

Clarendon College  
Division of Liberal Arts  
Government 2305 Federal Government  
(3 credit hours)  
Syllabus Fall 2024

Instructor: Mrs. Linda Comer  
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**Course Description:** Federal Government is an introduction to the theory and practice of politics and government in America at the national level. Topics include political theory, the U.S. Constitution, federalism, political participation and elections, the institutions of government, and domestic and foreign policies.

**Statement of Purpose:** This course partially satisfies the Government/Political Science component of the core curriculum and is designed for transfer to a senior college or university

## **Required Instructional Materials:**

**Online Textbook:** Krutz, G. and Waskiewicz, S. *American Government*. Rice University. 28 July 2021. [openstax.org/details/books/american-government-3e](https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-3e)

## **Fall 2024 Calendar of Important Dates:**

Classes begin Monday, August 26

**Labor Day Monday, Sept. 2**

**Columbus Day Monday, Oct. 14**

Last Day to Drop with a "W" Thursday, Nov. 14

Thanksgiving Holidays Wed- Friday Nov 27-29

Final Exams Mon-Wed, Dec 9-11

Final Grades due @ 2:00 PM Thursday, Dec. 12

**Methods of Instructions:** All of the following will be used in the course as a method of instruction:

## Guided collaborative learning      Media Assisted Instruction

## Research projects

## Course 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.

2. Demonstrate knowledge of the federal system.
3. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government.
5. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in the political system.
6. Analyze the election process.
7. Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens
8. Analyze issues and policies in U.S. politics.

**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 59 = F	

Tests and Major Assignments	50% of each 6-weeks grade
Daily work	30% of 6 weeks grade
Participation	20% of 6 weeks grade

A student's final grade will be made available through Student Portal at Clarendon College's website

**Submitting Assignments:**

All papers should be typed using Times New Roman (or regular font) size 12 font in MLA format. Regardless of subject matter, college work must be well-written. Grammar, spelling, and punctuation do matter. Work must be received by the due date.

**Class Policies:**

All make-up work due to absences is the responsibility of the student. Incomplete or missing work will have a detrimental affect on a student's final grade.

**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, the associate dean, and/or dean. 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 Dean of Students. The Dean of Students will maintain a file on all violations. If a faculty member prefers to report the case directly to the Dean of Students, 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 Dean of Students. If the Dean of Students observes any trends in student behavior which involve more than one violation or act of academic dishonesty, the Dean 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 Dean of Students 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.

### **Student Rights and Responsibilities**

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

**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.

### **Grievance/Appeals**

If you have a dispute concerning your grade or policies in this class, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor to discuss the matter. Should things remain unresolved, please follow the procedures described in the Clarendon College Student Handbook or College Policy Manual.

### **Accommodations Statement**

#### **REQUIREMENTS OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:**

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, any student who feels that he or she may need any special assistance or accommodation because of an impairment or disabling condition should contact the Associate Dean of Enrollment Services at 806-874-4837 / [janean.reish@clarendoncollege.edu](mailto:janean.reish@clarendoncollege.edu) or visit the Clarendon campus at Clarendon College. It is the policy of Clarendon College to provide reasonable accommodation as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the Associate Dean of Enrollment Services.

### **Nondiscrimination Policy**

Clarendon College, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

It is the policy of Clarendon College not to discriminate based on gender, age, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, veteran's status, national or ethnic origin, or sexual orientation. Harassment of a student in class, i.e., a pattern of behavior directed against a particular student with the intent of humiliating or intimidating that student will not be tolerated. The mere expression of one's ideas is not harassment and is fully protected by academic freedom, but personal harassment of individual students is not permitted.

### **Tentative Course Schedule:**

Week 1: August 14-16

Chapter 1- Government and Civic Engagement

*Assignment: Survey*

Week 2: August 19-23

Chapter 2- The Constitution and Origins

*Assignment: Timeline*

Week 3: August 26-30

Chapter 3- American Federalism

*Assignment: US/States PP*

**Labor Day, Sept 2**

Week 4: September 2-6

Chapter 4- Civil Liberties

*Assignment: SC Cases*

Week 5 : September 9-13

Chapter 5- Civil Rights

*Assignment: Leaders of Movement PP*

**Exam #1 Thurs. Sept 12**

Week 6: Sept 16-20

Chapter 6- Public Opinion

Week 7: 23-27

Chapter 7- Voting and Elections

Week 8: Sept 30-Oct 4

Chapter 8- Media

*Assignment: Media Analysis*

Week 9: Oct 7-11

Chapter 9-Political Parties

*Assignment: Campaign Project*

Week 10: Oct 14-18

Chapter 10- Interest Group

*Assignment: IG Reading*

**Exam #2 Thurs. Oct 17**

Week 11: Oct 21-25

Chapter 11-Congress

**Assignment: Congressional Fact Sheet**

Week 12: Oct 28-Nov 1

Chapter 12- Presidency

*Assignment: Presidential Project*

Week 13: Nov 4-8

Chapter 15- The Bureaucracy

*Assignment: Cabinet Chart*

Week 14: Nov 11-15

Chapter 13- Courts

*Assignment: Court Structure*

Week 15: Nov 18-22

**Thanksgiving Break Nov 27-29**

WEEK 16- Nov 25- Dec 6

Chapter 16- Domestic Policy

*Assignment: Group Discussion*

**Final Exam: Monday, Dec 9**

*Note: This is a tentative outline planned for this course, and it may be changed at any time at my discretion. You will be notified in advance of any changes.*