

**Syllabus:****Course Number:** GOVT 2305W Federal Government**Semester & Year:** Summer 2024**Instructor Information**

Name: Stephen Gass

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Class: SSB Room 14

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Office Hours: hours by appointment

Course Description

GOVT 2305, Federal Government is a study of the 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.

Student Learning Outcomes for the Course

1. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the origin and development of the U.S. Constitution.
2. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the structure and powers of the national government including the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.
3. Students will demonstrate knowledge of federalism.
4. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the political participation and the national election process.
5. Students will demonstrate knowledge of public policy, civil liberties, and civil rights.

Resources

Texts: American Government 3e, ISBN (Digital) 978-1-951693-38-1, (print) 978-1-711493-96-1

Other resources: Research Essay with Rubric, Films on Demand Video, united States Civic Test, Find your Representative, and Find your U.S. Senator

Course Policies

Instruction for this course will be accomplished through Web-based content and activities on the course homepage, audio/video presentations and weekly discussions between students and I posted on the course homepage. Students should read the text for the course prior to making a post or response. Student participation is essential to the learning process, and students are expected to answer questions and engage in professional debate. This course will cover material involving politics and religion. It is important that you understand some topics might be controversial but are discussed for an academic purpose. Be respectful and professional in your responses. See the listed class schedule for assignment and

test due dates. Prior to beginning the course students will take the introductory quiz. It is the student's responsibility to ensure they are accessing the course web-based content from a secure location that will not lose connectivity.

Students will complete all exams through web-based content. All exams will be timed. If you feel you have inadequate time to complete the exam please contact me and arrangements will be made to complete the exam at the campus testing center. In the event of losing internet connectivity while completing an exam, you must complete and submit an LMS Interrupted Test form located in the blue column on the left side of your course homepage. This will notify the Texarkana College Information Technology department of the issue. In addition, you must immediately notify me of the incident. Repeated requests to reopen exams due to losing connectivity will result in a requirement to take exams in the campus testing center.

Students are required to submit an essay including an introduction, body and closing paragraphs in response to the Films on Demand video "[A More Perfect Union \(Constitution USA with Peter Sagal\)](#)". The essay must be a minimum of one full page in length. The video can be accessed from the link on the course home page. However, if you are unable to open the link it can be accessed from Films on Demand at <http://digital.films.com> using the USER ID: texarkana and PASSWORD: texas, and searching for the video title. The essay will be due on Monday of the following week it is listed in the Syllabus. Please refer to Syllabus for date of assignment.

Students are required to complete a **typed** Informative Essay about a substantial contemporary criminal justice issue that will be submitted as an assignment through the course homepage. The essay must be in MLA or APA format and be a minimum of four complete to six double spaced pages long (excluding title page and works cited page) and consist of at least five or six paragraphs including an introduction, body and closing paragraphs, with a works cited page attached. The essay must contain information from a minimum of three cited sources including but not limited to peer-reviewed articles, books and websites. At least one source must be a peer-reviewed article. Do not use Wikipedia as a source. The essay will be graded on content and a demonstration of investigative effort in developing and expressing the factual information on the issue. Do not merely write a paper about your opinion on a subject or individual. The topic, brief abstract and minimum of three (3) sources for the assignment must be approved by Friday, June 7, 2024, for a grade. The assignment must be submitted through the course homepage for grading no later than Friday, June 21, 2024. The assignment is open from the first day of class and there will be no exceptions made for late submissions. You are encouraged to obtain assistance for this assignment from Texarkana College Library staff and me and turn it in before the due date. A timely submission is considered a requirement for the assignment. Additional guidance for the assignment can be obtained from the **Research Essay with Rubric** instructions on the course homepage.

Students are required to submit five (5) brief responses to a Contemporary Criminal Justice issue during this semester. The response must be from an article less than two weeks old and must state the issue being reported and the response of the student to the subject. Sources to consider using are newsprint, professional journals, television and/or radio news programs and internet news sites. A copy of the article must be submitted through attachment with the response or the article or news program must be cited. As a **bonus** students may submit up to six (6) more responses, however under no circumstances will more than three (3) response be accepted per week.

Students are required to submit five (5) brief forum posts and responses to a prompt during this semester through the course homepage. You must respond to the prompt from me by Friday at 11:55pm (six points) and respond to two other students' responses by Sunday at 11:55pm (two points each). This is an opportunity for you to interact with other students and have a professional exchange of ideas. It is okay to agree or disagree with each other's position, but it must be done in a professional manner. Do not just say "I disagree" without explaining why. Discussion and debate are a vital part of adult education, and most people have more similarities than differences. This is an opportunity for us all to learn from each other.

