



**GOVT 2305.326HY  
Federal Government  
FALL 2022 (16 Week)**

**7:10am-8:30am League City Campus**

**\*This course meets on-campus Wednesday of each week\***

**Instructor Information:**

**Name:** Professor Montemayor

**Email:** [cmontemayor1@com.edu](mailto:cmontemayor1@com.edu)

**Phone:** 409-933-8212. Please leave a message

**Office hours and location:**

On campus: LC location - 6:40am-7:10am Wednesdays

Online: Let’s talk on M-Th after 3:30pm

**Required Textbook:** Glen Lutz et al. *American Government* (3rd edition) (You can download from <https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-3e>)

**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 2022 elections to gain an understanding of the impact of U.S. politics on your life.

**Course Assignment:** All assignments will be submitted via D2L

**Course requirements:** See **Grade Assessment Explanation on page 2, page 3, and page 4**

**Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:**

Assessment Name	Possible Points	Points Earned
(1) Orientation Module	100	
(2) Assignments: Discussion Forums, Video/Article Quizzes, Other assessments as offered	650	
(3) Exams	800	
(4) Weekly Attendance Discussion Forums	160	
(5) Position Paper and in-class presentation	250	
(6) Current Events presentation posts (online only)	200	
<b>TOTAL Points Offered</b>	<b>2160</b>	

<b>Course Grading Scale</b>	
<b>Final Letter Grade</b>	<b>Points earned AND FWA requirements</b>
<b>A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student earns minimum 1300 points and higher <b>AND</b></li> <li>• Student submits/earns credit for the Position Paper*</li> </ul> All the above criteria must be met to earn an A
<b>B</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student earns minimum 1000 points and higher <b>AND</b></li> <li>• Student submits/earns credit for the Position Paper* -</li> </ul> All the above criteria must be met to earn a B
<b>C</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student earns minimum 700 points and higher <b>BUT</b></li> <li>• Student does not submit/earn credit for the Presentation Paper*</li> </ul> The student will earn a C even if the student earns 1000 points and more, but the student does not submit/earn credit for the Presentation Paper
<b>D</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student earns 500-699 points</li> </ul>
<b>F</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student earns 499 points and lower</li> </ul>
<b>FX</b>	Repeatedly fails to attend class/submit required coursework No activity (defined as completion of module assessments) in course for 2 consecutive weeks

\* The Presentation Paper is a Departmental requirement

**A student's Final Letter Grade is determined by the total number of points earned AND Position Paper submission! Each criterion must be met! Review the above table carefully!**

**Grade Assessments Explanation – Select the My Points (Grades) link for points earned on each assessment**

**(1) Orientation Unit**

- 3 required assessments: Introduction Discussion Forum; Syllabus/Contract Quiz; email communication
- Optional/extra credit assignments: What Do You Know; Start the Conversation Discussion Forum; Student Survey, other assessments

**(2) Assignment Assignments (Different types offered)**

**\*Topic Discussions**

**In-Class Discussions** – take place in class. Students will have the opportunity to be a part of the discussion of each topic. This is a reflective time that will occur at the individual and group level (students should distance in accordance with College policy). Directions and instructions will be offered in class, reminders may be sent via email/online. The Course Calendar offers a general guide

### Online Discussion via Discussion Forums

- Online Discussions offer the student the opportunity to make connections from the course material to their experiences/events occurring in the world around them.
- **Two posts** are required to earn points. Be genuine, be polite, be sincere, and engage
  - **Post 1:** Reply to the question/statement made by the course professor. Use the required term(s) in your post. Write in complete sentences using correct grammar and spelling. End your post with a question that relates to the topic/or your post. Follow the word/sentence requirement. Use the assigned textbook, do not use any other source
  - **Post 2:** Reply to a post made by a classmate. Begin your response with the classmate's name. Write in complete sentences using correct grammar and spelling. Adhere to the word/sentence requirement. Do not write the words "good job or similar language." The goal is to simulate conversation that would take place in the classroom. You are writing what you would say if we were in class (on-campus) discussing the topic with your classmate. Follow the word/sentence requirement listed.

