Government 2302.01E,02E,03E
United States and Texas Government: Institutions and Policies
Course Syllabus: Fall 2015

Instructor Information
Instructor: Daniel T. Caldwell, MS
Classroom: SS134
Office Location: – MWF – 8:30-9:00 and 1:00-3:00 or by appointment
University Email Address: Daniel.Caldwell@tamuc.edu

Class Meeting Times:
MWF: 9:00 – 9:50, 10:00 – 10:50 and 11:00 – 11:50

Course Information
Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Ginsberg, Benjamin, et.al. 2015. We the People, Essentials, 10th ed. W.W. Norton. ISBN: 978-0393937053


Other readings: Readings have been prepared and will be distributed. These are a blend of primary and secondary materials that complement lectures and provide the foundations for classroom discussions.

Note: It is imperative that you complete the assigned readings; the material contained therein will drive classroom discussion, a very crucial course requirement. You are responsible for all the material contained in the readings; if you do not read them, you will have a difficult semester.

Course Description
Government 2302 is a broad interdisciplinary course in the development of the Institutions and Policies of the Federal Government and the State of Texas

A study of the Texas & Federal constitutional systems; executive, judicial, and legislative powers and institutions; the United States Constitution, economic and financial development, formation and organization; political parties and ideologies; federal and interstate relations; close study of various current problems. Core Curriculum satisfied for Political Science/Government

Student Learning Outcomes:

1) Students will be able to recognize their own position as being subjective, follow objectively the arguments of others, and interpret data.
2) In written, oral, and/or visual communication, A&M-Commerce students will communicate in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure.
3) Students will understand and practice academic honesty.
4) Students will demonstrate awareness of societal and/or civic issues.
Instructional/ Methods/ Assessments

The reading assignments and class sessions are listed for each week. I expect you to complete the reading prior to class and be PREPARED to discuss or address specific issues raised in the readings. Written assignments will be submitted at the beginning of the class period to the instructor.

Assignment Explanations

Exams:

Students must complete all three exams. The format consists of Multiple Choice questions. Students are highly encouraged to not miss exams as a makeup exam consists of a complete essay examination given over the materials covered. It is the student’s responsibility to schedule and complete their makeup exams. There are no Exceptions! Failure to make up a missed exam will result in a Zero (0) for the exam. Each exam will be worth 20% of the final course grade. Each Student is responsible for providing a green scantron.

Reading Assignments:

The reading assignments and class sessions are listed for each week. I expect you to complete the readings prior to class and be PREPARED to discuss and address specific issues raised in the readings. Written assignments will be submitted to the instructor at the beginning of the class period. The material covered in the assigned readings can be on the exam even if the information not covered in class. READ the assigned readings.

In Class Simulation

Each student is required to participate in class simulations were each student will play a role in local government. Details will be given later in the semester. It will be fun!

Attendance and Participation

Any absence requires proper documentation. Family emergencies, illnesses, births, deaths, incarcerations or other events and calamities are NOT excused absences. Participation points are earned through your contribution to class discussion that reflects informed and on-topic participation. Participation means that you read the required chapter material in preparation for class. If you are not in class, then you cannot earn participation credit. If you miss three classes, the instructor reserves the right to drop any student from the course. Attendance and Participation consists of 20% of your final grade.

If you do not show up, you will not pass the class!

Grading:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Examinations:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 1:</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2:</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Class Simulation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation/Attendance</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</tbody>
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The grading scale used for this course is as follows:

A  90-100
B  80-89
C  70-79
D  60-69
F  0-59
Classroom Procedures

**Student Conduct:** Each student is expected to observe basic tenants of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See the Student’s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct).

**Academic Honesty**

**Plagiarism**

1. the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one’s own original work.
2. In all courses, I expect that all work that you do and turn in is your own. It is the policy of the University, the Department of Political Science, and myself that no form of plagiarism, cheating, collusion, or any other form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. Cheating is obtaining unauthorized assistance on any assignment. Collusion is the selling of academic products with the intention that they be submitted to satisfy an academic requirement. Students are expected to uphold and support the highest academic standards at all times. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty will automatically fail the assignment in question, will likely fail the entire course, and will be subject to disciplinary action by the University. Please see pg. 32 of the Student Handbook.

**Accommodations**

**Students with Disabilities:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal antidiscrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library, Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu
Instructors Rights

As the instructor for this class, I reserve the right to amend and/or modify this syllabus as necessary.

**Please Note: The Lack of Planning on Your Part does not constitute an Emergency on My Part**

**Week One:** August 31, September 2 & September 4
Introduction to the Course
The Legislative Branches in the United States and Texas
(U.S. Constitution, Ginsberg Chapter 9; Halter, Chapter 7)

**Week Two:** September 7, 9 & 11
The Executive Branch in the United States and Texas
(U.S. Constitution; Ginsberg, Chapter 10; Halter Chapter 8)

**Week Three:** September 14, 16 & 19
The Judiciary: Federal and State
(U.S. Constitution, Article III; The Federalist, No. 78; Joseph Story; Marbury v. Madison; Dickerson v. U.S.; Ginsberg, Chapter 12; Halter, Chapter 9)

**Week Four:** September 21, 23 & 25
Bill of Rights (U.S. Constitution, Article I, section 9; Article III; Amendments 1-5 and 13-15, Ginsberg, Chapter 4, Halter Chapter 2)

**Week Five:** September 28, 30 & October 2
The Bill of Rights, continued

**Exam One – October 2**

**Week Six:** October 5, 7 & 9
The Problem of “Race” and the Struggle for Civil Rights (U.S. Constitution, Article I, section 2, section 9, Amendment 14)
Civil Rights (McClaurin v. Bd. of Regents; Brown v. Bd. of Education I; Brown v. Bd. of Education II; Halter Chapter 11)

**Week Seven:** October 12, 13 & 16
Federalism and the States (Ginsberg, Chapter 3; Halter Chapter 2)
Week Eight: October 19, 21 & 23
Political Parties: The Dreaded Election (Ginsberg, Chapter 7 & 11; Halter, Chapter 5)

Week Nine: October 26, 28, & 30
Domestic Public Policy and the Bureaucratic State (Ginsberg, Chapter 11; Halter, Chapter 8)

Week Ten: November 2, 4, & 6
Fiscal and Monetary Policy in the United States (Ginsberg, Chapter 13)

Week Eleven: November 9, 11, & 13
The Rise of the United States to Global Power (The Federalist, No. 75; Washington, “Farewell Address”; Ginsberg, Chapter 14)

Exam Two – November 13

Week Twelve: November 16, 18 & 20
City, County, and State: Texas (Halter, Chapter 11)

Happy Thanksgiving
November 23-27

Week Thirteen: November 30, December 2 & 4
Local Government Simulation

Week Fourteen: December 7, 9, 11
Local Government Simulation
COURSE POLICY AGREEMENT

I, _______________________________________________, have read this syllabus and understand the guidelines and policies therein. Furthermore, I understand my obligation to adhere to these guidelines and policies in this class and failure to do so could result in my being dropped from the course. I understand that I am bound by the requirements listed therein as well as any modifications my instructor may make throughout the semester.

Student’s Signature:

X__________________________________________

CWID: ________________________________ Date: ____________________