



**GOVT-2305-131/301CL  
Federal Government**

**Fall 2021 Tue-Thursday LRC BLD #8 Room 258**

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**Phone:** 409-933-8212 ( Leave a message with Kerry and ask for Mr. Perry to Call you) **Office**

**Hours:** By email

**Communicating with your instructor:** ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means.

**Required Textbook:** Glen Lutz et al. *American Government* (2nd edition) (It is free. You can download from <https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-2e>)

**Textbook Purchasing Statement:** A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

**Course Description:** This course is intended to provide students with a fundamental understanding of government and politics in the United States. Ultimately, my goal for you in this class is to become an informed and critical thinker as well as a participant in American politics. You will also learn about current political debates as well as the 2020 elections in order to understand the impact of U.S. politics on your life.

**Course Assignment: All assignments will be submitted via Blackboard (Bb)**

**1) Attendance and Participation (10%)**

- Attendance and participation will be measured based on the following criteria:  
Attending class

**2) Homework (30%):**

- Homework includes quizzes on blackboard

### 3) Papers (50%) –(Thursday)

#### Paper Assignment Guidelines

- Format: [Chicago Manual Style \(CMS\) - Author-Date \(AD\)](#) or APA
- Times New Roman
- 12 point
- Double-spaced
- 1-inch margins
- Microsoft WORD file format (.doc or .docx)
- Minimum requirement: 3 pages (you must write more than 3 pages)
- Include a title page and a [reference page](#)
- When you cite, use a direct or indirect quote, but you can only use ONE direct quote per paper.
- Insert [citations](#)
- Do not use subtitles
- You can use the following sources as citations:
  - Academic journal articles
  - Newspaper articles
  - Data and articles from government websites or research institutes such as Pew Research Center
- You CANNOT use the following sources as citations:
  - Wikipedia
  - Procon.org
  - Any other blogs, non-academic websites
  - Editorial page in newspaper
- You CANNOT use or cite papers you wrote before.

#### • Paper Grading Rubric

Criteria	0%	50%	100%	Points
Formatting	Wholly fails to respond to assignment (i.e., no title page, no reference page, font size, margin size).	Responds reasonably well to assignment.	Responds fully and appropriately to the assignment.	20
Volume	Includes less than 2 pages.	Includes at least 2 but less than 3 pages.	Includes more than 3 pages.	20
Argument	Wholly fails to relate evidence to thesis statement.	Thesis is generally supported by logically competing assertions and appropriate connections.	Thesis is clear and logical.	30

Use of Evidence	Wholly failures to use sources appropriately.	Sometimes weak use of source information, inadequately supports thesis.	Appropriate source information used to support thesis.	30
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**Final exam assignment is 10% of the grade**

**Grading Scale**

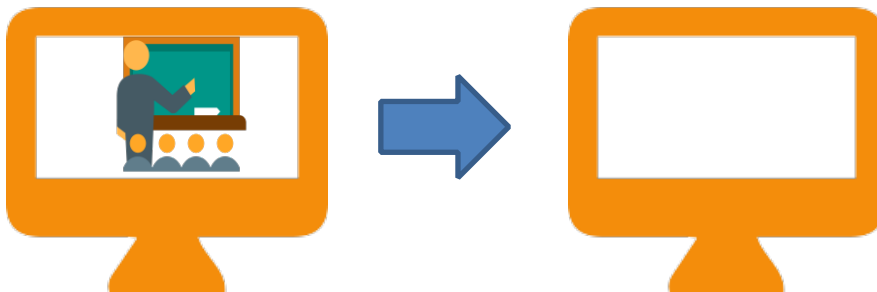
- A: 100 – 90% average
- B: 89.99 – 80% average
- C: 79.99 – 70% average
- D: 69.99 – 60% average
- F: Below 60% average

**Success Tips for Students**

- Submit ALL online assignments on time • Follow current politics. Listen [NPR \(88.7FM\)](#)
- Use useful websites such as:
  - [National Constitution Center](#)
  - [Real Clear Politics](#) ○ [OpenSecrets.org](#)
- Listen useful podcasts such as:
  - [CIVICS 101](#) ○ [NPR Politics Podcast](#)
  - [We the People \(the National Constitution Center\)](#) ○ [Talking Politics at com.mywconline.com](#).

**Make-Up Policy:**

Make-up exams will only be allowed at the discretion of the instructor. It is student’s responsibility to request permission from the instructor to take an early or make-up exam.



- Lecture V
- Reading Assignm

- Discussions
- Journal
- HW

By 11:59pm the Following Day

**Attendance Policy:**

Students have to login Blackboard every day (M-F). Students who have not been login Blackboard for four days may be dropped from the course by the instructor.

**Tardiness Policy:**

Late login will not be counted as an attendance. Read Attendance Policy above.

