



Behavioral Science, 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 – 3W001
Credit Hours:	3 semester credit hours/48 instructional contact hours
Prerequisites:	See Course Catalog for Prerequisites*
Semester and Year:	Spring 2009
Class Days and Times:	Distance Learning Class
Instructor:	Dr. Annie Johnson Benifield
Office Location:	S-257-D 7-8 TTH; 2-3:30 T
Office Hours:	12:30 -2:00 TH Other Times By Appointment Only
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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.

COURSE 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. /

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND/OR MATERIALS:

Ginsberg, Lowi, & Weir, et al., *We The People: An Introduction to American Politics*, 6th Texas Edition (2007), ISBN #: 978-0-393-17881-4 or 10:0-393-92955-8

The Ginsberg, et al., *We The People: An Introduction to American Politics*, 6th Texas Edition (2007) book is also available as an E-Book 978 0-393-11157-6 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.**

CONTENT AND PURPOSE:

This course is mainly “about” the Congress, the Presidency and the Bureaucracy, and the U.S. Courts and secondarily “about” the Texas Legislature, the Governor, and the Texas Court System and Public Policy at the national and 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.

OPTIONAL TEXTBOOK AND/OR MATERIALS:

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

COURSE EVALUATION:

There will be **three major exams** in this course. Each test 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 after the first week of class; however, there are specific deadline dates listed on the syllabus and on the course calendar in WebCt Vista. Please pay close attention to these dates.

“ABSOLUTELY NO MAKE-UP EXAMS OR EXTENSIONS WILL BE GIVEN.”

Requirements	POINTS
Exam 1	100
Exam 2	100
Exam 3	100
Quizzes	150
Discussion/Assignment	60
Total	510

LETTER GRADE ASSIGNMENT:

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

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

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

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 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. If a student fails to actively participate and submit assignments within the first three weeks of class, the instructor may automatically lock you out of the class and/or administratively withdraw you. Should a student anticipate any extended absences, please notify the instructor in advance.

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.**

STUDY GUIDE

The Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, et al. textbook has a website with chapter reviews, summaries, outlines, vocabulary, flashcards, preview and diagnostic quizzes, and other critical data related to the study of American and Texas Government. This information is available in your WebCT Vista course. It is located at the following web address:

<http://wnorton.com/studyspace>

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

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Examinations

Three major examinations are required for this course. All exams will be available **“ONLY”** in The LSCS Assessment Centers prior to the scheduled exam date. The format of the exams **“will”** include essay questions and “may” include a combination of multiple choices, and/or true/false questions over the assigned chapters from the Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, et al. (American and Texas Government) combined textbook. **Ninety (90) minutes** are allocated for each exam. **Each student is required to notify the instructor two weeks in advance if he/she can not take the exams at any of the LSCS Assessment Centers; however, no make-ups/extensions will be granted.**

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 student cannot take exam at the LSCS College Assessment Centers, the student must arrange to take the exam with an acceptable proctor (approved by the instructor) at their own expense. The 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 LSCS Assessment Centers in advance to insure the hours of operation are current.**

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 DELAY TIME BETWEEN TAKE 1 AND TAKE 2 FOR THE QUIZZES. NO ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR COMPLETING THIS WORK.

DISCUSSION BOARD TOPICS/CHAPTER EXERCISES WORTH 60 POINTS

THREE TOPICS WILL BE PLACED ON THE DISCUSSION BOARD DURING THE SEMESTER. EACH STUDENT MUST POST COMMENTS ON ALL OF THE TOPICS FOR POINTS.

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. Please complete assignments save (rtf or pdf file) and post as an attachment. The grade for each assignment will automatically post in the Vista grade book approximately 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.

GOVT 2302-3W001 IS DIVIDED INTO THREE MODULES:

- I. PHASE ONE: JANUARY 12 - FEBRUARY 21, 2009**
- 1. TEXTBOOK CHAPTERS-GINSBERG, ET AL. 2, 10, 12, 20 & 23**
 - 2. DISCUSSION BOARD TOPIC #1 DEADLINE JANUARY 23, 2009**
 - 3. CHAPTER 10 WHAT GOVERNMENT DOES: 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. : 13,14, 15, 24 & 25**
 - 2. DISCUSSION BOARD TOPIC #2: DEADLINE: MARCH 7, 2009**
 - 3. CHAPTER 13 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.: 16, 17, 18, & 27**
 - 2. DISCUSSION TOPIC #3: DEADLINE: APRIL 11, 2009**
 - 3. CHAPTER 16 YOU DECIDE ASSIGNMENT: DEADLINE: MAY 5, 2009**
 - 4. QUIZ #3 DEADLINE: MAY 5, 2009**
 - 5. EXAM #3 DEADLINE DATE: MAY 5, 2009**

****The instructor reserves the right to modify 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 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 Community 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.

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 LSCS web site at:

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

To locate information concerning the libraries and/or LSCS 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 TOMBALL COLLEGE 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.