Politics is about who gets what, when, and how.

Harold Lasswell

Course & Contact Information

GOVT 2305 Federal Government - CIP 4510025125 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.

Instructor and contact information

- Instructor Contact Info: Wayne Pryor, wpryor@online.brazosport.edu Office: B.244.A, Office Phone: 979.230.3222. My office hours vary from day to day and it is a good idea to call ahead if you would like to come by the office.
- Your first assignment is to post an autobiography in Discussions in D2L.

Course Materials

Chromebook: Bring to class every day.

Textbook: Bring to class each day.


*Note on purchasing books: Required course materials are available at the Brazosport College bookstore, on campus or online at http://www.brazosport.edu/bookstore. A student of this institution is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college bookstore. The same textbook is/may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.
• We will spend our first class meeting logging into D2L and exploring that site. D2L is a course management system where you will complete most of your course activities. For this course you will need to know how to post and reply to discussions, take and submit exams, and submit assignments to the Dropbox tool. All class assignments will be submitted online.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

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.

Summative Assessments and their Point Values:

Exam 1 – 100 points   Exam 2 – 100 points   Exam 3 – 100 points   Exam 4 – 100 points
Exam 5 – 100 points        Exam 6 – 100 points   Exam 7 – 100 points   Final Exam – 100 points

Exam Dates Will Be Posted On the D2L Home Page.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>8 Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eight Assessment Exams</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 1: The Origin and Development of Constitutional Democracy in the United States (Module 1)</td>
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<td>Exam 2: The Federal System (Module 2)</td>
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<td>Exam 3: Separation of Powers and Checks and Balances (Module 3)</td>
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<td>Exam 4: The Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Branches of the Federal Government (Module 4)</td>
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<td>Exam 5: Public Opinion, Interest Groups, and Political Parties in the Political System (Module 5)</td>
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<td>Exam 6: The Election Process (Module 6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 7: Rights and Responsibilities of Citizens (Module 7)</td>
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<td>(Final) Exam 8: Issues and Policies in U.S.</td>
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</table>
Politics (The Final Exam is not a comprehensive exam, but covers the final Learning Outcome) (Module 8)

Student Expectations
You will or need to:

- attend class regularly ~ this class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:23-9:10 AM
- use the syllabus as your guide
- be a careful note taker
- ask questions in class and/or by email - wpryor@online.brazosport.edu
- read the textbook
- complete assignment and testing deadlines
- be self-motivated and disciplined

Course Overview & Structure

This is a hybrid course ~ which means, in addition to using your textbook, you will receive course content in class and via the web delivered through the Virtual Campus portal (D2L) at Brazosport College.

Class activities vary from day to day, but may include reviewing and discussing selected content from the textbook, responding to Discussions, reviewing current events, viewing video clips, and short writing activities.

Each module contains content you need to prepare for a specific exam. You will notice that there are eight learning outcomes for this course and there are eight exams. Each exam is tied to a specific learning outcome. Within a module you may find PowerPoint presentations, video clips, and reading assignments.

Communication

Ask questions. Questions of a general nature may be posted to the Discussions for your fellow learners and for me to view and respond to. If you only want the instructor to respond pose those questions to me Wpryor@online.brazosport.edu I will usually be able to respond to your emails within 24 hours.

Exams

- Exams will be completed online.
- You are allowed to use your text book and notes while testing.
- Your lowest exam score will be your drop grade. A missed exam will be your drop grade.
### Tentative Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction/Autobiography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam One</td>
<td>Origin and Development of Constitutional Democracy in the United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam Two</td>
<td>The Federal System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam Three</td>
<td>Separation of Powers &amp; Checks and Balances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam Four</td>
<td>The Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Branches of the Federal Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam Five</td>
<td>Public Opinion, Interest Groups, and Political Parties in the Political System</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam Six</td>
<td>The Election Process</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam Seven</td>
<td>Rights and Responsibilities of Citizens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Issues and Policies in U.S. Politics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Exam Due Dates

Exams must be completed by their due date. An exam not completed by the due date is considered as a missed exam and cannot be taken late. There are no make-up or late exams given. A missed exam becomes your drop grade.

