

SYLLABUS

CLARENDON COLLEGE

Division of Liberal Arts

Course Name: GOVT 2305, Federal Government

Credit Hours: 3

Semester: Fall 2023

Instructor: Mr. McLatchy

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Office Hours:

M: 10:00-11:30 am

TR: 10:00-11:00 am, 2:00-5:00 pm

R: 9:00-9:30 pm

Required Instructional Materials:

Textbook: Your textbook for this course is *American Government 3e* from OpenStax. OpenStax can be accessed through the Student Portal under "Course Hyperlinks" (or directly at <https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-3e>)

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.

Statement of Purpose:

Government 2305 partially satisfies the requirements for the Associates degree at Clarendon College and is designed for transfer to a senior college or university.

Methods of Instruction:

The class will consist primarily of traditional lecture and discussion.

Core Objectives:

Critical thinking skills (CT) – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information

Communication skills (COM) – to include effective written, oral, and visual communication

Social responsibility (SR) –to include intercultural competency 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

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: The learner shall:

1. Explain the origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States (*Assessed with exam questions*).
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the federal system (*Assessed with exam questions*).
3. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice (*Assessed with exam questions*).
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government (*Assessed with exam questions*).
5. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in the political system (*Assessed with exam questions*).
6. Analyze the election process (*Assesses CT with exam questions*).
7. Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens (*Assesses SR with Political Participation Survey*).
8. Analyze issues and policies in U.S. politics (*Assesses CT, COM, and PR with Opinion Paper*).

College Policies:

Academic Integrity Policy Clarendon College is committed to a philosophy of honesty and academic integrity. It is the responsibility of all members of the Clarendon College community to maintain academic integrity at Clarendon College by refusing to participate in or tolerate academic dishonesty. Any act of academic dishonesty will be regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense.

Academic dishonesty violations include, but are not limited to: (1) obtaining an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory exercise by stealing or collusion; (2) discovering the content of an examination, classroom activity, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment before it is given; (3) observing the work of another during an examination or providing answers to another during the course of an examination; (4) using an unauthorized source of information during an examination, classroom activity, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment ; (5) entering an office, classroom, laboratory, or building to obtain unfair advantage; (6) taking an examination for another person; (7) completing a classroom activity, laboratory exercise, homework assignment, or research paper for another person; (8) altering grade records; (9) using any unauthorized form of an electronic communication device during an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory exercise; and/or, (10) plagiarism. (Plagiarism is defined as the using, stating, offering, or reporting as one's own, an idea, expression, or production of another person's work without proper credit. This includes, but is not limited to, turning in a paper purchased or acquired from any source, written by someone other than the student claiming credit, or stolen from another student.)

Students are responsible for reporting known acts of academic dishonesty to a faculty member, the program coordinator, and/or the Vice-President. Any student with knowledge of a violation who fails to report it shall him/herself be in violation and shall be considered to have committed an act of academic dishonesty. Additionally, any student who reports him/herself in violation of this code before it is likely that another might consider this possibility will be understood as repentant and acting in good faith. Though the confession will not excuse the student for the violation, the confession will be considered and the violation should not result in suspension from school except in the most extreme cases.

While academic integrity and honesty are the responsibility of the individual student, each individual faculty member, teaching assistant, and/or laboratory instructor is responsible for classroom management and for maintaining ethical behavior within the classroom and/or laboratory. Faculty who discover or suspect a violation should discuss the matter with the suspected violator(s) and attempt to resolve the case at that point. In cases of convincing evidence, the faculty member should take appropriate action. The faculty member and student should complete a Counseling Sheet regarding the violation. (The Counseling Sheet should contain at a minimum the date and time of the violation, the course, the instructor's name, the student's name, an explanation of the infraction or facts of the case, and the resolution to the incident.) This form should be signed by the student, faculty member, program coordinator, and the Vice President of Student Services. The Vice President of Student Services will maintain a file on all violations. If a faculty member prefers to report the case directly to the Vice President of Student Services, it remains his/her prerogative to do so. Additionally, if the faculty member and the accused student cannot reach a resolution or if the faculty member believes that suspension from school is the only fair sanction, the case should immediately be reported by the faculty member, in writing, to the Vice President of Student Services. If the Vice President of Student Services observes any trends in student behavior which involve more than one violation or act of academic dishonesty, the Vice-President is responsible for notifying all faculty members involved, for contacting the student(s) involved, and after consultation with the faculty member(s) involved for taking the appropriate action. The Vice President of Student Services is responsible for the timely notification (normally within two weeks) to all parties of an action taken.

Students wishing to appeal a disciplinary decision involving academic integrity or acts of academic dishonesty may do so through the Student Appeals and Grievance Procedure.

Withdrawing from (Dropping) the Course If you decide that you are unable to complete this course or that it will be impossible to complete the course with a passing grade, you may drop the course and receive a "W" on your transcript instead. (The last day to drop a course is available on the Academic Calendar, located at the Student link on the Clarendon College website.) Withdrawal from a course is a formal procedure that you must initiate. If you do not go through the formal withdrawal procedure, you will receive whatever grade you have earned.

Whether to drop a class or not requires a lot of thought. According to Texas state law a student is only allowed to drop the same class twice before he/she will be charged triple the tuition amount for taking the class a third time or more. Furthermore, beginning with the Fall 2007 semester, students in Texas may only drop a total of 6 courses throughout their entire undergraduate career. After the 6th dropped class, he/she will no longer be able to withdraw from any classes.

Accommodations Statement Clarendon College provides reasonable accommodations for persons with temporary or permanent disabilities. Should you require special accommodations, notify the Vice-President of Student Services (806-874-3571 or 800-687- 9737). We will work with you to make whatever accommodations we need to make.

Student Rights and Responsibilities Student Rights and Responsibilities are listed on the College website at: <http://www.clarendoncollege.edu/Resources/Student%20Services/StudentRightsResponsibilities.pdf>

Personal Policies:

- **Do not leave class before class is over**
- **Do not disrupt class**
- **Do not use foul language**
- **Respect others (instructor and other students)**

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend class. There will be three percentage points deducted from the student's participation grade for each absence.

Grading Policies:

The final semester grades will be figured as set in the current catalog:

90 to 100 = A 80 to 89 = B 70 to 79 = C 60 to 69 = D Below 60 = F

A student's final grade will be made available through Student Portal at Clarendon College's website. Your final grade will be determined as follows:

- Participation: 5%
- Assignments: 10% (Opinion Paper and Political Participation Survey)
- Unit Exams: 60% (There will be three multiple-choice unit exams)
- Final Exam: 25% (multiple-choice)

Tentative Course Outline:

Week 1: American Government and Civic Engagement
Week 2-3: The Constitution and Its Origins
Week 4: American Federalism
Week 5: Civil Liberties
Week 6: Civil Rights
Week 7: Public Opinion
Week 8: Voting and Elections
Week 9: Political Parties
Week 10: Interest Groups and Lobbying
Week 11: Congress
Week 12: The Presidency
Week 13: The Courts
Week 14: Foreign Policy
Week 15: Prepare for Final Exam
Week 16: Final Exam

Tentative Course Schedule:

Sep. 28 (Thursday): Opinion Paper due

Oct. 5 (Thursday): Test, Unit 1

Oct. 26 (Thursday): Political Participation Survey

Oct. 26 (Thursday): Test, Unit 2

Nov. 16 (Thursday): Test, Unit 3

Nov. 23 (Thursday): Thanksgiving (No class)

Nov. 30 (Thursday): Final Exam