 398	B
397- 348	C
347- 298	D
297 and below	F

STUDENTS CAN ACCESS THEIR FINAL GRADE BY USING MY RECORDS BEGINNING MONDAY, MAY 11, 2009

You can access additional copies of the course syllabus at or in the Web Vista component of this course:

<http://faculty.lonestar.edu/abenifield>

GUARANTEED GRADUATE POLICY:

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 catalog.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

It is the responsibility of each student to consult with the instructor regarding absences and to obtain the lecture notes from another student. Attendance and participation in all classes is expected. Should you anticipate an absence, please notify the instructor in advance. Any student who misses four (4) classes (six hours/equivalent to two weeks) should withdraw him/herself from the class. To be considered present a student must be present for the entire class session, not just the beginning.

FAMILY: CHILDREN (UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE) OF REGISTERED STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED IN CLASS. APPROPRIATE CHILDCARE SHOULD BE ARRANGED. ADDITIONALLY, YOUR PARENTS SHOULD NOT CALL ME, ATTEND CLASS FOR YOU, BRING DOCTOR'S NOTE TO ME AND /OR ASK FOR PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT FOR YOU, ETC. MY RELATIONSHIP AS AN INSTRUCTOR IS WITH YOU AND NOT YOUR PARENTS. THIS IS FOR YOUR PRIVACY (PROTECTED BY FEDERAL LAW).

WITHDRAWAL POLICY:

Withdrawal from the course after the "official day of record" will result in a final grade of "W" on the student transcript and no credit will be awarded for the course. Prior to the official withdrawal date, it is the student's responsibility to initiate a course withdrawal request.

THE LAST DAY TO DROP AND RECEIVE A "W" FOR A SEMESTER LENGTH COURSE IS APRIL 6, 2009.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Class attendance is of the essence; therefore each student is expected to attend all class sessions. **Punctuality is similarly stressed.**
2. Students are required to keep up with current events through the broadcast, internet and/or print media and will be required to discuss how these events are relevant.

3. Periodically unannounced quizzes may be given to assess the level of understanding of required readings and/or current events. **NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES.**
4. Three major exams will be given. **NO MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN.** Each exam will include only the material covered preceding it. **EXAM SCHEDULE: FEBRUARY 17, MARCH 31, and TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2008 (11:00-12:50 p.m.).**

Study Guide

The Ginsberg, Lowi & Weir Textbook has a website with chapter reviews, summaries, sample exam questions, and other critical data related to the study of American Government. It is located at the following address:

<http://wnorton.com/studyspace>

Please utilize this website when preparing for class assignments, discussions, quizzes, exams, etc.

QUIZZES:

FOR EACH PHASE OF THE COURSE AT LEAST ONE QUIZ WILL BE INCLUDED. THERE WILL BE A TOTAL OF THREE (3) QUIZZES. YOU WILL HAVE TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO TAKE EACH QUIZ. THE HIGHEST SCORE WILL BE POSTED TO THE GRADE BOOK IN WEBCT VISTA. EACH QUIZ IS WORTH 50 POINTS. 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 SPECIFIED DEADLINE DATE. THEY WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE AFTER THE POSTED DATE THROUGH WEBCT VISTA. THERE IS A 50 MINUTE DELAY TIME BETWEEN TAKE 1 AND TAKE 2 FOR THE QUIZZES. NO ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR COMPLETING THIS WORK.

DISCUSSION BOARD TOPICS/CHAPTER ASSIGNMENTS WORTH 60 POINTS

Three topics will be placed on the Discussion Board in vista during the semester. Each student must post comments on all of the three topics.

YOU WILL RECEIVE A MAXIMUM OF FIVE (5) POINTS FOR EACH DISCUSSION BOARD TOPIC YOU PROVIDE THE REQUIRED INFORMATION. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF POINTS FOR THESE THREE ASSIGNMENTS IS 15 POINTS.

Three Chapter assignments will be included to earn a total of *forty-five* (45) points in this class. These assignments will be included under the appropriate course content module. The grade for each assignment will automatically post in the Vista grade book no later than one week after the deadline date for submission so that each student can monitor individual progress in this course.

These assignments involve 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 assignment will not be tolerated in this class.

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

***** ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE ON THE DATE SPECIFIED. NO LATE QUIZZES, EXAMS OR OTHER ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES SO PLEASE BE SURE TO NOTE ALL DUE DATES ON YOUR PERSONAL CALENDAR AS WELL AS THE WebCT VISTA CALENDAR.**

CHAPTER ASSIGNMENTS

OUTLINE:

Students will go to the website listed above to complete the following assignments and bring to class on or before the due date or turn in online in Vista. Always send and keep a copy for your own personal records.

All assignments must be typewritten. No hand written assignments and/or notebook/tablet paper will be accepted. **ABSOLUTELY NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Please Do Not Submit Unrequested Data (a five (5) point deduction in points) or the entire WebPages with simply you name written. A zero will be assigned to those papers submitted printed directly from the WebPages.

