

GRAYSON COUNTY COLLEGE
Course Syllabus

Course Information

Course: GOVT 2305 American Government

Professor Contact Information

NAME: Pawel Goral, Ph.D.

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You can also email me through Canvas for all course-related correspondence.

Office Hours: By appointment.

Office: Liberal Arts, Office 105E

Office Phone: 903-463-8615

Course Description

GOVT 2305. American Government. 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

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

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.
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Textbooks (ISBN # included)

1. **Krutz, et al. *American Government*.** This is a FREE Open Educational Resource. There will be more information on accessing this book in the course module. The book is in web view, epub, and pdf formats. Access the book by going to the Open Stax website: <https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government> and then follow the instructions to download or access the text.
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Required Assignments and Course Calendar

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.

Unit 1

Chapter 1: American Government and Civic Engagement
Chapter 2: The Constitution and Its Origins
Chapter 3: American Federalism
Chapter 4: Civil Liberties
Chapter 5: Civil Rights

Unit 2

Chapter 6: The Politics of Public Opinion
Chapter 7: Voting and Elections
Chapter 9: Political Parties
Chapter 10: Interest Groups and Lobbying

Unit 3:

Chapter 11: Congress
Chapter 12: The Presidency
Chapter 13: The Courts

Unit 4:

Chapter 17: Foreign Policy
Chapter 15: The Bureaucracy
Chapter 16: Domestic Policy

Methods of Evaluation

To complete this course, students must complete five exams.

1. Exams: All exams consist of 20 multiple-choice, 5 true-false, 5 fill-in-the-blank, and 5 short-answer questions. The four exams are worth 80 percent of your final grade.
2. Writing Assignment: students will be required to write an essay – this assignment is worth 20 percent of the final grade and must be submitted on Canvas.

The grading for the course is as follows:

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%
C = 70-79%
D = 60-69%
F = 0 – 59%

Course & Instructor Policies

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.

No electronic devices, including smart watches, may be used during quizzes and exams. In fact, all electronic devices, including smart watches, must be put away during quizzes and exams. Failure to comply with this rule could result in the loss of all credit on the assessment.

There are NO formal extra credit opportunities in this course. In college there are no substitutes for content mastery (i.e., understanding the subject material).

Class Attendance

Attendance will be recorded daily, and it is the responsibility of the student to adjust the roll if they enter class after roll has been taken. Adjustments must be made daily (adjustments to the roll from previous days are not permitted). Students who missed class due to their participation in an official school function must provide the professor with appropriate documentation in order to have the absence excused. Your final grade may be reduced by .75 percent of the course grade for each unexcused absence.

Late Arrivals

Take care of making a habit of being tardy or leaving class early. Although sometimes “life happens,” those who abuse this will be dealt with individually and may face a course grade reduction. You may be counted absent if you arrive late and/or leave early or if you are dismissed from class. Your final grade may be reduced by .75 percent of the course grade for each unexcused absence.

As a note of caution – students who arrive late on exam day will not be granted additional time to complete the exam. The exam will be due at the end of the class period. The only exceptions to this are for students who are late due to an extenuating circumstance, which requires proper documentation (as explained below). Students who arrive to take the exam after the first exam has been turned in will not be permitted to take the test. A make-up will only be granted if the student qualifies (as explained below).

Make-up exams/assignments are possible, but only with the instructor’s approval. It is always best to make arrangements for missed exams/assignments in advance if possible. In the event of an unexpected emergency, the student has one (1) week from the date of the scheduled exam/assignment to receive approval, after which no approval will be granted except under extenuating circumstances. Any approval given for a make-up exam will only be granted with a documented excuse (doctor’s note, towing receipt, etc.). Do not miss an exam because you did not feel like coming to class or wanted extra time to prepare.

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, any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, 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 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.

If a student violates the college's code of ethics, the student is subject to receiving no credit for that assignment and/or subject to failing the course.

Withdrawal from Class

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle student initiated withdrawal requirements from any class. You must complete the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled (see GCC College Catalog for details).

Disability Services

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room SC 115 in the Student Success Center.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:
Jeffri Hodge
(903) 463-8751 (voice or TTY)
hodgej@grayson.edu

If you anticipate issues related to the format or requirements of this course, please meet with the Coordinator of Disability Services. The Coordinator is available to discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course. If you determine that formal, disability-related accommodations are necessary, it is very important that you be registered with Disability Services to notify them of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. Disability Services can then plan how best to coordinate your accommodations.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

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:

Dr. Regina Organ, Title IX Coordinator (903-463-8714)

Mr. Brad Bankhead, Title IX Deputy Coordinator- South Campus (903) 415-2601

Mr. Mike McBrayer, Title IX Deputy Coordinator (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 campus-wide student policies may be found on our Current Student Page on our website: <http://grayson.edu/current-students/index.html>

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

COVID-19 Syllabus Information Grayson College continues to monitor the evolving COVID-19 situation and align our college planning with guidance from the local and state health officials. Our primary goal is to protect the health and safety of our students, faculty, staff, and the Grayson community, while delivering quality education. We will continue to communicate as more information becomes available.

Safety requirements for students, faculty, staff, and the general public will be posted and kept current, so please stay tuned to your Viking email and the COVID 19 page on the Grayson College website for additional information or other changes that may be announced.

Grayson College COVID-19 Safety Protocol The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. However, as a reminder, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) always recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Always wash hands with soap and water if your hands are visibly dirty. For information about handwashing, see CDC's Handwashing website.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.

Grayson College COVID-19 Instructional Guidelines

In accordance with the Texas Department of Health and Human Services, Grayson College will follow these guidelines:

Groups of 9 or less may be scheduled for small group labs, where hands-on skills are necessary to be practiced or demonstrated

Social distancing will be practiced to reduce the risk of transferring germs

Faculty and students will be screened prior to entering a lab or classroom, which will include:

- o Taking each person's temperature
- o Asking CDC-standard questions

All persons will wash hands with soap and water upon admittance

Students and faculty will participate in sanitation and cleaning of equipment and workspace at the conclusion of each session

Students are encouraged to:

- Log in to Canvas and communicate with your faculty as needed.
- Study and complete assignments in a timely manner
- Ask questions along the way