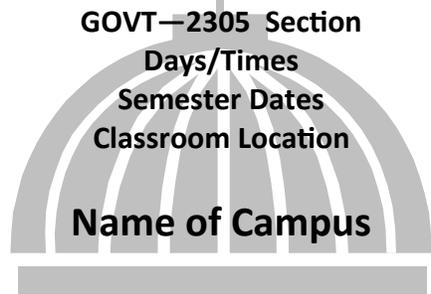


Community College
United States Government



GOVT—2305 Section

Days/Times

Semester Dates

Classroom Location

Name of Campus

Course Description...

This course introduces the basics of US national government including a focus on the Constitution, governmental operations, institutions, policies and politics.

Faculty Name,

Assistant Professor of Government

email address.edu

Office Hours...

Required Textbook & Supplies...

United States Government

<https://openstax.org/details/american-government>

YES... IT'S FREE!

No-cost Textbook for Students

You will also need to **bring paper and pen/pencil to each class** meeting. A computer with reliable internet availability and modern web browser along with an active ACC e-mail account is essential. The library can assist you with computer resource needs.

Student Learning Outcomes & Objectives/Instructional Methodology...

Students will debate key issues and learn how daily governmental decisions affect their lives. Students will increase their understanding of the functions of United States' government and their own place within this framework. This will be accomplished through in-class lectures, various media presentations, lecture notes and exam reviews, in-class and on-line discussions, reading of the text, and examinations. Good study skills and critical thinking are essential to success in this course. Reading the text, participating in classroom debate, completing required exams, and posting to discussion board threads either on or before any listed due date are required for success in this course. Good grammar and good manners are not negotiable.

*“Injustice anywhere
is a threat to justice
everywhere.”*

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Course Requirements...

Attendance... participation in daily small group discussion accrues for each student to a total of 50 points. If you use a cell phone or computer in class without permission from the instructor, you forfeit the daily points. Participation is defined as contributing **voluntarily** to daily current event discussion or classroom debate. Attending class and listening to other students speak does not constitute voluntary participation. If speaking in class is an issue, contact the instructor for an alternative assignment.

In-class writing... will total 50 points. Qualitative and quantitative elements will be evaluated for the writing done during class lecture and discussion.

Chapter Response Paragraphs... weekly paragraphs on chapter readings or movie/documentary events will total 100 points of the semester grade.

Media Day & Special Project Day... discussed in class, written instructions will be provided.

4 Non-cumulative Exams... Exams will consist of short answer, essay, multiple choice, and matching questions with each exam comprising 100 points toward the final grade. Exam reviews & review sheets will be held/provided in class prior to each official exam date.

Exam 1 will cover Structure of Government; *Declaration; Constitution*; Federal Courts; Law & Due Process

Exam 2 will cover Federalism; Congress, The President; Executive Branch/Bureaucracy

Exam 3 will cover Media; Participation; Interest Groups; Parties; Elections; Voting

Exam 4 will cover Civil Liberties; Civil Rights; Domestic Policy; Foreign Policy

Topic for Discussion/Essay Paper... The topic will be discussed in class, and information on potential resources for research of the topic will be provided. MLA formatting rules apply and will be discussed in class. MLA Guidelines can also be found through ACC's library, at owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747101/, or in a written guide such as *SF Writer*. The instructor will also provide sample a sample paper and works cited page for student use. This assignment is worth 100 points.

Calculating Your Grade... be warned—no curving of grades & no averaging of grades!

- 50 pts. = participation
- 50 pts. = in-class writing
- 100 pts. = chapter response
- 100 pts. = special project
- 100 pts = weekly discussion reading & question
- 100 pts. = exam 1
- 100 pts. = exam 2
- 100 pts. = exam 3
- 100 pts. = exam 4
- 100 pts. = media assignment
- 100 pts. = course paper
- 1000 Total Points

No requests for extra credit will be heard or accommodated during the last two weeks of the semester. Do not wait!

- A = 900-1000
- B = 800-899
- C = 700-799
- D = 600-699
- F = 0-599

Course Calendar—Spring 2017...