Evaluation/Grading Scale:

(1) 6 Chapter tests (100 points each) -	600 total points
(2) Video "It's a Free Country: Constitution USA" -	100 total points
(3) Informative Essay (100), Approval (100)	200 total points
(4) 5 Contemporary Issues response (20 points each) -	100 total points
(5) 5 Forum Post (10 points each) -	50 total points
(6) Final Exam (100 points) -	<u>100 total points</u>
	1,150 total points

Bonus

- Up to **six** Contemporary Issues response (10 points each)

Grading Scale

Grade	
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59-below

Test 1: Chapter 1: Chapter 1; American Government and Civic Engagement, Chapter 2: The Constitution and Its Origins, Chapter 3: American Federalism

Test 2: Chapter 4: Civil Liberties, Chapter 5: Civil Rights, Chapter 6: The Politics of Public Opinion, Chapter 7: Voting and Elections

Test 3: Chapter 8: The Media, Chapter 9: Political Parties, Chapter 10: interest Groups and Lobbying

Test 4: Chapter 11: Congress, Chapter 12: The Presidency

Test 5: Chapter 13: The Courts, Chapter 14: State and Local Government

Test 6: Chapter 15: The Bureaucracy, Chapter 16: Domestic Policy, Chapter 17: Foreign Policy

Class Schedule

Holidays: Memorial Day May 27, 2024, Emancipation Day June 19, 2024

Week	Dates	Material to be covered
1	5/27 – 31/2024	Read the Syllabus and take introductory quiz
		Review course material and respond to Forum Post, Contemporary Responses, Take Chapters 1-3 <u>test</u>
		View and respond to video The Brain and Violence: Secrets of Your Mind
2	6/03 – 07/2024	Review course material and respond to Forum Post, Contemporary Responses, Take Chapters 4-7 <u>test</u>
		Research Essay Topic Approval due by 6/07/2024
3	6/10 – 14/2024	Review course material and respond to Forum Post, Contemporary Responses, Take Chapters 8-10 <u>test</u>
		Review course material and respond to Forum Post, Contemporary Responses, Take Chapters 11-12 <u>test</u>
4	6/17 - 21/2024	Review course material and respond to Forum Post, Contemporary Responses, Take Chapters 13-14 <u>test</u>
		Research Essay due 6/21/2024 by 11:55pm
5	6/24 – 28/2024	Review course material and respond to Forum Post, Contemporary Responses, Take Chapters 15-17 <u>test</u>
		Comprehensive Exam due June 27, 2024 @ 11:55pm

Behavioral Expectations

1. Unit tests must be made-up before the next test is scheduled.
2. Scholastic dishonesty, involving but not limited to cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion, or falsification of records with result in the student receiving an "F". This policy applies campus wide, including the 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 <https://texarkanacollege.edu>
3. Communication is expected to be professional and emails are to be sent using your Texarkana College e-mail address, and include the course information in the subject.

Attendance Policy

Success in this course depends on your regular participation in class through the course homepage and participation in forums and email communications to discuss progress in the course. Attendance will be determined through weekly participation in discussion forums and exams. A student will be dropped from the course due to excessive unexcused absences. A student may be dropped from this course after their second absence, to be determined by failure to participate in forums and completing at least one exam during the week. Exams will be closed on Sunday of each week at 11:55pm. If you are expecting to be unable to perform your assignments and exams for a week you should obtain prior approval by contacting me in my office by telephone at 903-823-3235 or email at stephen.gass@texarkanacollege.edu prior to the beginning of the week. Approval will only be given in the case of unavoidable emergencies and you may be required to provide written proof.

A student absent due to school trips and/or school business will not have the absence counted against the student's allowable number of absences. A student absent for military duty or for recognized Holy Days will not have the absence counted against the student's allowable number of absences in accordance with the Texarkana College Student Handbook. In these circumstances students will be expected to satisfactorily complete the assignment and/or examination within a reasonable time after the absence. It is the student's responsibility to notify the Instructor of their intended absence. The Texarkana College Student Handbook can be accessed for guidance at www.texarkanacollege.edu.

Do not stop attending class without formally withdrawing from the course by the institution's published Last Day to Drop for this semester. Texarkana College policy states that if a student does not attend class and does not withdraw from the class, the student will receive a grade of **F** in the class and this could affect your current or future financial aid eligibility. The last date you attend will be reflected on the final grade sheet resulting in the reimbursement of grant and scholarship funds.

Disability Act Statement:

Texarkana College complies with all provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act and makes reasonable accommodations upon request. Please contact Larry Andrews at 903.823.3283, or go by the Recruitment, Advisement, and Retention Department located in the Administration building for personal assistance.

If you have an accommodation letter from their office indicating that you have a disability which requires academic accommodations, please present it to me so we can discuss the accommodations that you might need for this class. *It is best to request these changes at the beginning if not before the start of class* so there is ample time to make the accommodations.

Basic Needs Security Statement:

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing enough food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live and believes this may affect their performance in this course or ability to remain in school, is urged to contact Tonja Blase, Director of Student Retention, at 903.823.3349 for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so.

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.