

Administrative Master Syllabus
Course Information

Course Title	Federal Government
Course Prefix, Num. and Title	GOVT 2305: Federal Government
Division	Social and Behavioral Sciences
Department	Government and Economics
Course Type	Academic WCJC Core Course
Course 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.
Pre-Requisites	TSI ELAR (Reading and Writing) requirements met
Co-Requisites	None

Semester Credit Hours

Total Semester Credit Hours (SCH): Lecture Hours: Lab/Other Hours	3:3:0
Equated Pay Hours	3
Lab/Other Hours Breakdown: Lab Hours	0
Lab/Other Hours Breakdown: Clinical Hours	0
Lab/Other Hours Breakdown: Practicum Hours	0
Other Hours Breakdown	0

Approval Signatures

Title	Signature	Date
Department Head:		
Division Chair:		
VPI:		

Additional Course Information

Topical Outline: Each offering of this course must include the following topics (be sure to include information regarding lab, practicum, and clinical or other non-lecture instruction).

Area One – Constitutional Foundations/Political Structure:

- Define the concept of democracy and apply it as a standard for evaluating American government and politics.
- Identify the key components of the U.S. Constitution and analyze its strengths and weaknesses.
- Define federalism and trace the evolution of federalism in the United States.
- Identify the strengths and weaknesses of federalism and examine the conflict over the meaning of federalism.
- Explain how federalism differs from other systems of government and how federalism supports/enhances democracy.
- Identify and explain the concepts of political ideology and political culture. Analyze the factors that impact ideology and culture.

Area Two – Political Linkages (Public Opinion, Media, Interest Groups, Party Voting and Elections):

- Define public opinion, identify the problems in measuring public opinion and assess the degree to which American policy makers are responsive to public opinion.
- Identify and analyze the role of the media in democracy, how “news” is gathered and disseminated, and how the media impacts public opinion and public policy.
- Identify and evaluate the limits of the media and the concept of media bias.
- Identify and evaluate the reasons for interest group proliferation and interest group bias.
- Identify the tactics employed by interest groups to influence the political process. Evaluate the success of each tactic.
- Explain the structure of American political parties. Describe the functions of a party within the political system including the role of third parties.
- Identify and explain the types of elections in the American political system. Analyze electoral participation.

Area Three – Three Branches of Government:

- Identify and evaluate how members of Congress represent their constituents.
- Identify and evaluate the functions of Congress.
- Describe and analyze the role of leaders, committees, political parties and interest groups within the legislative branch.
- Identify the basic structure/model of U.S. bureaucracy and identify the types of bureaucratic agencies.
- Identify and evaluate how the federal court system is organized and how it operates.
- Describe the operational procedures and behavioral characteristics of the U.S. Supreme Court.
- Define and analyze the concept of judicial review, judicial interpretation, and the role of the Supreme Court in a democratic society.
- Identify and evaluate the evolution of presidential powers. Analyze the relationship between the Executive and Congress. Assess the ability of either institution to set policy independently of the other.
- Distinguish between judicial activism and restraint. Discuss how they relate to the proper role of the court.

Area Four – Governmental Functions:

- Explain the difference between civil rights and liberties. Explain the concept of incorporation and how the Supreme Court’s interpretation of liberties has changed.
- Analyze the importance of civil rights in a democratic system, trace the expansion of civil rights protection and examine the present status of civil rights protections in today’s society.
- Identify and explain the role of government in the economy, evaluate the tools government uses to manage the economy.

- Describe how foreign and defense policies are made. Evaluate the importance of national security and identify new problems/issues for foreign and defense policy.
- Examine social welfare as a partisan issue. Differentiate between social insurance and public assistance programs.
- Discuss/explain how the rights of the accused have been protected through Supreme Court rulings.
- Discuss the significance of the establishment and free exercise clauses in relation to freedom of religion.
- Distinguish between procedural and substantive due process. Examine the federal judiciary's application of due process protections.

Course Learning Outcomes:

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.