### Course Schedule

A calendar showing due dates for all activities is posted on your D2L home page. Check this calendar often.

### Grading Criteria

- Under “Assessments” you will see “Grades.” This gradebook gives you an up to the minute record of your progress/grade for the class. The lowest exam grade will be dropped. A missed exam will count as the drop grade. Additional missed exams will be graded as a zero. No make-up or late exams are given.

The course grade will be earned based on the following formula.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Grading Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>Learning Outcomes 1-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 Exams @ 100 Points Each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Varies Depending Upon the Number of Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>Dropbox Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Varies Depending Upon the Number of Activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Final Exam ~ Learning Outcome 8</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100 Points</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**D2L Grade Book:** Your “final calculated grade” will give you an up-to-date view of where you stand in the course at any given point in the semester. The following scale will be used to determine your course grade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final Calculated Grade</th>
<th>Course Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>Grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100-90 %</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89-80 %</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79-70 %</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69-60 %</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59-0 %</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course Activities

The course requires the submission of eight exams, regular attendance, and participation in discussions.

Each exam covers information presented in chapter readings as well as Discussions. The module materials may include power point presentations and links to video presentations.

Discussion topics allow you to interact with fellow learners and with the instructor and an excellent way to explore and improve understanding of course content.

Student Support

- **Help Desk**
  - Chat with a Helpdesk representative
  - helpdesk@brazosport.edu
  - 979-230-3366
  - Helpdesk website
  - Campus Location: K.100

- **Online Tutors**
  - Create an Online MATH Tutoring Appointment
  - Help Guide: Create MATH Appointment
  - Schedule an Online WRITING Appointment
  - Video: Scheduling an Online Session
  - Video: Attending an Online Session

- **Online Academic Advisor**
  - Chat with an Academic Advisor
  - 979-230-3238 or contact the department secretary at 979-230-3237
  - Online Counseling Services website
  - Campus Location: E-Wing

- **Learning Services**
  - Chat live with a Learning Service Representative
  - Proctor Testing
  - 979-230-3253
• **Learning Services website**
  - Campus Location: [view map](#)

• **Library**
  - [Chat live with a Librarian](#)
  - 979-230-3310
  - [Library website](#)
  - Campus Location: F.134

• **Campus Bookstore**
  - [Bookstore website](#)
  - 979-230-3410
  - Campus Location: [view map](#)

• **Distance Learning**
  - [Virtual Campus Manuals & Tutorials](#)
  - [Success Tips](#)
  - [Student Guide & Calendar](#) website
  - [Online Course Tools Tour](#) RSVP form
  - [Distance Learning website](#)
  - 979-230-3436

Additional [support service information](#), including Virtual Campus Accessibility information is detailed on the Distance Learning website.

**Strategies for Success**

• **Study time** ~ the more time you invest in studying for this course the more successful you should be in the course. Success in learning and understanding the material usually results in a higher grade in the course.

• **Exams** ~
  - be very aware of exam dates shown in the course calendar
  - if possible, form independent study groups with classmates, but do not complete exams together as this is considered plagiarism.
  - ask questions
  - pay close attention to the time-limit set for each exam

• **Grades** ~
  - keep track of your own grades using the grade book
  - have questions about your grade ASK immediately via email (don't wait till the end of the course) [wpryor@online.brazosport.edu](mailto:wpryor@online.brazosport.edu)

• **Accountability** ~
  - monitor your own time
  - make your own decisions about extracurricular activities
  - practice good time management strategies
- understand YOUR responsibilities and expectations of college
- BE prepared
- DON'T procrastinate
- Understand your instructor is here to help “facilitate” or guide your learning, it is up to you to make it happen

**Course Policies**

**Attendance**
As per college policy, you are expected to attend classes regularly.

**Exams/Make-ups**
There are no make-up exams. If you miss the deadline for submitting an exam that exam will become your drop grade for the course. You will be allowed one exam drop grade for the course. If you complete all of the exams on time the lowest score will be dropped. This means that if you take all eight of the exams the lowest score will be dropped. If you miss more than one exam you will receive a zero on that and any additional missed exams.

