



RANGER COLLEGE
STEPHENVILLE, TEXAS

COURSE SYLLABUS

Federal Government

GOVT 2305

3 credit hours

Face to Face

INSTRUCTOR:

Nancy Nutto Hughes

INSTRUCTOR: Nancy Nutto Hughes
EMAIL: nhughes@rangercollege.edu
OFFICE: By appointment
PHONE: 254-631-2377
HOURS: By appointment

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

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.

III. Required Background or Prerequisite

Only prerequisites are a desire to learn, a willingness to learn and consider different viewpoints, and the self-discipline to prepare for class, timely complete assignments, and prepare for exams.

IV. Required Textbook and Course Materials

Wilson, James Q, John J. Dilulio, Jr. and Meena Bose. 2014. American Government, Brief Version, 13th ed. 2018
ISBN-10: 1305956346
ISBN-13: 9781305956346

Additional course material include (but are not limited to) handouts, power point presentations, assigned reading materials, and videos. These will be available both in class and on Blackboard.

V. Course Purpose

Focus on consideration of the Constitution of the United States and the constitutions of the states, with special emphasis on that of Texas. Course 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
- Empirical and Quantitative Skills (EQS)** – The manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
- Teamwork (TW)** – The ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
- 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

This course is taught in units. For each unit, there will be assigned reading, lecture, power point presentations, discussion of relevant current events, and a unit exam. In addition, relevant videos will be used. Some units may include additional assignments and hot topics (mini essays). In place of a term paper, a semester project is utilized.

IX. Methods of Assessment

- **Class Participation (10% of course grade)(CT, COM, TW, SR, PR).**
Class participation includes:
Preparing for attending class

Having a current event that relates to government
(international, national, state, or local) for each class meeting.
Respectfully participating in discussions
Answering questions in class

- **Unit Exams (50 % total, each worth 10% of course grade)(CT, COM, SR, PR).** An exam will be given after each of the 5 units. Exams will be a combination of essay, short answer, fill in the blank, and multiple choice.
- **10 Things I have learned Project (10 % of course grade)(CT, COM,SR, PR).** List ten things you have learned in this course. Under each item, write 2 -3 sentences explaining just what you learned and the impact it has had on you..
- **Semester Project (10 % of course grade)(CT, COM, SR, PR).** During the course, collect 10 political cartoons. For each cartoon, describe what the cartoons portrays, identify and an analysis the current event the cartoon is documenting, and give your pion of the issue the cartoon addresses. This is in place of a term paper, so give this project your due diligence.
- **Pop Quizzes and Class Assignments (10 % of course grade)(CT, COM, SR, PR).** Pop Quizzes may be given to assess understanding, reinforce study habits, or as needed. Likewise, as discussion, student interest, or unit material dictates short assignments may be given including Hot Topics (mini essays on a current government issue). Ample time will be given to complete these. There will be no make ups for assignments or quizzes missed.
- **Comprehensive Final (10% of course grade)(CT, COM, SR, PR).** Final will be essay, short answer, fill in the blank, and multiple choice.
- **Extra credit (COM,PR).** Extra credit is available for:
 - Turning in the Cartoon Project any time before the day of the actual due date. Up to 5 points added to grade on project.
 - Personally interviewing a public elected official and writing a short, concise paper concerning the interview including your opinion. Paper must be turned in by due date. Up to three points may be added to your course average.

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

X. Course/Classroom Policies

1. Attend class. It is very hard to learn if you are not present.
2. Attend class prepared. It is very hard to learn if you are not mentally, emotionally, and intellectually present.
3. Unexcused absences. The only excused absences are those defined by Ranger College. If you know ahead of time you will be absent, notify me either in person or by email. If unforeseen circumstances occur, let me know ASAP. Do not wait until he final to inform me.
4. Make up work. A make up for a missed unit exam may be taken within 2 weeks of the original exam date. After that, a grade of 0 will be entered for the exam. There are no makes up for anything else in this course.
5. Late work. Late work will not receive full credit. The later the work, the less the credit.

6. **DO NOT CHEAT.** You will take a quiz over plagiarism. First time, you will get a zero on the assignment/exam/project. Second time, you will be pursued under any or all possible consequence authorized by Ranger College.
7. **NO HAND CRACK.** Hand crack is all those electronic digital gizmos we are all addicted to...including but not limited to cell phones, tablets, laptops, recording devices, headphones, music/media players. Keep them up and out of sight. If there is some massive overriding circumstance where you are expecting an extremely significant call, tell me before class.
8. **Contacting me.** If you have assignments to turn in or unforeseeable circumstances, confusion over material or an assignment, or any other class related issue, contact me. Email me at nhughes@rangercollege.edu. Include your name, course, and class time/section. I make effort to respond within 24 hours. Please keep in mind that students tend to be nocturnal...I am not.

XI. Course Outline/Schedule

Course Units: Unit 1 Introduction to what is government, types of governments world-wide, Federalism, US Constitution – its history, its writing, and its content.
 Unit 2 – Executive Branch
 Unit 3 – Legislative Branch
 Unit 4 – Judicial Branch
 Unit 5 – Citizenship, Political Process

Dates may be subject to revision. Any revisions will be announced in calls, posted on Blackboard, and announcement send on Blackboard.

Week	Topic/Assignment
1	Introduction to Course, Unit 1
2	Unit 1
3	Unit 1
4	Rw & Exam Unit 1, Unit 2
5	Unit 2
6	Unit 2
7	Rw & Exam Unit 2, Unit 3
8	Unit 3
9	Rw & Exam Unit 3
10	Unit 4
11	Unit 4 – election recap
12	Unit 4, Cartoon due
13	Unit 5
14	Rw & Exam Unit 5
15	Course Review
16	Final

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.