### \*Video/Article Quizzes

- Assesses the student's understanding of an event. Short quiz over a video or article. Students have two attempts! If a student attempts a quiz a second time, the student's final score will be the points earned on the second attempt. Do not attempt a quiz a second time if one is satisfied with one's initial score. Do not click on the quiz a second time if one is attempting to see points earned or questions missed. The student can see the points earned by selecting the My POINTS (grades) link

### (3) Exams – What did you learn?

- When a student completes the assigned reading and completes the offered assignments, the student will assess their knowledge of the material by taking an exam. The student can see the points earned by selecting the My POINTS (grades) link. These are the only exams offered. There is no course "final exam." In this modern day with many technological resources, one may experience a technological glitch or problem. **The student will receive ONE (1) reset – if needed – for the course – no exceptions.** Plan ahead! Locate location that is quiet, free of interruptions and has a secure Internet connection. Do NOT attempt to take the exam on one's phone.

### (4) Position Paper. This assessment offers the student the opportunity to engage in discussion regarding a social issue that is also a political issue. The assignment:

Write a Position Paper on a current public policy controversy in the United States (e.g., Should Private Businesses Have the Right to Deny Service Based on Their Religious Beliefs and Practices? Should Marijuana Be Legalized? etc.). The student must take a position (yes or no) on a current public policy controversy. Conduct research on the topic, citing at least three sources from credible and reliable publications, web sites, journals, books, etc. Formulate an argument based on evidence in defense of this position and respond to the objections to this position.

Explain how this position impacts the issues of personal responsibility and social responsibility. Not only will students submit a written paper on social/political issue, the student will give a 5-8 presentation.

Prior to submission, the student must do the following (be sure to plan ahead):

- (1) Make a reservation at the Tutoring Center: <https://www.com.edu/tutoring/index.html>
- (2) Attend a session (f2f, online, or e-tutoring)
- (3) Revise your paper after the session
- (4) Submit a report (email from the Tutoring Center)

### **Paper Assignment Guidelines**

- Format: Chicago Manual Style (CMS) - Author-Date.
- Times New Roman
  - 12 point
  - Double-spaced
  - 1-inch margins
  - NO footnotes
  - Microsoft WORD file format (.doc or .docx)
- 1000 words (without a title or reference page)
- 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.
- If the student does not the minimum requirements, the student will receive a .05 as a grade and be offered the opportunity to rewrite and resubmit. Each student has one opportunity for a “rewrite” and must be submitted by the “redo due date”

Grading Rubric follows on the next page (and will be online)

### 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 250 words	Includes about 500 words	Includes about 1000 words	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

**(5) Current Events posts – more information will be shared regarding this optional/extra credit opportunity via online links**

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	Exam
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the federal system.	None	Exam
3. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice.	None	Exam
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government.	None	Exam
5. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in the political system.	Communication Skills	Paper
6. Analyze election process.	None	Exam
7. Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens.	None	Exam
8. Analyze issues and policies in U.S. Politics.	Communication Skills	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 decision-making.	Communication Skills	Paper

**Attendance Policy:**

Students have to login to the course at least once a week. Assignment submission will be counted as attendance.

**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.

**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 Rocky Barney [rbarney@com.edu](mailto:rbarney@com.edu).

**Technology Outage Policy:**

This class includes a distance-education class using an online learning management system 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 online 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 online, 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 on-line 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*.

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### Institutional Policies and Guidelines

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**Academic Success & Support Services:** College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. 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 Michelle Brezina at 409-933-8124 or [mvaldes1@com.edu](mailto:mvaldes1@com.edu). The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Student Success Center.

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**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 permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 1<sup>st</sup> 8-week session is October 5. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 18. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week session is December 1.

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**Early Alert Program:** The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are 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.

**Resources to Help with Stress:**

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**Course Calendar/Outline**

<b>MODULE 1</b>				
<b><u>WEEK</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>DISCUSSION TOPIC</u></b>	<b><u>TASK/ASSESSMENT</u></b>	<b><u>STUDENT LEARNER OUTCOMES</u></b>
Week 1	8/22/2022-8/28/2022	Introduction/Overview Orientation Module due	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend on-campus class session</li> <li>Overview of course</li> <li>Orientation assessments – read the course calendar link for details/due dates</li> </ul>	
Week 2	8/29/2022-9/4/2022	American Government and Civic Engagement (Ch 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend on-campus class session</li> <li>Chapter 1 discussion and assessments – read the course calendar link for details/due dates</li> </ul>	
Week 3	9/5/2022-9/11/2022	U.S. Constitution (Ch 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend on-campus class session</li> <li>Chapter 2 discussion and assessments – read the course calendar link for details/due dates</li> </ul>	• 1, 2
Week 4	9/12/2022-9/18/2022	Federalism (Ch 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend on-campus class session</li> <li>Chapter 3 discussion and assessments – read the course calendar link for details/due dates</li> </ul>	• 1, 2
Week 5	9/19/2022-9/25/2022	Public Opinion (Ch 10)  All Module 1 assessments due by end of week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend on-campus class session</li> <li>Chapter 10 discussion and assessments – read the course calendar link for details/due dates</li> <li>All Module 1 assessments due by end of week. This includes Module 1 exam</li> </ul>	• 5



