

Remote / Online Course Syllabus

Course Information

Course Number/Section GOVT 2305.002
Course Title **American National Government**
Term Spring 2021
Class meetings Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 11-11:50 am

Professor's Contact Information

Professor Robert Lowry
Office Phone 972-883-6720
Email Address Robert.lowry@utdallas.edu
Office Location GR 3.533
Online Office Hours By appointment using MS Teams or phone. In general, mornings are not good but afternoons are open.

Course Modality and Expectations

Instructional Mode	This course will be taught using the remote instructional mode. For a description, see here: https://covid.utdallas.edu/students-families-info/spring-2021-registration/
Course Platform	Lectures will be delivered using MS Teams. We will also be using eLearning for distribution of course materials and class assignments.
Expectations	Students are expected to view the course lectures either in real time or asynchronously, and to complete all assignments on time.
Asynchronous Learning Guidelines	Please see the instructions at https://covid.utdallas.edu/response/faq/#asynchronous

COVID-19 Guidelines and Resources

The information contained in the following link lists the University's COVID-19 resources for students and instructors of record.

Please see <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>.

Class Participation

Regular class participation is expected regardless of course modality. Students who fail to participate in class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. A portion of the grade for this course is directly tied to your participation in this class. It also includes engaging in group or other activities during class that solicit your feedback on homework assignments, readings, or materials covered in the lectures (and/or labs). Class participation is documented by faculty. Successful participation is defined as consistently adhering to University requirements, as presented in this syllabus. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Class Recordings

Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Unless the Office of Student AccessAbility has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Note: if the instructor records any part of the course, then the instructor will need to use the following syllabus statement:

The instructor may record meetings of this course. Any recordings will be available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Unless the Office of Student AccessAbility has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. If the instructor or a UTD school/department/office plans any other uses for the recordings, consent of the students identifiable in the recordings is required prior to such use unless an exception is allowed by law. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Class Materials

The Instructor may provide class materials that will be made available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. These materials may be downloaded during the course, however, these materials are for registered students' use only. Classroom materials may not be reproduced or shared with those not in class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

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

None

Course Description

Survey of American national government, politics, and constitutional development.

Student Learning Objectives

- Think critically about issues related to government and politics—analyze and appreciate historical trends in the development of government institutions (constitutions, branches of government, political parties, elections, etc.), and apply knowledge of government institutions and theoretical and scholarly approaches to understand government behavior and current events.
- Effectively communicate issues of societal and personal import with others—meaningfully and respectfully express your positions and ideas on political and social issues to fellow students, community members, public officials, and representatives.
- Engage academically and professionally with a sense of social responsibility—recognize that individual actions can have consequences for society just as government actions can have consequences for individuals and engage with the world around you with awareness and empathy.
- Exercise personal responsibility in how government functions—understand how to effectively interact with government to achieve desired outcomes and begin a lifetime of active engagement with your state and local governments.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the influence founding principles have on today’s political structure, including current political and policy debates.
- Describe the ever-changing relationship between the federal government and state and local governments.
- Understand the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government in the U.S.
- Analyze issues, public policies, and political culture in the U.S. from an empirical (e.g., evidence-based) rather than opinionated frame.
- Identify, describe, and analyze various mechanisms of citizen political involvement including public opinion, political parties, interest groups, and electoral processes.
- Apply important theoretical and scholarly approaches to understanding American institutions’ behavior, citizen involvement, and interactions between citizens and institutions of government.

Required Textbooks and Materials

There are two requirements for this course: a textbook and a subscription to a digital learning platform called Top Hat. The textbook is fully integrated into Top Hat, which means that you cannot access the textbook without purchasing the Top Hat subscription. Both can be ordered via this link (be sure to use the ISBNs when ordering): <https://app.tophat.com/e/564786>

Required Texts

Introduction to American National Government: 978-1-77412-758-2 (ISBN)

Required Materials

Top Hat Classroom Subscription: 978-0-9866151-0-8 (ISBN)

Accessing the Textbook and Required Materials

The course join code is: 564786. Upon purchasing your subscription to Top Hat and the textbook, you will have full access to the necessary course materials

Textbooks and some other bookstore materials can be ordered online or purchased at the [UT Dallas Bookstore](#).

Technical Requirements

In addition to a confident level of computer and Internet literacy, certain minimum technical requirements must be met to enable a successful learning experience. Please review the important technical requirements on the [Getting Started with eLearning](#) webpage.

Course Access and Navigation

This course can be accessed using your UT Dallas NetID account on the [eLearning](#) website.

Please see the course access and navigation section of the [Getting Started with eLearning](#) webpage for more information.

To become familiar with the eLearning tool, please see the [Student eLearning Tutorials](#) webpage.

