

# Texarkana College

*updated copy*

**Syllabus:** Federal Government 2305

**Course Number:** GOVT 2305

**Instructor Information:**

Name: Rikki Hatfield

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Telephone: 903.823.3322

Office Hours: *Tuesday:* BCT, Office 29(30 minutes prior to class); *Wednesday:* TA classroom 1 (30 minutes before class);

**Textbook Information:**

**American Government: Brief Version** by James Q. Wilson, John J. Dilulio, Jr., and Meena Bose, 11<sup>th</sup> edition;

**Student Learning Outcomes for the Course:**

**Learning Outcome #1:** The student will describe and discuss the basic fundamentals of the Federal Government system.

**Learning Outcome #2:** The student will describe and assess the philosophies, events, and people that influenced the creation of the Constitution.

**Learning Outcome #3:** The student will discuss the meaning of the federal system.

**Learning Outcome #4:** The students will examine the evolving history and character of civil liberties and civil rights in America.

**Learning Outcome #5:** The student will discuss how mass media, interest groups, and political parties influence public opinion.

**Learning Outcome #6:** The students will identify and describe the different types of elections and explain why and how people participate in the electoral process.

**Learning Outcome #7:** The student will describe the structure and function of the three branches of the U.S. Government and contrast their constitutional authorities.

**Student Assessment:**

- 1) Five Unit Exams ..... 50 %
- 2) Twelve writing Assignments.. 30%
- 3) Final Exam ..... 20%

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Total = 100 %

**Grading Scale:**

90 - 100 = A

80 – 89 = B

70 - 79 = C

60 – 69 = D

Below 60 = F

**Class Schedule:**

Month	Day/Date	Lecture Top/Assessments
August	Wednesday - 28	Course Introduction; What is Government? <u>Read Chapters 1 &amp; 2;</u> <b>writing assignment #1</b>
September	Wednesday - 4	What is American Government? The Constitution (class discussion) <u>Read Chapter 5;</u> <b>writing assignment #2</b>
	Wednesday - 11	<i>finish</i> The Constitution & Federalism <u>Read Chapter 6;</u> <b>writing assignment # 3</b>
	Wednesday - 18	<b>Unit 1 Exam</b> Public Opinion and the Media lecture; video <u>Read Chapter 7;</u> <b>writing assignment #4</b>
	Wednesday - 25	Political Parties & Interest Groups (class discussion)

		Read Chapter 8; <b>Writing assignment #5</b>
October	Wednesday - 2	Campaigns and Elections lecture; <u>Read Chapter 9</u> ; <b>Writing assignment #6</b>
	Wednesday - 9	<b>Unit 2 Exam</b> Congress lecture; <u>Read Chapter 10</u> ; <b>Writing assignment # 7</b>
	Wednesday - 16	<b>Unit 3 Exam</b> The Presidency lecture; <u>Read Chapter 12</u> <b>Case study assignment #8</b>
	Wednesday - 23	<b>Unit 4 Exam</b> The Courts lecture <u>Read Ch. 3</u> ; <b>writing assignment #9</b>
	Wednesday - 30	Civil Liberties; Compare/contrast writing assignment/discussion (in class) #10 <u>Read Chapter 4</u>
November	Wednesday - 6	Civil Rights lecture; video; <b>Writing assignment #11</b>
	Wednesday - 13	<b>Unit 5 Exam</b> <u>Read Chapter 11</u> <b>Writing assignment #12</b>
	Wednesday - 20	The Bureaucracy class discussion
	<b>Wednesday – No Class!</b>	<b>No Class!!</b> <b>Happy Thanksgiving ☺</b>
December	Wednesday - 4	Finish the Bureaucracy, Compare and contrast activity
	Wednesday - 11	<i>Final Exam Review/ Q &amp; A</i>
	Wednesday - 18	<b>Final Exam!!</b>

***Any revisions to the class schedule will be announced in class!!!***

Due to time, this course will not cover every detail of the U.S. Government. However, we will examine the following topics: 1) the structure of the U.S. Government; 2) the Constitution (e.g. personal freedoms and liberties); the three branches of government (Congress, Presidency, and

Judiciary); 3) the public, political parties, interest groups, and media; and 4) The electoral process.

You are expected to stay current with the assigned readings, take concrete notes during lectures, and participate in weekly discussions and writing assignments. I will supplement the course with videos and additional reading to assist with the learning process.

### **Attendance Policy:**

Texarkana College's attendance policy allows the instructor to withdraw a student from the course due to excessive absences. This class will meet once a week and attendance will be taken at the start of each class. A student may be withdrawn from the course should he/she be absent more than two weeks of class. **On the third absence, the instructor will drop you from the course.** Should you arrive late it is your responsibility to ensure you have signed the attendance roster (at the break).

**\*\*A student should not stop attending the class without formally withdrawing from the course. If a student stops attending class after the published *Last Day for Students to Drop*, the student may receive a grade of "F" for the class. In addition, the student may be required to pay back money received from grants or scholarships.**

**Excused Absences:** A student's absence due to school trip and/or school business does not count against the allowable number of absences. Military duty and Holy Days are covered in a separate section of the catalog and the student handbook. These are the only excused absences considered by Texarkana College.

### **Make-Up Policy:**

You are responsible for your own attendance, and are required to have all assignments completed by the due date. Faculty members are not obligated to provide opportunities for students to make-up missed assignments and tests.

**\*\*If you miss an exam or assignment due date FOR ANY REASON, you must submit a valid excuse form (please see the instructor for a form). If you do not submit this form within **one week** of your return, you will be given a zero for the missing exam/assignment.**

**\*\*ALL make-up exams will be taken in the Testing Center!**

I **do not** allow students to retake exams or provide extra credit work. If you know in advance you will be absent please contact the instructor.

### **Academic Integrity Statement:**

Scholastic dishonesty, involving but not limited to cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion, or falsification of records will make the student liable for disciplinary action after being investigated by the Dean of Students. Proven violations of this nature will result in the student being dropped from the class with an “F”.

This policy applies campus wide, including TC Testing Center as well as off-campus classroom or lab sites, including dual credit campuses. This information can be found in the Student Handbook at <http://texarkanacollege.edu>.

**Financial Aid:**

*Attention!!* Dropping this class may affect your funding in a negative way! You could owe money to the college and/or federal government. Please check with the Financial Aid office before making a decision.

**Disability Act Statement:**

Texarkana College complies with all provisions of the American with Disabilities act and makes reasonable accommodations upon request. Please contact Larry Andres at 903-823-3283, or go by the Recruitment, Advisement, and Retention Department located in the Administration building.

If you have an accommodation letter from their office indicating you have a disability which requires academic accommodation, please present it to me. We will discuss the appropriate accommodations that will best suit your needs. Please ensure this process is completed as soon as possible thus, allowing ample time for the instructor to make such accommodations.

**Note:** Do not bring food to class as there will be breaks provided during the class. *Please ensure all cell phones are placed on vibrate and secured in your bag during class.*