Methods of Assessment:

1. Instructor generated tests on text chapters covering U.S. Constitution. Tests may include multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer or essay questions.
2. Instructor generated tests on text chapters covering federalism. Tests may include multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer or essay questions.
3. Instructor generated tests on text chapters covering U.S. Constitution., federalism and the three branches of government. Tests may include multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer or essay questions.
4. Instructor generated tests on text chapters covering the three branches of government. Tests may include multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer or essay questions.
5. Instructor generated tests on text chapters covering political participation (media, public opinion, interest groups and political parties). Tests may include multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer or essay questions.
6. Instructor generated tests on text chapters covering political participation, electoral systems and campaigns. Tests may include multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer or essay questions.
7. Instructor generated tests on text chapters covering political participation, campaigns and elections, and civil rights and liberties. Tests may include multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer or essay questions.
8. Instructor generated tests on text chapters covering domestic, economic and foreign/military policy in the U.S. Tests may include multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer or essay questions.

Additionally, all objectives are evaluated by instructor generated out of class writing assignments, and/or oral presentations. All outcomes are tested by comprehensive mandatory final exams.

Required text(s), optional text(s) and/or materials to be supplied by the student:

American Government 3e. <https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-3e/>.

Suggested Course Maximum:

35

List any specific or physical requirements beyond a typical classroom required to teach the course.

None.

Course Requirements/Grading System: Describe any course specific requirements such as research papers or reading assignments and the generalized grading format for the course.

Instructors may use the narrative/lecture method of instruction to impart course content. The narrative method is also useful for setting the stage for class discussions. Class discussion between students and instructors is encouraged for the purpose of developing in students the ability to speak before others about course content. Class discussions should arise from the readings that students complete and from points of interest and the interpretation of facts that emerge in class, especially those relevant to students.

Students will be required to complete written work or to prepare oral presentations to further elaborate or explain what has been presented and discussed by the instructor. These requirements are designed to challenge the student to analyze and critique the material presented. The written work may be in the form of essay test topics, book reviews, reports on articles in scholarly journals, or other written assignments as assigned by the instructor. Oral presentations may be designed as debates, informative overviews, or persuasive monologues. Minimum requirements include the following:

1. Attend class in accordance with college policy and as stipulated by the instructor.
2. Complete appropriate reading assignments made by the instructor
3. Complete appropriate writing assignments based on the readings, classroom presentations and discussion
4. Complete oral presentations (if assigned by instructor)
5. Complete appropriate tests (quizzes, major examinations, and a final examination)

Grades will be computed based on the following:

Tests/Exams-40-70 % of grade, Final exam to count at least 15%

Projects (written assignments or oral presentations) 30-60% Specific assignments weights specified in course syllabus.

The grading scale used for all tests, papers, and projects will be as follows:

90% to 100% = A 80% to 89% = B 70% to 79% =C 60%-69% =D Any score below a 60% is an F.

Curriculum Checklist:

☐ **Administrative General Education Course** (from ACGM, but not in WCJC Core) – No additional documents needed.

☒ **Administrative WCJC Core Course** – Attach the Core Curriculum Review Forms

☒ Critical Thinking

☒ Communication

☐ Empirical & Quantitative Skills

☐ Teamwork

☒ Social Responsibility

☒ Personal Responsibility

☐ **WECM Course** – If needed, revise the Program SCANS Matrix and Competencies Checklist

Core Curriculum Review Form

Foundational Component Area: Core 070: Government/Political Science

Course Prefix & Suffix: GOVT 2305

Core Objective:

Critical Thinking Skills (CT): to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.

Student Learning Outcome Supporting Core Objective:

For each core objective, there must be at least two different methods of assessment.

SLO Status	Student Learning Outcome (SLO)	Learning Activity	Assessment
State Mandated	Explain the origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States.	Students will complete at least one activity from the departmentally approved list. Activities include oral and written in and out of class assignments, multiple choice tests, article or movie critiques, and essay questions.	Exam, Essays, Tests, Oral presentations (debates, informative overviews, or persuasive monologues) graded by CT departmental rubric.
State Mandated	Demonstrate knowledge of the federal system.	Students will complete at least one activity from the departmentally approved list. Activities include oral and written in and out of class assignments, multiple choice tests, article or movie critiques, and essay questions.	Exam, Essays, Tests, Oral presentations (debates, informative overviews, or persuasive monologues) graded by CT departmental rubric.
State Mandated	Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice.	Students will complete at least one activity from the departmentally approved list. Activities include oral and written in and out of class assignments, multiple choice tests, article or movie critiques, and essay questions.	Exam, Essays, Tests, Oral presentations (debates, informative overviews, or persuasive monologues) graded by CT departmental rubric.
State Mandated	Analyze the election process.	Students will complete at least one activity from the departmentally approved list. Activities include oral and written in and out of class assignments, multiple choice tests, article or movie critiques, and essay questions.	Exam, Essays, Tests, Oral presentations (debates, informative overviews, or persuasive monologues) graded by CT departmental rubric.



