

RANGER COLLEGE

Syllabus
(Fall 2010)

Prepared by Courtney Hansen, Instructor

COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: GOVT 2305 Federal Government

CREDIT HOURS: 3 HRS/WK LEC: 3 HRS/WK LAB: 0 LEC/LAB/HRS/WK
COMBINATION: 3

Name of Instructor: Courtney Hansen

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I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

2305 – Federal Government (3-0) 4510025125 A study of the federal constitution; the organization and administration of the federal system; political participation by the individual, and the principles which underlie American democracy. Credit 3 semester hours. Subject to Texas Success Initiative requirements.

II. COURSE GOAL

Students successfully completing this course will have the knowledge to more readily understand how public officials are elected, how the government bureaucracy functions, the role of the judiciary among the executive and congressional branches, the importance of our foreign and military policies and the civil rights of the various ethnic groups.

III. REQUIRED BACKGROUND/PREREQUISITES

A passing score on THEA reading section or equivalent alternate test.

IV. TEXTBOOK/ READINGS MATERIALS

Wilson, James Q. *American Government*. Brief Version, Ninth Edition. Boston, Massachusetts: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2009.

V. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- Reading
- On-line discussion
- On-line quizzes
- Exams (40 multiple choice questions and 2 short answer questions)
- Essay
- Book review.

VI. EXEMPLARY EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES –

1. To examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods, social structures, and cultures (S-2).
2. To analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on the area under study (S-5).

3. To comprehend the origins and evolution of U.S. political systems, with a focus on the growth of political institutions, the constitutions of the U.S. and Texas, federalism, civil liberties, and civil and human rights (S-6).
4. To understand the evolution and current role of the U.S. in the world (S-7).
5. To recognize and assume one's responsibility as a citizen in a democratic society by learning to think for oneself, by engaging in public discourse, and by obtaining information through the news media and other appropriate information sources about politics and public policy (S-11).

CORE COMPONENT AREAS

Social and Behavioral Sciences (S1 – S12)

VII. BASIC INTELLECTUAL COMPETENCIES

- B1 Reading;
- B2 Writing;
- B5 Critical Thinking;
- B6 Computer Literacy

VIII. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, a student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the structure and function of the American government system. (S2) (S5) (B1) (B2) (B3) (B4) (B5)
2. Demonstrate literacy in political science. (S7) (B1)
3. Compare and contrast government systems. (S2) (S5) (B1) (B2) (B3) (B4) (B5)
4. Compare and contrast different political groups present in American society. (S2) (S5) (B1) (B2) (B3) (B4) (B5)
5. Demonstrate knowledge of the American political party system. (S7) (B1)

IX. COURSE CALENDAR

DATE	ASSIGNMENT
Week One: August 23-27	Familiarize yourself with coursesite. Post introduction on discussion board. Email me that you have read the syllabus.
Week Two: August 30-September 3	Read Chapters 1 & 2 Quiz 1 (Ch. 1 & 2)
Week Three: September 6 – September 10	Read Chapters 3 & 4 Participation 1 (Ch. 3 & 4)
Week Four: September 13 – September 17	Read Chapters 5 & 6 Quiz 2 (Ch. 5 & 6)

Week Five September 20 – September 24	Read Chapters 7 & 8 Participation 2 (Ch. 7 & 8)
Week Six: September 27 – October 1	No reading assignment. Essay due
Week Seven: October 7	Midterm exam (Ch. 1-8)
Week Eight: October 11 – October 15	Read Chapters 9 & 10 Quiz 3 (Ch. 9 & 10)
Week Nine: October 18 – October 22	Read Chapters 11 & 12 Participation 3 (Ch. 9, 10, 11)
Week Ten: October 25 – October 29	Read Chapters 13 & 14 Quiz 4 (Ch. 12, 13 & 14)
Week Eleven: November 1 – November 5	Participation 4 (Ch. 13 & 14) Work on book review
Week Twelve November 8 – November 12	Book review due
Week Thirteen: November 15 – November 19	Read Chapter 15 & The Constitution including The Bill of Rights (beginning on page A4) Quiz 5 (Ch. 15 & Constitution)
Week Fourteen: November 22 – November 26	Thanksgiving Holidays
Week Fifteen: November 29 – December 3	Participation 5 (Ch 15) (Chapter 15 & Constitution)
Week Sixteen: December 6 – December 10	Review for final exam
December 14	Final Exam (Ch. 9 – 15 & The Constitution)

X. COURSE/CLASSROOM POLICIES

1. Attendance: Online class attendance is important for you to be successful in this course. You should be checking in twice per week for announcements.

2. Class Participation: You will be required to answer two questions posted on the discussion board and respond to an answer from one of your classmates as listed in the schedule.
3. Missed Exams/Assignments/Make-Up Policy: If an assignment is turned in late, points will be deducted. If an assignment is turned in more than 5 days late, you will receive a zero. If you have an emergency and/or technical problem, contact me immediately. If you miss an exam you will receive a zero unless you have previously made arrangements with me.
4. Academic Dishonesty: Any student caught cheating on an exam, report, or project, whether in the classroom or elsewhere, will earn a grade of "F" in the course. It is strongly recommended that the student caught cheating immediately drop the class in order to avoid a grade of "F".
5. Student Behavior Policy: As this is an online course, students should not post inappropriate messages on the discussion board. Emails to the instructor should be respectful.
6. Available Support Services: The Ranger College Golemon Library is located on the main campus. The library provides computers with internet access and a large book collection, including reference materials. Student Services is also located on the main campus.
7. ADA Statement: Ranger College provides a variety of services for students with learning and/or physical disabilities. **The student is responsible** for making the initial contact with the Ranger College Counselor. It is advisable to make this contact **before or immediately** after the semester begins.

XI. ASSESSMENT (Grading Procedure)

1. Online quizzes = 10% of your semester grade (Course Objectives 1, 2)
 - Each quiz consists of 10 multiple choice questions
2. Online participation = 10% of your semester grade (Course Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
 - Answer two posted questions and respond to one student's answer
3. Essay = 15% of your semester grade (Course Objective 1)
 - Over topic covered in the textbook; citations required
4. Mid-term exam = 25% of your semester grade (Course Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
 - Consists of 40 multiple choice questions and two short answers
5. Book review = 15% of your semester grade (Course Objective 1)
 - Over topic related to American federal government
6. Final exam = 25% of your semester grade (Course Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
 - Consists of 40 multiple choice questions and two short answers

XII. NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Admission, employment, and program policies of Ranger College are non-discriminatory in regard to race, creed, color, sex, age, disability, and national origin.

XIII. RECEIPT OF SYLLABUS FORM

(See Attached)

RECEIPT OF SYLLABUS FORM

(**Required** of all students and **filed** by the instructor)

Legibly print the following information:

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

“I have received and understand the information in the syllabus for (name and number of the course) and I agree to abide by the stated policies.”

Signature of Student: _____