

Federal Government

GOVT-2305

Summer 2025 Section 83640 3 Credits 06/09/2025 to 07/10/2025 Modified 06/07/2025

Course Information

Class Meetings:

Bldg	Room	Type	Days	Start Time	End Time
CET	INET	INET	MTWRF SU		

Withdraw Date:07/02/25

Certification Date:06/12/25

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.

Requisites

Required: College level ready in Reading and Writing.

State-Defined 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.

Instructor-Defined Learning Outcomes

Texas Core Objectives

The College defines essential knowledge and skills that students need to develop during their college experience. These general education competencies parallel the Texas Core Objectives for Student Learning. In this course, the activities you engage in will give you the opportunity to practice two or more of the following core competencies:

- A. Critical Thinking Skills: to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information;
- B. Communication Skills: to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication;
- C. Empirical and Quantitative Skills: to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions;
- D. Teamwork: to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal;
- E. Personal Responsibility: to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making; and
- F. Social Responsibility: to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

Required Course Materials

[Course Materials Link \(https://www.bkstr.com/webApp/discoverView?bookstore_id-1=612&term_id-1=4&dept-1=GOVT&course-1=2305§ion-1=83640\)](https://www.bkstr.com/webApp/discoverView?bookstore_id-1=612&term_id-1=4&dept-1=GOVT&course-1=2305§ion-1=83640)

Graded Work

The "Criteria" table below is a summary of all the graded work in this course.

The "Breakdown" table explains the final letter grade.

Criteria

Evaluation:

Final grades will be based on the items listed below.

- **4 Exams- 580 points**
 - 3 Semester Exams- Worth 130 points each
 - 1 Final Exam-Worth 190 points
- **14 SmartBook Assignments - 280 points**
- **1 Policy Reaction - 100 points**
- **4 Discussion Boards - 40 points**

Type	Weight	Topic	Notes
3 Semester Exams	3 @ 130 points each	Semester Exams	Each student is required to take 4 exams . Semester Exams: There are 3 semester exams for this course. Each semester exam will be worth 130 points each and administered online (via eCampus). Each exam will consist of multiple-choice questions.
SmartBook Assignments	14 @ 20 points each	McGraw-Hill Materials	This course will utilize McGraw-Hill resources for learning. Specifically, each student will complete Smart Book and Application Based Activities. Access to these assignments is available through eCampus; once in eCampus, please click the link entitled "McGraw-Hill." -Each Smart Book assignment is worth 10 points each (there are 15 assignments).
Discussion Boards	4 @ 10 points each	Discussion Boards	Each unit will consist of a discussion board. Topics will stem from unit articles provided by the instructor. Each board is worth 10 points each . Point distribution is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion board entry (personal)-worth 2.5 points. • Replies to the entries of two (2) classmates-worth 5 points. <p>More information concerning discussion board guidelines will be available via eCampus.</p>
Course Paper	1 @ 100 points	Policy Reaction	Information for this assignment will be available in eCampus.
Final Exam	1 @ 190 points	Final Exam	The final exam is cumulative and worth 190 points . The final will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions.

Breakdown

Grade	Range	Notes
A	900-1,000	
B	800-899	
C	700-799	
D	600-699	
F	0-599	

The table below is a summary of course topics and due dates.

Your instructor will notify you of any changes to the schedule during the term.

When	Topic	Notes
Unit 1		<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Foundations of Federal Government</u></p> <p><u>Central content: Chapters 1-3.</u></p> <p>Suggested completions by end of unit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Smartbooks 1-3.-Exam 1.-Discussion board 1.
Unit 2		<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Freedom, Liberty, and Government</u></p> <p><u>Central content: Chapters 4-7.</u></p> <p>Suggested completions by end of unit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Smartbooks 4-7.-Exam 2.-Discussion board 2.
Unit 3		<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Participation and Government</u></p> <p><u>Central content: Chapters 8-10.</u></p> <p>Suggested completions by end of unit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Smartbooks 8-10.-Exam 3.-Discussion board 3.
Unit 4		<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Structure of the Federal Government</u></p> <p><u>Central content: Chapters 11-15.</u></p> <p>Suggested completions by end of unit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Smartbooks 11-15.-Exam 4.-Discussion board 4.

* Course Policies

Unexpected Class Changes

In the case of unexpected school closures, I will email students to let them know.

Late Work

Exams: Each student will receive 2 make-up chances for exams. This does not mean 2 make-ups per exam; rather, there will be 2 opportunities only to make up any missed exams for the course.

McGraw-Hill: There will be no extensions for McGraw-Hill assignments.

Written assignments: All written assignments must be turned in on the due date. If this date is missed, there will be a five (5) point deduction **per day up to three days** past the due date. **After three days are past due, NO written assignment will be accepted.**

☐ Support Contacts

[Contact Your Success Coach \(https://www.dallascollege.edu/successcoach\)](https://www.dallascollege.edu/successcoach)

Every Dallas College student has a personalized Success Coach who supports them from day one to graduation. Contact your coach for help navigating college and reaching milestones leading to graduation and a career.

[Get Free Tutoring \(https://www.dallascollege.edu/tutoring\)](https://www.dallascollege.edu/tutoring)

Tutoring is free to all current Dallas College students. You can walk in or schedule an appointment at all [Learning Commons \(https://www.dallascollege.edu/learningcommons\)](https://www.dallascollege.edu/learningcommons) campus locations. Live, online tutoring is also available via eCampus.

[Explore More Free Student Resources \(https://www.dallascollege.edu/help\)](https://www.dallascollege.edu/help)

You have access to many free resources as a Dallas College student, including [Counseling and Psychological Services \(https://www.dallascollege.edu/counseling\)](https://www.dallascollege.edu/counseling), [Child Care Resources \(https://www.dallascollege.edu/childcare\)](https://www.dallascollege.edu/childcare), [Housing Resources \(https://www.dallascollege.edu/housing\)](https://www.dallascollege.edu/housing), [Emergency Aid Funds \(https://www.dallascollege.edu/emergencyaid\)](https://www.dallascollege.edu/emergencyaid), [Food Pantries \(https://www.dallascollege.edu/foodpantry\)](https://www.dallascollege.edu/foodpantry), and more!

[Submit the Student Care Form \(https://www.dallascollege.edu/careform\)](https://www.dallascollege.edu/careform)

Not sure which free college resources can help? Submit the Student Care Form! Our [Student Care Network \(https://www.dallascollege.edu/studentcare\)](https://www.dallascollege.edu/studentcare) will connect you to support for physical and mental health, financial concerns, food, clothing, and more.

[Contact Technical Support \(https://www.dallascollege.edu/techsupport\)](https://www.dallascollege.edu/techsupport)

Need help with eCampus or another college technology? Our technical support staff can assist you.

Institutional Policies

Dallas College Policies

Please review the [Institutional Policies \(https://www.dallascollege.edu/syllabipolicies\)](https://www.dallascollege.edu/syllabipolicies) page to learn about accommodations for students with disabilities, class drop and repeat options, Title IX (harassment, discrimination, and sexual misconduct), and more.