



RANGER COLLEGE

COURSE SYLLABUS

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

GOVT 2305

3 credit hours

INSTRUCTOR:

Courtney Hansen

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EMAIL: chansen@rangercollege.edu
PHONE: 817-894-4042 (cell)
HOURS: Available from 12:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday

I. Texas Core Curriculum Statement of Purpose

Through the Texas Core Curriculum, students will gain a foundation of knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world, develop principles of personal and social responsibility for living in a diverse world, and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning.

II. 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. Credit 3 semester hours.

III. Required Background or Prerequisite

Passing score on the TSI reading section or equivalent alternative test. If dual credit student, approval of high school counselor or instructor.

IV. Required Textbook and Course Materials

Wilson, James Q, John J. Dilulio, Jr. and Meena Bose. 2014. *American Government*, Brief Version, 13th ed. 2018.

V. Course Purpose

This course focuses on consideration of the Constitution of the United States and involves the analysis of governmental institutions, political behavior, civic engagement, and their political and philosophical foundations.

VI. Learning Outcomes

- Explain the origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the federal system.
- Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government.

- Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in the political system.
- Analyze the election process.
- Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
- Analyze issues and policies in U.S. politics.

VII. Core Objectives

This course meets the following of the six Core Objectives established by Texas:

- **Critical Thinking Skills (CT)** – Creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis; evaluation and synthesis of information
- **Communication Skills (COM)** – effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication
- **Social Responsibility (SR)** – Intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
- **Personal Responsibility (PR)** – The ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making

VIII. Methods of Instruction

Reading, notes on the reading, on-line discussion, on-line quizzes, exams, essay, and other writing assignments

IX. Methods of Assessment

Online Quizzes:	10% of your semester grade (CT, SR, PR)
Online Participation Questions:	10% of your semester grade (CT, SR, COM, PR)
Editorials (4):	15% of your semester grade (CT, SR, COM, PR)
Essay:	15% of your semester grade (CT, SR, COM, PR)
Mid-term Exam:	25% of your semester grade (CT, SR, COM, PR)
Final Exam:	25% of your semester grade (CT, SR, COM, PR)

Grading scale: A = 90-100% B = 80-89 C = 70-79 D = 60-69 F = Below 60

X. Course/Classroom Policies

Attendance: Online class attendance is important for you to be successful in this course. You should be checking in several times a week for announcements.

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.

Missed Exams/Assignments/Make-Up Policy: If an assignment is turned in late, you will receive a zero. If you have an emergency and/or technical problem, contact me immediately at the phone number listed above. If you miss an exam you will receive a zero unless you have previously made arrangements with me.

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”.

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.

XI. Course Outline/Schedule

Date	Assignment
<u>Week One:</u>	Familiarize yourself with course site, including: Welcome Announcement, Course Syllabus, Assignments, Course Documents Post introduction on discussion board
<u>Week Two:</u>	Read Chapter 1 & 2 Quiz #1 (Chapters 1 & 2) by midnight Friday
<u>Week Three:</u>	Read Chapter 3 & 4 Participation #1 (Chapters 3 & 4) by midnight Friday
<u>Week Four</u>	Read Chapter 5 & 6 Quiz #2 (Chapters 5 & 6) by midnight Friday
<u>Week Five</u>	Read Chapter 7 & 8 Participation #2 (Chapters 7 & 8) by midnight Friday
<u>Week Six</u>	No reading assignment Essay due by midnight Friday

<u>Week Seven</u>	Midterm Exam (Chapters 1 - 8)
<u>Week Eight</u>	First 2 editorials due by midnight Friday
<u>Week Nine</u>	Read Chapter 9 & 10 Quiz #3 (Chapters 9 & 10) by midnight Friday
<u>Week Ten</u>	Read Chapters 11 & 12 Participation 3 (Chapters 9, 10, & 11) by midnight Friday
<u>Week Eleven</u>	Reach Chapters 13 & 14 Quiz #4 (Chapters 13 & 14) by midnight Friday
<u>Week Twelve</u>	Second 2 editorials due by midnight Friday Participation 4 due by midnight Friday (Chapters 13 & 14)
<u>Week Thirteen</u>	Read Chapter 15 & The Constitution including the Bill of Rights Quiz 5 (Chapter 15 & Constitution) by midnight Friday
<u>Week Fourteen</u>	Participation #5 (Chapter 15 & Constitution & Bill of Rights) by midnight Friday Review for Final Exam
<u>Week Fifteen</u>	Final Exam (Chapters 9 - 15 & The Constitution including amendments) FINAL MUST BE TAKEN IN PERSON

XII. Non-Discrimination Statement

Admissions, employment, and program policies of Ranger College are nondiscriminatory in regard to race, creed, color, sex, age, disability, and national origin.

XIII. ADA Statement

Ranger College provides a variety of services for students with learning and/or physical disabilities. Students are responsible for making initial contact with the Ranger College Counselor, Gabe Lewis (glewis@rangercollege.edu). It is advisable to make this contact before or immediately after the semester begins.