UT Dallas provides eLearning technical support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The [eLearning Support Center](#) includes a toll-free telephone number for immediate assistance (1-866-588-3192), email request service, and an online chat service.

Communication

This course utilizes online tools for interaction and communication. Some external communication tools such as regular email and a web conferencing tool may also be used during the semester. For more details, please visit the [Student eLearning Tutorials](#) webpage for video demonstrations on eLearning tools.

Student emails and discussion board messages will be answered within 3 working days under normal circumstances.

Distance Learning Student Resources

Online students have access to resources including the McDermott Library, Academic Advising, The Office of Student AccessAbility, and many others. Please see the [eLearning Current Students](#) webpage for more information.

Server Unavailability or Other Technical Difficulties

The University is committed to providing a reliable learning management system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and also contact the online [eLearning Help Desk](#). The instructor and the eLearning Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

Academic Calendar

WEEK/ DATES	TOPIC/LECTURE	READING	ASSESSMENT / ACTIVITY	DUE DATE
1 1/20- 1/22	Introduction	Module 1		
2 1/25-1/29	Introduction The Constitution	Module 1 Module 2	Homework #1	Mon. 1/27
3 2/1-2/5	The Constitution Federalism	Module 2 Module 3	Homework #2	Mon. 2/3
4 2/8-2/12	Federalism Congress	Module 3 Module 4	Homework #3	Mon. 2/10
5 2/15-2/19	Congress The Presidency	Module 4 Module 5	Homework #4 Exam 1, modules 1-4	Mon. 2/15 Wednesday Feb. 17**
6 2/22-2/26	The Presidency Federal Courts	Module 5 Module 6	Homework #5	Wed. 2/24
7 3/1-3/5	Federal Courts Civil Rights	Module 6 Module 7	Homework #6 Homework #7	Mon. 3/1 Fri. 3/5
8 3/8-3/12	Civil Liberties	Module 8	Homework #8 Exam 2, modules 5-8	Wed. 3/10 Friday March 12**
9 3/15-3/19	SPRING BREAK			
10 3/22-3/26	Elections	Module 11	Homework #11	Fri., 3/26
11 3/29-4/2	Political Parties	Module 9	Homework #9	Fri. 4/2
12 4/5-4/9	Organized Interests	Module 10	Homework #10	Fri. 4/9
13 4/12-4/16	Media	Module 12	Homework #12 Exam 3, modules 9-12	Wed., 4/14 Friday April 16**
14 4/19-4/23	The Policy Process	Module 13	Homework #13	Fri., 4/23
15 4/26-4/30	American Health Policy	Module 14	Homework #14	Fri., 4/30

WEEK/ DATES	TOPIC/LECTURE	READING	ASSESSMENT / ACTIVITY	DUE DATE
16 5/3-5/7	Foreign Policy	Module 15	Homework #15 Exam 4, modules 13-15	Wed., 5/5 Friday May 7**

Homework assignments are due at midnight on the date shown.

** Exams will be available beginning at 11:00 am on the dates shown. You will have a 24-hour window to start each exam. The exam will automatically close 50 minutes after you begin.

Grading Policy

Grades will be based on four exams and 15 homework assignments, using the following weights:

Exam 1 (Feb. 17)	17.5 %
Exam 2 (March 12)	22.5
Exam 3 (April 14)	22.5
Exam 4 (May 5)	17.5
Homework	20

Homework is integrated into your textbook, accessible via Top Hat. By completing the questions embedded in the assigned reading (e.g., in each textbook chapter), you have completed the homework. All homework grades will be averaged together to produce your total homework grade for the class.

The scale for semester letter grades will be no stricter than the traditional 90-80-70-60 scale, with plusses and minuses.

Course Policies

Exam Format and Make-up exams

All exams will be open book, open note. You will have a 24-hour window to start the exam. If you are not able to take the exam within that 24-hour period for a reason beyond your control, contact me as soon as possible to schedule an alternative time.

Extra Credit

There is no extra credit

Late Work

If you do not start an exam within the 24-hour window and do not have an acceptable excuse I can give you an extension, but you will be penalized 20 % for each day you are late, including weekends.

Late homework will not be accepted.

Special Assignments

There are no special assignments

Class Participation

Class participation or attendance is not counted as part of the grade. Nonetheless, you are responsible for everything said in class. My slogan is “attendance doesn’t count, but it matters.”

Classroom Citizenship

There are no live class meetings, so I'm not sure what to post here. In general, please be generous with your classmates and the instructor, as this is a very difficult time for all of us. Also, note that any comments you make with the mic open while class is being recorded will appear in the written transcript.

Comet Creed

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”

Academic Support Resources

The information contained in the following link lists the University's academic support resources for all students.

Please go to [Academic Support Resources](#) webpage for these policies.

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to [UT Dallas Syllabus Policies](#) webpage for these policies.

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.