

GRAYSON COLLEGE

GOVT2305

Master Syllabus

Course Information: Federal Government

(Core Course)

Please Note: Due to extenuating circumstances, including public health issues, course and testing delivery methods, instructional schedules, housing contracts, campus procedures and/or operating hours may be altered, interrupted and/or ceased for a limited or extended period of time. Such changes will be posted on the College website.

Professor Contact Information

Name: Dana J. Kermanian, M.Ed.

Office: LA 212C

Email: kermaniand@grayson.edu

Please communicate by Canvas messages or by appointment.

** I will be online regularly throughout the week and periodically on the weekend to check on my courses and our progress throughout the semester.*

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

Reading and Writing Intensive

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..

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Explain the origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the federal system.
3. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government.
5. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in the political system.
6. Analyze the election process.
7. Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
8. Analyze issues and policies in U.S. politics.

Required Textbooks (ISBN # included) and Materials

Our book is free and can be downloaded at: <https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government> (Links to an external site.)

Suggested Course Materials

Access to a computer with Microsoft Office, flash drive, small stapler, highlighters, note cards, access to printer, and the Internet. Campus computers are available during specified hours.

Semester Timeline: Introduced in the following order:

Week	Chapters/Learning Activities
1	Chapter #2: The Constitution and Its Origins Pre-Test
2	Chapter #3: American Federalism Chapters 2 & 3 Exam
3	Chapter #4: Civil Liberties Federalism and the Supreme Court Reflection
4	Chapter #5: Civil Rights Chapters 4 & 5 Exam
5	Chapter #6: The Politics of Public Opinion
6	Chapter #7: Voting and Elections Chapters 6 & 7 Exam
7	Chapter #8: The Media
8	Chapter #9: Political Parties Chapters 8 & 9 Exam
9	Assessment Assignment Paper Due
10	Chapter #10 Interest Groups and Lobbying

11	Chapter #11 Congress Chapters 10 and 11 Exam
12	Chapter #12: The Presidency Executive Branch Profile
13	Chapter #13: The Courts Chapters 12 and 13 Exam
14	Chapter #15: The Bureaucracy Chapter 15 Exam Participation in Politics Project Due
15	Project Presentations
16	Project Presentations Post-Test

In case of inclement weather, emergency closings, or other unforeseen disruptions to scheduled classes, student must log onto their Canvas accounts for directions on where or how to continue their coursework.

Grades will be determined as follows:

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

F = Below 60

Grading

Exams	6 X 50	300
	1 X 26	26
Pre and Post Tests	2 X 12	24

Federalism and the Supreme Court Reflection		25
Participation and Professionalism	16 X 25	400
Assessment Assignment Paper		100
Participation in Politics Project		100
Executive Branch Profile		25
Total Points		1000

Methods of Instruction

In-class and online activities, presentations, team activities, quizzes, exams and in class discussions.

Course & Instructor Policies

- I expect all assignments to be completed within the specified deadlines. Should you have an extraordinary circumstance occur that delays you, please message me immediately.
- Students may contact each other or the professor through Canvas messages.
- Plagiarism will result in the grade of “F” on an assignment. If a circumstance arises of which two students submit work that is the same or very similar, both students will receive a zero and the respective Chair and Dean may be contacted about the student misconduct.

Class Attendance

Academic success is closely associated with regular classroom attendance and course participation. All successful students, whether on campus or online, are expected to be highly self-motivated.

All students are required to participate in courses regularly and are obliged to participate in class activities and complete and submit assignments following their professors’ instructions. Students taking courses during compressed semester timeframes such as mini-semester, summer sessions, and mid-semester should plan to spend significantly more time per week on the course. Responsibility for work missed because of illness or school business is placed upon the student. More than two (2) absences are considered to be excessive. In addition, students’ eligibility to receive financial aid or live in a College dormitory can be affected by withdrawal from courses. When withdrawal occurs, any tuition refund would be made in accordance with state regulations.

Student Conduct & Discipline

- *Students are expected to maintain classroom decorum online inside the virtual classroom, that includes respect for other students and the instructor.*
- *Use of profanity, harassing behavior, and/ or obscene language/gestures is strictly prohibited.*
- *Students are expected to maintain prompt and regular attendance online, as well as a positive attitude conducive to the learning environment.*
- *The professor reserves the right to dismiss any student that is disrupting the learning environment.*

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable.

Plagiarism will result in the grade of “F” on an assignment.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a form of scholastic dishonesty involving the theft of or fraudulent representation of someone else’s ideas or words as the student’s original work. Plagiarism can be intentional/deliberate or unintentional/accidental. Unintentional/Accidental plagiarism may include *minor* instances where an attempt to acknowledge the source exists but is incorrect or insufficient. Deliberate/Intentional plagiarism violates a student’s academic integrity and exists in the following forms:

- Turning in someone else’s work as the student’s own (such as buying a paper and submitting it, exchanging papers or collaborating on a paper with someone else without permission, or paying someone else to write or translate a paper),
- Recycling in whole or in part previously submitted or published work or concurrently submitting the same written work where the expectation for current original work exists, including agreeing to write or sell one’s own work to someone else,
- Quoting or copy/pasting phrases of three words or more from someone else without citation,
- Paraphrasing ideas without citation or paraphrasing incompletely, with or without correct citation, where the material too closely matches the wording or structure of the original,
- Submitting an assignment with a majority of quoted or paraphrased material from other sources, even if correctly cited, when original work from the student is expected,
- Copying images or media and inserting them into a presentation or video without citation,
- Using copyrighted soundtracks or video and inserting them into a presentation or video without citation,
- Giving incorrect or nonexistent source information or inventing source information,

- Performing a copyrighted piece of music in a public setting without permission,
- Composing music based heavily on someone else's musical composition.

Please refer to your course syllabus. Infractions may result in disciplinary options on behalf of the faculty member and/or dean.

Student Responsibility

You have already made the decision to go to college; now the follow-up decisions on whether to commit to doing the work could very well determine whether you end up working at a good paying job in a field you enjoy or working at minimum wage for the rest of your life. Education involves a partnership that requires both students and instructors to do their parts. By entering into this partnership, you have a responsibility to show up for class, do the assignments and reading, be engaged and pay attention in class, follow directions, and put your best effort into it. You will get out of your experience here exactly what you put into it – nothing more and nothing less.

TITLE IX

GC policy prohibits discrimination on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, retaliation, serious medical condition, sex, sexual orientation, spousal affiliation and protected veterans status.

Furthermore, Title IX prohibits sex discrimination to include sexual misconduct: sexual violence (sexual assault, rape), sexual harassment and retaliation.

For more information on Title IX, please contact:

- Molly M. Harris, Title IX Coordinator (903)463-8714
- Logan Maxwell, Title IX Deputy Coordinator - South Campus (903) 415-2646
- Mike McBrayer, Title IX Deputy Coordinator - Main Campus (903) 463-8753
- Website: <http://www.grayson.edu/campus-life/campus-police/title-ix-policies.html>
- GC Police Department: (903) 463-8777- Main Campus) (903-415-2501 - South Campus)
- GC Counseling Center: (903) 463-8730
- For Any On-campus Emergencies: 911

****Grayson College is not responsible for illness/injury that occurs during the normal course of classroom/lab/clinical experiences.**

****These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.**

**** Grayson College campus-wide student policies may be found at the following URL on the College website: <https://www.grayson.edu/currentstudents/Academic%20Resources/index.html>**