SLO Status	Student Learning Outcome (SLO)	Learning Activity	Assessment
State Mandated	Analyze issues and policies in U.S. politics.	Students will complete at least one activity from the departmentally approved list. Activities include oral and written in and out-of-class assignments, multiple choice tests, article or movie critiques, and essay questions.	Exam, Essays, Tests, Oral presentations (debates, informative overviews, or persuasive monologues) graded by CT departmental rubric.

Core Curriculum Review Form

Foundational Component Area: Core 070: Government/Political Science

Course Prefix & Suffix: GOVT 2305

Core Objective:

Communication Skills (Comm): to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.

Student Learning Outcome Supporting Core Objective:

For each core objective, there must be at least two different methods of assessment.

SLO Status	Student Learning Outcome (SLO)	Learning Activity	Assessment
State Mandated	Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice.	Students will complete at least one activity from the departmentally approved list. Activities include oral and written in and out of class assignments, multiple choice tests, article or movie critiques, and essay questions.	Exam, Essays, Tests, Oral presentations (debates, informative overviews, or persuasive monologues) graded by Comm. departmental rubric.
State Mandated	Analyze issues and policies in U.S. politics.	Students will complete at least one activity from the departmentally approved list. Activities include oral and written in and out of class assignments, multiple choice tests, article or movie critiques, and essay questions.	Exam, Essays, Tests, Oral presentations (debates, informative overviews, or persuasive monologues) graded by Comm. departmental rubric.

Core Curriculum Review Form

Foundational Component Area: Core 070: Government/Political Science

Course Prefix & Suffix: GOVT 2305

Core Objective:

Personal Responsibility (PR): to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

Student Learning Outcome Supporting Core Objective:

For each core objective, there must be at least two different methods of assessment.

SLO Status	Student Learning Outcome (SLO)	Learning Activity	Assessment
State Mandated	Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government.	Students will complete at least one activity from the departmentally approved list. Activities include oral and written in and out of class assignments, multiple choice tests, article or movie critiques, and essay questions.	Exam, Essays, Tests, Oral presentations (debates, informative overviews, or persuasive monologues) graded by PR departmental rubric.
State Mandated	Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups and political parties.	Students will complete at least one activity from the departmentally approved list. Activities include oral and written in and out of class assignments, multiple choice tests, article or movie critiques, and essay questions.	Exam, Essays, Tests, Oral presentations (debates, informative overviews, or persuasive monologues) graded by PR departmental rubric.

Core Curriculum Review Form

Foundational Component Area: Core 070: Government/Political Science

Course Prefix & Suffix: GOVT 2305

Core Objective:

Social Responsibility (SR): to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

Student Learning Outcome Supporting Core Objective:

For each core objective, there must be at least two different methods of assessment.

SLO Status	Student Learning Outcome (SLO)	Learning Activity	Assessment
State Mandated	Demonstrate knowledge of the federal system.	Students will complete at least one activity from the departmentally approved list. Activities include oral and written in and out of class assignments, multiple choice tests, article or movie critiques, and essay questions.	Exam, Essays, Tests, Oral presentations (debates, informative overviews, or persuasive monologues) graded by SR departmental rubric.
State Mandated	Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government.	Students will complete at least one activity from the departmentally approved list. Activities include oral and written in and out of class assignments, multiple choice tests, article or movie critiques, and essay questions.	Exam, Essays, Tests, Oral presentations (debates, informative overviews, or persuasive monologues) graded by SR departmental rubric.
State Mandated	Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups and political parties.	Students will complete at least one activity from the departmentally approved list. Activities include oral and written in and out of class assignments, multiple choice tests, article or movie critiques, and essay questions.	Exam, Essays, Tests, Oral presentations (debates, informative overviews, or persuasive monologues) graded by SR departmental rubric.
State Mandated	Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens.	Students will complete at least one activity from the departmentally approved list. Activities include oral and written in and out of class assignments, multiple choice tests, article or movie critiques, and essay questions.	Exam, Essays, Tests, Oral presentations (debates, informative overviews, or persuasive monologues) graded by SR departmental rubric.