T	1/17	Liberty v. Security; Structure of Government
TH	1/19	Rule of Law & Declaration of Independence
T	1/24	The Constitution
TH	1/26	The Constitution—continued
T	1/31	The Federal Courts & The Law
TH	2/2	Law and Due Process—continued & Unit 1 Review
T	2/7	Unit 1 Exam
TH	2/9	Federalism
T	2/14	The Legislative Branch
TH	2/16	Legislative Processes
T	2/21	The Executive Branch
TH	2/23	Bureaucracy
T	2/28	Budgets/Taxation & Review for Unit 2 Exam
TH	3/2	Unit 2 Exam
T	3/7	Media & Technology
TH	3/9	Media Day Event
T	3/14	Spring Break—no class!
TH	3/16	Spring Break—no class!
T	3/21	Policymaking Process & Participation
TH	3/23	Interest Groups
T	3/28	Political Parties
TH	3/30	Elections & Voting
T	4/4	Elections—continued & Review for Unit 3 Exam
TH	4/6	Unit 3 Exam
T	4/11	Civil Rights
TH	4/13	Civil Rights—continued
T	4/18	Civil Liberties & Discussion Paper Due Date
TH	4/20	Civil Liberties—continued
T	4/25	Special Projects Day 1 Presentations
TH	4/27	Domestic Policy
T	5/2	National Security & Foreign Policy
TH	5/4	Liberty v. Security—Recap & Review the Semester
T	5/7	Special Projects Day 2 & Review for Unit 4 Exam
TH	5/9	Unit 4 Exam

****Schedule subject to modification based on class discussion—
and at instructor's discretion.***

Special Project Day...Student Choice (one of the following)

- Presentation on Service Learning Experience (individual)
 - provide 4 hours of service to a registered non-profit organization
 - submit required paperwork for Service Learning Credit (instructor will provide waivers/paperwork)
 - tell the class about your experience with a PowerPoint presentation about the organization (approximately 2 minutes)
- Presentation on Special Topic (team)
 - team of 2-4 students
 - topic list provided; first come—first served basis
 - presentation on topic (5-10 minutes total with Q&A debate following each presentation)

Academic Freedom...

Each student is strongly encouraged to participate in class discussions. In any classroom situation that includes discussion and critical thinking, particularly about political ideas, there are bound to be many differing viewpoints. Students may not only disagree with each other at times, but the students and instructor may also find that they have disparate views on sensitive and volatile topics.

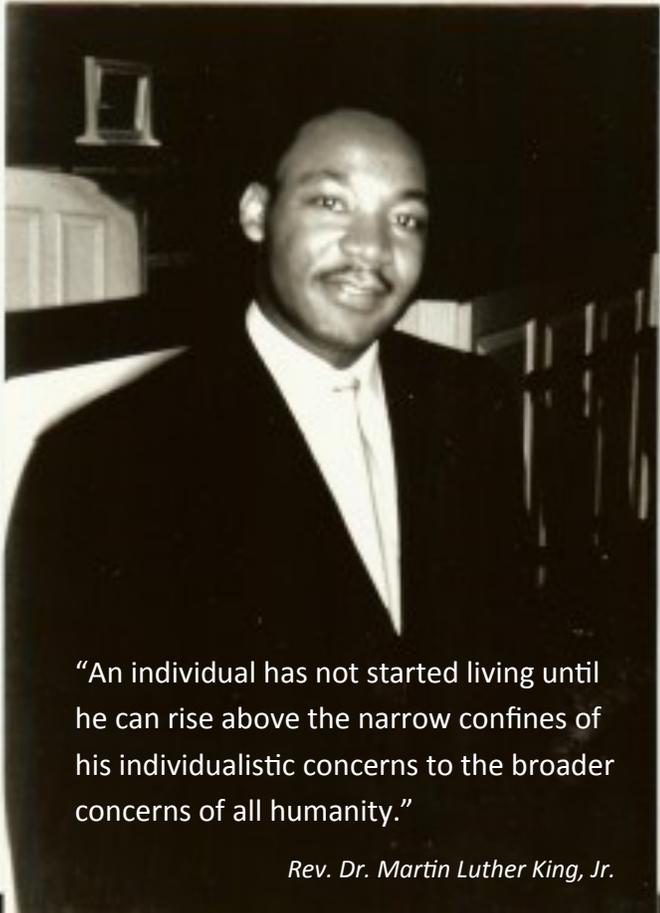
It is the instructor's hope that these differences will enhance class discussion and create an atmosphere where students and instructor alike will be encouraged to think and learn from each other.

Therefore, be assured that students' grades will not be adversely affected by any beliefs or ideas expressed in class or in assignments. Rather, we will all respect the views of others when expressed in classroom discussions (www.austincc.edu/handbook).

Scholastic Dishonesty Policy...

Acts prohibited by the College for which discipline may be administered include scholastic dishonesty. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating on an exam or quiz, plagiarism (using another author's words or arguments without attribution), and collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work for fulfillment of any course requirement).