- A. Go to <http://wnorton.com/studyspace> Click on Political Science; then study space for the Weir textbook, and then select Chapter 10: go to the Connect Icon; click on What Government Does. Submit the information requested: in question and answer format numerically enumerated. **Due February 17, 2009.**
- B. Go to <http://wnorton.com/studyspace> Click on Political Science; then study space for the Weir textbook, click on Chapter 13: go to the Connect Icon; complete the You Decide Exercise Submit the information requested: questions/answers in a numerically enumerated format. **Due March 31, 2009**
- C. Go to <http://wnorton.com/studyspace> Click on Political Science; then study space for the Weir textbook, Click on Chapter 16. Go to the Connect Icon You Decide Exercise. Submit the information requested: **Due April 30, 2009.**

Please do not wait until the last minute to complete assignments. No excuses will be accepted concerning the website being down.

Tentative Lecture and Discussion Schedule:

I. INTRODUCTION JANUARY 13, 2009

- A. Articles of Confederation (**Ginsberg, et. al, Chapter 2**)
 - 1. Government under the Articles
 - 2. Institutions and Functions
- B. The Constitutional Convention
 - 1. Plans of Representation
 - 2. Ratification of the Constitution
- C. Texas State Constitutions (**Ginsberg, et. al, Chapter 20**)

SECTION II: PUBLIC POLICY AND THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS (Ginsberg, et. al, Chapters 10 & 12)

The Legislative Branch : Congress and the States

- A. History and Growth of Congress
 - 1. Constitutional Requirements
 - 2. Qualifications
 - 3. Term of Office

- B. Functions of Congress
 - 1. Constitutional Provisions
 - 2. Policy making
 - 3. Oversight

- C. Congressional Organization
 - 1. Role of Political Parties
 - 2. Leadership in Congress
 - 3. Committee System

- D. Types of Representation
 - 1. Descriptive vs. Substantive
 - 2. Delegate vs. Trustee
 - 3. Hybrid – Politico

- E. Texas State Legislature – Functions and Structure (**Ginsberg, et. al, Chapter 23**)
 - 1. Constitutional Requirements
 - 2. Qualifications
 - 3. Term of Office
 - 4. Method of Election
 - 5. Money in Politics

EXAM # 1: Sections I & II: February 17, 2009

SECTION III: THE PRESIDENCY AND THE BUREAUCRACY (Ginsberg, et. al, Chapters 13 & 14)

- A. Electoral College
 - 1. Role & Function

2. History
 3. 2000 and 2004 Presidential Elections
- B. History and Growth of the Vice –Presidency
1. COLONIAL EXPERIENCE
 2. Constitutional Requirements
 3. Role of the Vice –President
- C. Powers of the President
1. Types of Powers
 2. Shared Powers
 3. Roles of the President
- D. Constitutional Amendments Dealing with the Presidency
1. 12th
 2. 20th
 3. 22nd
 4. 23rd
 5. 24th
 6. 25th
- E. Removal of the President
1. The Impeachment Process – Congress
 2. U. S. House of Representative
 3. U. S. Senate
- F. Executive Branch and The Federal Bureaucracy (**Ginsberg, et. al, Chapter 14**)
1. Definition
 2. Role and Growth –The Iron Triangle
 3. Functions – Independent Regulatory and Administrative Agencies
- G. The Governor and Bureaucracy in Texas (**Ginsberg, et. al, Chapters 24**)
1. Qualifications
 2. Term of Office
 3. Powers and Duties
- H. State and Local Government In Texas (**Ginsberg, et. al, Chapter 26**)

IV. The JUDICIAL BRANCH AND THE LEGAL SYSTEM (Ginsberg, et. al, Chapter 15)

- A. History of the Judiciary
1. Constitutional Provisions
 2. Judiciary Act of 1789 and 1801
 3. Marbury vs. Madison (1803)
- B. Structure of the Federal Judiciary
1. U. S. Districts Courts
 2. U. S. Circuit Courts of Appeal

3. U. S. Supreme Court

C. Jurisdiction of the U. S. Courts

1. Original Jurisdiction
2. Appellate Jurisdiction – Writ of Certiorari
3. Important Constitutional Cases

D. The Legal System in 50 States – Jurisdiction

1. North and South
2. East and West
3. Texas (**Ginsberg, et. al, Chapter 25**)

EXAM # 2: Sections III and IV: March 31, 2009

SECTION V: PUBLIC POLICY FORMATION: DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN

A. Types of National & State Public Policies –Defined

1. Civil Rights & Civil Liberties (**Ginsberg, et. al, Chapters 4 & 5**)
2. Economic & Social Policy (**Ginsberg, et. al, Chapters 16 & 17**)
3. Foreign & Defense Policy (**Ginsberg, et. al, Chapter 18**)
4. Public Policy in Texas (**Ginsberg, et. al, Chapter 27**)

EXAM #3: SECTION V: TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2009 (11:00 – 12:50 P.M.)

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 Tomball College for use in laboratories. Tomball College 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.

LSCS Colleges strive 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.

TOMBALL COLLEGE LIBRARY HOURS:

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.