<b>MODULE 2</b>				
<b><u>WEEK</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>DISCUSSION TOPIC</u></b>	<b><u>TASK/ASSESSMENT</u></b>	<b><u>STUDENT LEARNER OUTCOMES</u></b>
Week 6	9/26/2022-10/2/2022	Interest Groups (Ch 11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend on-campus class session</li> <li>Chapter 11 discussion and assessments – read the course calendar link for details/due dates</li> </ul>	• 5
Week 7	10/3/2022-10/9/2022	Political Parties (Ch 13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend on-campus class session</li> <li>Chapter 13 discussion and assessments – read the course calendar link for details/due dates</li> </ul>	• 5
Week 8	10/10/2022-10/16/2022	Media (Ch 12)  All Module 2 assessments due by end of week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend on-campus class session</li> <li>Chapter 12 discussion and assessments - read the course calendar link for details/due dates</li> <li>All Module 2 assessments due by end of week. This includes Module 2 exam</li> </ul>	• 6
<b>MODULE 3</b>				
<b><u>WEEK</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>DISCUSSION TOPIC</u></b>	<b><u>TASK/ASSESSMENT</u></b>	<b><u>STUDENT LEARNER OUTCOMES</u></b>
Week 9	10/17/2022-10/23/2022	Presidential Elections (Chs 13, 14)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend on-campus class session</li> <li>Chapter 13, 14 discussion and assessments - read the course calendar link for details/due dates</li> </ul>	• 6
Week 10	10/24/2022-10/30/2022	Congressional Elections (Ch 13, 14)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend on-campus class session</li> <li>Chapter 13, 14 discussion and assessments – read the course calendar link for details/due dates</li> </ul>	• 6
Week 11	10/31/2022-11/6/2022	Congress (Ch 6)  All Module 3 assessments due by end of week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend on-campus class session</li> <li>Chapter 6 discussion and assessments – read the course calendar link for details/due dates</li> <li>All Module 3 assessments due by end of week. This includes Module 3 exam</li> </ul>	• 3, 4

<b>MODULE 4</b>				
<b><u>WEEK</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>DISCUSSION TOPIC</u></b>	<b><u>TASK/ASSESSMENT</u></b>	<b><u>STUDENT LEARNER OUTCOMES</u></b>
Week 12	11/7/2022-11/13/2022	Presidency (Ch 7) Required: paper review/assistance with COM Tutoring Center. Encourage students to do this by the end of this week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend on-campus class session</li> <li>Chapter 7 discussion and assessments – read the course calendar link for details/due dates</li> <li>Be sure to meet with the COM Tutoring Center. This is a department requirement. Review syllabus for link</li> </ul>	• 3, 4
Week 13	11/14/2022-11/20/2022	Judiciary (Ch 9)  Presentation Paper due by end of week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend on-campus class session</li> <li>Chapter 9 discussion and assessments – read the course calendar link for details/due dates</li> <li>Submit Presentation Paper to link in D2L</li> </ul>	• 3, 4
Week 14	11/21/2022-11/27/2022	Civil Liberties (Ch 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend on-campus class session</li> <li>Chapter 4 discussion and assessments – read the course calendar link for details/due dates</li> </ul>	• 7
Week 15	11/28/2022-12/4/2022	Civil Rights (Ch 5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend on-campus class session</li> <li>Chapter 5 discussion and assessments – read the course calendar link for details/due dates</li> </ul>	• 7
Week 16	12/5/2022-12/7/2022	Wrap Up Presentation of Position Papers (Synopsis in 5-7 min) Rewrite due, if needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend on-campus class session</li> <li>Read course syllabus regarding Position Paper redo</li> </ul>	

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**Major due dates/deadlines:**

- August 28, 2022 at 11:59PM CST: Orientation Assignments due
  - September 25, 2022 at 11:59PM CST: Module 1 due
  - October 16, 2022 at 11:59PM CST: Module 2 due
  - November 6, 2022 11:59PM CST: Module 3 due
  - November 20, 2022 at 11:59PM CST: Position Paper due
  - December 7, 2022 at 11:59PM CST: Module 4 due
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