



**GOVT 2305-121CL**  
**Federal Government**  
**Summer 2024**  
**LRC 252**  
**Monday – Friday 10:00 – 11:50 AM**

**Instructor Information:** Debra Ramsey  
[Dramsey1@com.edu](mailto:Dramsey1@com.edu)  
409-933-8307

**Student hours and location:** M-Friday 9:00 – 9:30 AM, LRC Suite A 225  
M-Thur 12:00 – 12:30 PM, LRC Suite A, 225

**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 in order to understand the impact of U.S. politics on your life.

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

**Attendance and Participation (5%)**

- Attendance and participation will be measured based on the following criteria:
  - Arriving to class on time
  - Paying attention during a lecture
  - Attentively watching and listening to videos and other media
- Attendance and participation points will be taken away though the semester if you are unable to meet the above criteria.

**Papers (15%)** There will be 4 short papers (2 pages at a minimum) over a specific topic. Additional information on grading rubric, submission, format, citations, etc. will be provided in the assignment file in D2L.

**Position Paper (15%)**

- 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.).
- Write a paper taking 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
- The paper should 5 full pages – not including your works cited or title page. Points will

be taken in Content, Critical Thinking and Length if your paper is not a minimum of 5 pages.

### **Tutoring (For position paper) (5%)**

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

### **Exams (15% x 4 = 60%)**

- You have four exams.
  - Closed-book, multiple choice questions (50 questions . 100 points)

### **Extra Credit**

- All extra credit is loaded in D2L, please do not ask for more extra credit.

### **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

### **Paper Assignment Guidelines**

- Format: MLA
- Times New Roman
  - 12 point
  - Double-spaced
  - 1-inch margins
  - NO footnotes
  - Microsoft WORD file format (.doc or .docx)
- 5 pages not counting the title or works cited page
- Include a title page and a works cited page
- When you cite use in-text 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.

**Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy:** Late work is not accepted. There is no Make-up work, you have a window of several days and in some cases several weeks to complete assignments. I do not go back and open assignments up. Please do not email me missed assignments, all assignments must be uploaded to D2L Brightspace. I will substitute your lowest exam grade for one missed exam (this **DOES NOT** mean I drop a grade). If you miss more than one exam those grades will be zero.

**Make-Up Policy:** There will be NO makeup tests or quizzes given. Please make every effort to be in class on that day as I will not give any make-up. I will not give extensions on any papers.

**No “Recycled Assignments for Course Credit:** You may not re-submit an essay or discussion post (or portions thereof) that you did in another course for credit in this course, including material from one of my classes in an earlier semester. Therefore, even if you have done an assignment before in another class, you have to do the assignment from scratch this semester.

**If you have issues with an assignment, you need to see me BEFORE the assignment is due. I cannot help you if you contact me after the assignment is due.**

**If you have issues with the grade on an assignment DO NOT wait until the end of the semester to say something. I will not go all the way back to look at those assignments**

**Computers, cell phones and ear buds.** It is preferred that you do not use them as they distract from the learning environment. Please turn your cell phone to vibrate and put it in your backpack or purse.

**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. Instructor will reply to email within 24 hours, weekend emails will be answered on Monday. Please include your course name and number in the subject line, (Govt 2305-0121)

**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 actions. Plagiarism is the practice of taking someone else’s work or ideas and passing them off as one’s own. It is a serious offense of academic dishonesty and legally, could be construed as infringement of intellectual property. Plagiarism of an assignment will result in a **grade of zero** on the assignment and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline action. Please do not turn in papers you have previously turned in for another class. You will receive a zero.

**Turnitin:** All papers will be submitted to Turnitin. Please check your similarity report, this flags plagiarism. Also, Turnitin now checks to see if your paper was written by Artificial Intelligence, you will not see this percentage, but your instructor will. Any percentage of Artificial Intelligence usage will result in a zero for your paper.

The instructor is not required to give consideration for lost/missing/unacceptable work stemming from technical non-compliance and/or end-user technical issues. Failure to maintain Internet or computer 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 access or functionality should refer to the Library Computer Lab hours of operation (<https://www.com.edu/computer-labs/library-computer-lab>) and plan to complete any and all coursework during posted hours

If you fail to complete an assignment or exam because your computer crashes or loses internet access, forget to attach a file, attach a wrong/blank/empty file to an assignment, did not verify submission of the correct file/information/link/etc., or did not use the appropriate browser or operating system to access and complete course work, then you are not entitled to make up the course work. If the assignment, discussion, project, or exam was not completed or su

Course Outline: **Subject to change**

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignments Due</b>
Week 1	Syllabus Expectations Introduction to Political Science Individuals	<b>Syllabus Quiz</b> <b>Read Chapters 1, 2, 3,4,5</b>
Week 2	Individuals Groups	<b>Read Chapter 5</b> <b>Exam 1 Chapters 1-8</b> <b>Exam Writing 1</b> <b>Read Chapters 6-8,</b>
Week 3	Institutions	<b>Exam 2</b> <b>Exam Writing 2</b> <b>Read Chapters 9-12</b> <b>Position Paper &amp; Tutoring</b>
Week 4	Institutions States and International Relations	<b>Exam 3</b> <b>Exam Writing 3</b> <b>Read 13, 14, 15</b>
Week 5	States and International Relations	<b>Read 16, 17</b> <b>Final Exam</b> <b>Final Exam Writing</b>

## Institutional Policies and Guidelines

**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://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student\\_Handbook\\_2023-2024\\_v2.pdf](https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student_Handbook_2023-2024_v2.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.*

**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: Kimberly Lachney, Student Accessibility Services Coordinator  
Phone: 409-933-8919  
Email: [AccessibilityServices@com.edu](mailto:AccessibilityServices@com.edu)  
Location: COM Doyle Family Administration Building, Student Success Center

**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.

**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> 5-week session is July 1. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 5-week session is August 2.

**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. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an FN grade.

**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:

If you are experiencing stress or anxiety about your daily living needs including food, housing or just feel you could benefit from free resources to help you through a difficult time, please click here <https://www.com.edu/community-resource-center/>. College of the Mainland has partnered with free community resources to help you stay on track with your schoolwork, by addressing life issues that get in the way of doing your best in school. All services are private and confidential. You may also contact the Dean of Students office at [deanofstudents@com.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@com.edu) or [communityresources@com.edu](mailto:communityresources@com.edu).

**Nondiscrimination Statement:**

The College District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), or any other basis prohibited by law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of College District policy.