Academic work submitted by students shall be the result of their thought, research, or self-expression. Academic works is defined as, but not limited to, tests, quizzes (whether taken electronically or on paper), projects (either individual or group), classroom presentation, papers, and homework. If a student commits any of the above actions, the instructor will seek disciplinary action in the form of an academic penalty (which will include a zero on the academic work in question and may include a course grade of 'F'). Such disciplinary action will be at the discretion of the instructor following College procedures outlined in the Student Handbook (available on the ACC website at www.austincc.edu/handbook/).



“An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity.”

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Importance of Participation...

The importance of in-class participation in this course cannot be overstated.

Each class day will involve some sort of in-class writing assignment, debate, or other activity.

Missing class will result in a reduction of your participation score for this class.

Extra credit opportunities will be announced in class on random dates.

Do not wait until the last 2 weeks of class to voice concerns regarding any exam or assignment.

Attendance & Participation Policy...

Attending class is essential for success in this course. A portion of the final grade is based on participation in classroom discussion and debate (active/voluntary contributions to the discussion—not just listening and being present). Reviews for exams and essential course materials are covered during class time; so, relying solely on textbook readings will not be sufficient to pass this course. The points awarded for participation are based on instructor observation of a student’s consistent attendance and participation in class activities.

If you are absent due to illness or family emergency, please notify the instructor at email address.edu.

Make up exams are a privilege at the discretion of the instructor—not a right! Please notify instructor as soon as possible in the event such situations arise. Do not come to class ill. Please be respectful & notify the instructor for instructions about missed assignments.



You may need Windows Media Player™ which is available free of charge from the Microsoft™ Corporation. Macintosh™ users can install Flip4Mac™ to view Windows™ media files. ACC Blackboard™ will contain the class syllabus, assignments, announcements, etc. **Make certain you are able to access Blackboard™ before the end of the first week of classes.** Notify the instructor if you experience difficulties. ACC Blackboard™ requires you to log in at <http://acconline.austincc.edu>. Click “login,” enter ACCeID and ACCeID password in provided boxes, and click “login.”

Short Essay/Discussion Paper & Writing Assignments...

The only written assignments for this course, besides the four (4) required exams, are the **short paper** on a topic related to the course material along with a **special project** presentation, weekly paragraphs on chapters or movies, and **daily in-class writing** assignments. Assignments turned in one day late = -10; 2 days to 1 week late = -20; over a week late = 0/zero points. Some assignments have a hard deadline with no late work accepted. Watch for announcements.

The discussion paper will be a minimum of 350 words but shall not exceed 3 pages double-spaced/12pt except by instructor permission. Please use the word count feature in your word processing program to check your count prior to submission.

You **must use proper MLA formatting** for works cited and for in-text citation of material quoted or paraphrased from another author or source. Consult the instructor if you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism. Plagiarism of material will result in a grade of zero 'O' for the assignment. Failure to use MLA properly will result in a minimum of -10 points.

Student Discipline Policy...

Students will be expected to comply with ACC policies for academic honesty and academic freedom (www.austincc.edu/handbook).

Students who fail to follow stated campus policies for the health and safety of fellow students and instructors will be subject to the penalties described in the ACC student handbook as well as the student handbook for their particular campus. No iWatches, LiveScribe, etc. are allowed in class.

No electronic devices are allowed in class except per ACC Student Services recommended accommodation... NO RECORDING of lectures, no cell phones & no photography!

Withdrawing From the Course or Requesting An Incomplete...

Excessive absences, late arrivals, or failure to comply with written course policies and requirements may result in a student being dropped from the course.

Withdrawal from the course requires filling out of forms from the office of Admissions and Records. Students are responsible for their own withdrawal from the course. The instructor will not prepare any paperwork concerning withdrawals or in any way be responsible for any student's withdrawal.

The last date to withdraw from this course is Monday, April 24th.

The instructor will not grant incompletes for this course unless the student first contacts the instructor with a compelling reason for the request, the student has already completed 2 of the 3 required examinations with a passing grade of 70 or above, and the student has completed all the required paperwork as stated on the ACC website.

Success in This Course...

To be successful in the completion of this GOVT 2305 course, a student should be prepared for each class meeting by reading the assigned text materials prior to the listed date for discussion of the chapter.

Participation in classroom discussion and debate is required.

Following MLA formatting guidelines and due dates for written assignments is a must. The instructor is happy to answer questions and provide examples of this type of formatting for

written work assigned for this course.



Frequently Asked Questions...

Check out <http://www.austincc.edu/acceid/faq.php>!

Student Accessibility Services...

Each ACC campus offers support services for students with documented physical, cognitive, or psychological accessibility needs. Students must request reasonable accommodations through the Office for Student Accessibility Services on the nearest or most convenient campus. Students are encouraged to do this at least three weeks before the start of the semester (<http://www2.austincc.edu/osd/index.html>).