**Withdrawal Policy:** Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a “W” grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are only permitted to withdraw six times during their college career by State law. The last day to withdraw is June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Early Alert Program:** The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention is very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

**Technology Outage Policy:**

This class includes a distance-education class using Blackboard for notes, lectures and assessments. Each student must maintain Internet access throughout this course. Additionally, students are expected to maintain a state of technical compliance, including (but not limited to): up-to-date software as required by the instructor; a stable Internet connection, etc. The instructor is not required to give consideration for lost/missing/unacceptable work stemming from technical noncompliance and/or end-user technical issues. Failure to maintain Internet access shall not constitute a valid excuse for missed work. Any student who cannot keep up with the coursework owing to a lack of computer or Internet must drop the course. In short, if you fail to complete an assignment because your computer crashes or loses internet access, you forget to attach a file or click submit on an assignment, or you did not use the appropriate browser or operating system you are not entitled to make up an assignment. If the assignment was not completed due to your error it cannot be made up. If you find yourself encountering an error when submitting a written assignment via Blackboard your best bet would be to send that assignment to me via an email attachment and explain the situation.

Note: If you cannot open PDF files on Blackboard, you have to install Adobe Acrobat Reader and/or Plug-in on your computer. Please visit Adobe’s websites below to install and/or solve problems:

- [Adobe Acrobat Reader DC](#)
- [Solutions to common issues viewing PDFs from a website](#)
- [Solve PDF issues by reconfiguring your browser to work with Acrobat or Reader plug-in](#)

**Classroom Conduct Policy:** College of the Mainland requires that students enrolled at COM be familiar with the Standards of Student Conduct, which can be found in the online Student Handbook. <http://www.com.edu/student-services/student-handbook.php> . Students are expected to be familiar with and abide by the Student Code of Conduct. Any violations of the Code of Conduct will result in a referral to the Dean of Students and may result in dismissal from this class.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Any incident of academic policy will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty – such as cheating on exams is an extremely serious offense and will result in a **grade of zero** on that exam and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline action.

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is using someone else’s words or ideas and claiming them as your own. Plagiarism is a very serious offense. Plagiarism includes paraphrasing someone else’s words without giving proper citation, copying directly from a website and pasting it into your paper, using someone else’s words without quotation marks. Any assignment containing any plagiarized material will receive a **grade of zero** and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline action. Please read *Paper Assignment Guidelines*.

**Link(s) to resource(s) about ways to avoid plagiarism:**

- <http://en.writecheck.com/ways-to-avoid-plagiarism/>
- <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/02>

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
1. Explain the origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States.	None	paper
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the federal system.	None	paper
3. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice.	None	paper
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government.	None	paper
5. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in the political system.	Social Responsibility	paper

6. Analyze election process.	None	Exam
7. Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens.	None	paper
8. Analyze issues and policies in U.S. Politics.	Critical Thinking	Paper
9. Develop, interpret, and express ideas through written communication.	Communication Skills	Paper
10. Evaluate choices and actions of others or one's own, and relate consequences to decisionmaking.	Personal Responsibility	Paper

**Grade Appeal Process:** Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook. <[https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student\\_Handbook\\_2019-2020v5.pdf](https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student_Handbook_2019-2020v5.pdf). *An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.* [https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student\\_Handbook\\_2019-2020v5.pdf](https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student_Handbook_2019-2020v5.pdf)

**Counseling Statement:** Any student that is needing counseling services is requested to please contact Holly Bankston in the student success center at 409-933-8520 or [hbankston@com.edu](mailto:hbankston@com.edu). Counseling services are available on campus in the student center for free and students can also email [counseling@com.edu](mailto:counseling@com.edu) to setup their appointment. Appointments are strongly encouraged; however, some concerns may be addressed on a walk-in basis.

**FN Grading:** The FN grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The FN grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the FN grade is at the discretion of the instructor.

**Student Concerns:** If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact me at [jperry6@com.edu](mailto:jperry6@com.edu)

**Academic Success & Support Services:** College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college career. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

**ADA Statement:** Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact Holly Bankston at 409-933-8520 or [hbankston@com.edu](mailto:hbankston@com.edu). The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Student Success Center.

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**COVID-19 Statement:** All students, faculty and staff are expected to familiarize themselves with materials and information contained on the College of the Mainland's Coronavirus Information site at [www.com.edu/coronavirus](http://www.com.edu/coronavirus).. Students are required to watch a training [video](#), complete the [self-screening](#), and acknowledge the safety guidance at: [www.com.edu/selfscreen](http://www.com.edu/selfscreen). In addition, students, faculty, and staff must perform a [self-screening](#) prior to each campus visit. Finally, students, faculty, or staff which have had symptoms of COVID-19, received a positive test for COVID-19, or have had close contact with an individual infected with COVID-19 must complete the [self-report tool](#).