**US GOVERNMENT COURSE SYLLABUS AND SCHEDULE**

**Course name and number** Government 2305 **Semester and Year** Fall 2016

 Federal Government

**Instructor** Melinda Jobe-Polvado **Time** T/R 3:30-4:50

**Room 202 Campus** Flower Mound

**Email** mjobe-polvado@nctc.edu **Office hours** by appointment only

**Catalog 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. 48 lecture hrs.

**Textbook and Materials** *We the People* (ebook with Connect Plus Access Card)

**Required** Thomas Patterson, McGraw Hill, 11th Ed, ISBN: 9781259563614

*Students can order a full color loose leaf book for an addition $15 directly from McGraw Hill when registering in Connect Access*

**Learning Outcomes**

*At the successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:*

Explain the origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States.

Demonstrate an understanding 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.

Analyze the election process.

Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens.

Analyze issues and policies in U.S. politics.

Research and compose an essay assignment/argument using proper grammar/English and basic

 computer skills.

**Scholastic Integrity** Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an exam,

plagiarism, and collusion. For specific details, see the Student Handbook under “Student

 Rights & Responsibilities: Student Conduct [FLB (LOCAL)]” #20 on p. 175.

**Attendance Policy** The class meets 3 lecture hours per week and attendance is critical. Regular and punctual attendance is expected and failure to do so can put your grade in jeopardy. Anything discussed in class can potentially become an exam question. It is the student’s responsibility to find out what was missed and to ask for assignments, handouts, or get notes from a classmate*. All students will be expected to sign the attendance sheet each class and any student who fails to do so will be counted absent.* Dropping a course is the student's responsibility, but you **MAY** be dropped for excessive absence. See Attendance Regulations in the North Central Texas College Catalog.

Last day to drop with a W is Nov. 3.

**Grading Policy/Procedures**

**Grading Criteria**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **# of graded course** **elements** | **graded course** **elements** | **grade** **percentage** |
| 4 | Exams | **30%** |
| 2-3 | Research Assignments | **30%** |
| 3-4 | Short essaysEx: Current Events, Political Cartoons, Interviews | **20%** |
| 1412-14 | Connect ActivitiesEx. LearnSmart ReadingsChapter Assignments and Quizzes | **20%**10%10% |

**Late Work Late work will NOT be accepted.** All Post Quizzes, Class Assignments and Connect Activities will be submitted online so even if a student is not in class, the assignment can still be turned in on time. Students are expected to anticipate computer problems that may keep them from completing work on time.

**Unit Exams** Four 50-question multiple choice exams will be given for a total of 30% of your grade. **No make-up or re-takes will be given.** However, if a student misses a Unit 1, 2, or 3 exam, he may take a 100 question comprehensive exam and that grade will count twice (once for Unit 4 and once for the missed exam). Any student who misses two or less classes (not tardy or leaving early) can also take the comprehensive section to replace a Unit 1, 2 or 3 Exam grade. Only one exam may be replaced.

**Chapter Quizzes** These quizzes are designed to help students study. All will be completed within a specific time period and will not be reopened for any student. Students may use the book, notes or other assignments to help them complete the quiz but are limited to one take on each quiz.

**Canvas/Connect Access** All students must have complete access to Canvas for the entire semester. It is the student’s responsibility to have access to the internet at all times as well as having all needed programs to complete assignments. Students are not to give any other person access to his Canvas account. Students can be removed from the online course immediately if violating this rule. Once a student has given another person access to his canvas account, the credibility of completed work becomes questionable.

**Student Privacy** The instructor cannot communicate with anyone other than the student who is enrolled in this course without the student’s authority. No personal information, including but not limited to grades, social security or phone numbers, enrollment status can be given to anyone other than the student without the student’s permission. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. (FERPA)

**Connect Access** The textbook, Learn Smart and Connect activities are all maintained with the McGraw Hill Connect System. Students need to be enrolled immediately in Connect, which can be purchased at the bookstore or online directly from McGraw Hill from Canvas. Temporary access can be used directly from Connect McGraw Hill for 14 days from the first day of class. Students should be enrolled by the end of day 1 as assignments are made immediately.

**Tentative Schedule (there may be changes)**

Unit 1 Aug 23-Sept 15 ch. 1,2,3

Unit 2 Sept. 20-Oct 13 ch. 4,5,6,7

Unit 3 Oct. 18-Nov. 10 ch. 8,12,11,13

Last day to withdraw from a course with a “W” is November 3, 2016.

Unit 4 Nov. 15 –Dec. 1 ch. 14,9,10

 Nov . 24 Thanksgiving Holiday

Final Exam Dec. 6

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