**Late Policy**
Due dates for each exam are published on the course calendar at the beginning of the course. Exams completed by midnight on the due date will be considered on time. Exams not completed by midnight on the due date will become your drop grade. The grade for your first missed exam will remain blank and no grade will be recorded. It will become your drop grade. If any additional exams are missed then a grade of zero will show for each additional missed exam.

**Course Disclaimer**
Every attempt is made to provide a complete syllabus that provides an accurate overview of the courses. However, circumstances and events may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. This may depend, in part, on the progress, needs and experiences of the students.
College Policies

View current Student Guide & Calendar (includes Student Conduct, Honor Codes, and Academic Honesty) for detailed College Policy information.

Online Student Conduct

- Students are expected to abide by Brazosport College's code of student conduct, including the rules applicable to online courses and student conduct in general.
- Students enrolled in distance education courses are expected to perform with the highest level of academic honesty and integrity.
- Breaches of conduct include:
  - Misconduct
  - Cheating on a Test
  - Plagiarism
  - Collusion

Special Needs & Accessibility

BC is committed to quality education and to providing equal educational opportunities to every student. BC offers services for individuals with special needs and capabilities. Contact Phil Robertson, ADA Coordinator (Email: Phil.Robertson@brazosport.edu | Call: 979-230-3236) for additional information.

- Steps to Apply for Disability Services at Brazosport College
- Brightspace (formally known as D2L), our Learning Management System provides tools which are compliant and easy to navigate and understand using assistive technologies and devices that support their needs. To learn more about Desire2Learn’s commitment to accessibility visit their Accessibility Commitment page as well as their Accessibility Resource Center for both faculty and students.
- YouSeeU is used in our online courses for Virtual Classrooms (live presentations) and Video Assignments. The YouSeeU interface is screen reader friendly and has a high contrast user interface, visit their Accessibility page for additional information.
- YouTube Videos may also be used in online courses. Visit YouTube Accessibility Settings page for additional information on how to set accessibility for YouTube on Android, turn captions on and off and use YouTube with a screen reader.

Student Privacy

Brazosport College is committed to providing services and support to meet your needs and achieve your educational goals. We are equally committed to protecting your privacy. For information regarding the confidentiality of student records please view the Brazosport College Distant Learning Student Privacy Statement. For additional information related to Student Privacy contact the Registrar (979-230-3010).
Withdrawals
Withdrawal from a course is, first and foremost, the student’s responsibility. An instructor may process an "administrative withdrawal" on a student for excessive absences. However, it is the student's responsibility to ensure, prior to the deadline for withdrawal, that he/she has been officially withdrawn. Because you stop attending or participating in a class, does not mean that you have officially withdrawn from the class.

Copyright Policy
The Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) updates copyright law for the online (digital) environment. All information posted within the Virtual Campus is copyrighted under this and previous copyright law. No material can be used or redistributed without permission from Brazosport College.

Alternative legal sources are available for use by faculty and students including books, music, and movies. There is also our campus library which has a variety of existing licensed and subscription based materials for use. Go to CopyRight@BC for additional information and resources dealing with copyright, practices, and procedures.

Title IX Statement
Brazosport College faculty and staff are committed to supporting students and upholding the College District’s non-discrimination policy. Under Title IX and Brazosport College’s policy FFDA (Local), discrimination based on sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression is prohibited. If you experience an incident of discrimination, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty or staff member at BC, please understand that they are “Responsible Employees” and must report what you tell them to college officials. You can also contact the Title IX Coordinators directly by using the contact information below. Additional information is found on the Sexual Misconduct webpage at www.brazosport.edu/sexualmisconduct.

Kelli Forde Spiers, Director, Student Life and Title IX Coordinator
Office J-117D; 979-230-3355; kelli.fordespiers@brazosport.edu

Victoria Young, HR Coordinator and Deputy Title IX Coordinator
Office C-114; 979-230-3303; victoria.young@brazosport.edu