

**Government 2305
Federal Government**

**Western Texas College
Department of Social Sciences**

- I. **Basic Course Information**
 - A. 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.
 - B. Prerequisites - Student should have a proficiency in reading and writing.
- II. **Student Learning Outcomes.** Upon successful completion of this course, students will:
 - A. Explain the origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States.
 - B. Demonstrate knowledge of the federal system.
 - C. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice.
 - D. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government.
 - E. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in the political system.
 - F. Analyze the election process.
 - G. Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens
 - H. Analyze issues and policies in U.S. politics.
- III. **Major Course Requirements**
 - A. **Exams:** There will be **three to four** major exams spaced throughout the semester. Exam questions may include any combination of the following: True/false, multiple choice, fill in the blanks, short answer, and essay.
 - B. **Writing Assignments:** There will be **multiple** writing assignments spaced throughout the semester.
 - C. **Collaborative Exercises:** There will be **multiple** collaborative exercises spaced throughout the semester. Each of these assignments will require you to work with your peers analyzing documents, articles, and other information relating to the study of government.
- IV. **Information on Books and Other Course Materials**
 - A. Holder, F. (2020) A Trek through American and Texas Government. First Edition. San Diego: Cognella Academic Publishing. ISBN-13: 978-1-5165-3897-3
- V. **Other Policies** Please refer to the [WTC Course Catalog](#) for the following:
 - A. Campus Calendar
 - B. Final Exam schedule
 - C. How to drop a class
 - D. Withdrawal information
 - E. Student Conduct/Academic Integrity

F. Students with disabilities
 VI. **Course Organization & Tentative Schedule***

Week	Topics	Reading Assignments
WEEK 1	Course Introduction	
WEEK 2	Introduction to Government & Democracy	Holder, Chapter 1
WEEK 3	The Constitution	Holder, Chapter 5
WEEK 4	Federalism	Holder, Chapter 6
WEEK 6	Political Culture	Holder, Chapter 3
WEEK 7	Political Parties & Interest Groups	Holder, Chapters 11 & 12
WEEK 8	Campaigns and Elections	Holder, Chapter 9
WEEK 9	Public Opinion & the Mass Media	Holder, Chapter 4
WEEK 10	Civil Liberties & Civil Rights	Holder, Chapter 27
WEEK 11	Legislative Functions	Holder, Chapter 23
WEEK 12	Executive Functions	Holder, Chapter 24
WEEK 13	Judicial Functions	Holder, Chapter 20
WEEK 14-15	Public Policy	Holder, Chapters 25, 26 & 28
WEEK 16	Final Exam	

*The above schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change.

Last Modified: May 12 May 12, 2020