

Clarendon College
Division of Liberal Arts
Fall 2011
Government 2305
Federal Government
3 Hours

Instructor: Ms. Lyndal Gillen

Room: 205 Clarendon High School

Phone: (806)874-2181

E-Mail Address: gillen.lyndal@clarendonisd.net

Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday 7:30am-8:00am and 3:30pm-4:30pm or by appointment

Text: Lowi, Theodore, Benjamin Ginsberg, and Kenneth Shepsle. *American Government: Power and Purpose*. 10th ed. New York: W.W. Norton, 2008. (Supplied by Clarendon High School)

Course Description: Introduction to the theory and practice of politics and government in America at the national level. Topics include political theory, the *United States Constitution*, federalism, political participation and elections, the institutions of government, domestic and foreign policies.

Statement of Purpose: Government 2305 partially satisfies the requirements for the Associates degree at Clarendon College and is designed to transfer to a senior college.

Course Objectives: Upon successful completion of Government 2305 students should be able to—Employ the appropriate methods, technologies, and data that social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition;
Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods, social structures and cultures;
Use and critique alternative explanatory systems of theories;
Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues;
Analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces of the area under study;
Comprehend the origins and evolution of U.S. and Texas political systems, with a focus on the growth of political institutions, the constitutions of the U.S. and Texas, federalism, civil liberties, and civil and human rights;
Understand the evolution and current role of the U.S. in the world;
Differentiate and analyze historical evidence (documentary and statistical) and differing points of view;
Recognize and apply reasonable criteria for the acceptability of historical evidence and social research;
Analyze, critically assess, and develop creative solutions to public policy problems;

Recognize and assume one's responsibility as a citizen in a democratic society by learning to think for oneself, by engaging in public discourse, and by obtaining information through the news media and other appropriate information sources about politics and public policy;

Identify and understand differences and commonalities with diverse cultures.

Method of Instruction: Classroom instruction will include lecture, online research, web quests, and Socratic seminars. Homework will include readings, essays, online quizzes, and Great Books Shared Inquiry Method.

Clarendon High School Class Policies: Refer to CHS Student Code of Conduct

Clarendon College Classroom Conduct Policy: Failure to comply with lawful direction of a classroom instructor is a disruption for all students enrolled in the class. Cheating violations include, but are not limited to: (1) obtaining an examination, classroom activity or laboratory exercise by stealing or collusion; (2) discovering the content of an examination, classroom activity, homework assignment or laboratory exercise before it is given; (3) using an unauthorized source of information during an examination, classroom activity, homework assignment or laboratory exercise; (4) entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage; (5) taking an examination for another person; (6) completing a classroom activity, homework assignment or laboratory exercise, or research paper for another person; (7) altering grade records; (8) using any unauthorized form of electronic communication device during an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory exercise; (9) committing plagiarism. Plagiarism is the using, stating, offering, or reporting as one's own, an idea, expression, or production of another person without proper credit.

Clarendon College Disciplinary Actions: If a student is caught cheating in the course, the student will receive a grade of zero for the assignment on which the offense occurred. The course instructor will file a report with the Dean of Students when a student is caught cheating in the course. Students who are reported as cheating to the Dean of Students more than once shall be disciplined by the Dean. The Dean will notify all involved parties within fourteen days of any action taken.

Attendance for Credit:

To receive credit in a class, a student must attend at least 90 percent of the days the class is offered. A student who attends fewer than 90 percent of the days the class is offered may be referred to the attendance review committee to determine whether there are extenuating circumstances for the absences and how the student can regain credit.

Makeup Work:

A student will be permitted to make up tests and to turn in projects due in any class missed because of an excused absence. For any class missed, the teacher may assign the student make-up work based on the instructional objectives for the subject or course and the needs of the individual student in mastering the essential knowledge and skills or in meeting subject or course requirements. A student will be responsible for obtaining and completing the make-up work in a satisfactory manner and within the time specified by the teacher. For each day of excused absence(s) the student will receive the same number of day(s) to do makeup work. Students ordinarily will not be permitted to make up missed work for credit if the absence is unexcused without parent permission. Unexcused absences with parent permission may be made up with the highest grade possible being a 70.

A student who does not make up assigned work within the time allotted by the teacher will receive a grade of zero for the assignment.

Accommodation Statement: Clarendon College provides reasonable accommodations for persons with temporary or permanent disabilities. Should you require special accommodations, notify the Office of Student Services (806)874-3571.

Withdrawal Procedure: Refer to 2011-2012 Catalog
Last Day to Add/Drop: August

Clarendon High School Grading Policies:

Daily Assignments—33%

Research Paper—33%

Tests—34%

Average of three six weeks recorded as 86%

Final Exam—14% (See Exemption Policy in Student Handbook)

Clarendon College Grading Policy:

Daily Assignments—30%

Research Paper—30%

Tests—30%

Final—10% NO Exemption

Go Dogs!

Go Broncos!

Course Outline

Aug. 23-4 Introduction, overview of text, voter and Selective Service registration

Aug. 25 Chapter 1 Notes: *Mayflower Compact*

Aug. 30 Discussion: Aristotle's *On Happiness*
Sept. 1 Chapter 2 Notes: Founding Documents
Sept. 3 Discussion: *The Declaration of Independence*
Sept. 7 Research Day—Topic Due
Sept. 10 Test/Essay
Sept. 13 Chapter 3 Notes: Constitutional Framework
Sept. 15 Discussion: John Locke—*Of The Limits of Government*
Sept. 17 Chapter 4 Notes: Civil Liberties
Sept. 20 Chapter 4 Notes: Civil Rights
Sept. 22 Discussion: *Gideon's Trumpet*
Sept. 24 Test and note cards due
Sept. 27 Chapter 5 Notes: The First Branch
Sept. 29 Discussion: Thomas Hobbes—*Of Commonwealth*
Sept. 30 Discussion: *Federalist 51*
Oct. 1 Test/Essay
Oct. 4-8 Web Quest: Redistricting
Oct. 12 Discussion--Neustadt
Oct. 13 Chapter 6 Notes: From Chief Clerk to Chief Executive
Oct. 15 Mid-Term
Oct. 18 Chapter 7 Notes: Bureaucracy in Democracy and Thesis Due
Oct. 20 Chapter 8 Notes: Least Dangerous Branch or Imperial Judiciary
Oct. 25-29 Student led discussions: Selected Cases
Nov. 1 Test and Outline
Nov. 2 Election Coverage
Nov. 3 Chapter 11 Notes: What are political parties?
Nov. 8 Chapter 15 Notes: Government and Society
Nov. 10 Discussion: John Locke—*Of Civil Government*
Nov. 11 Test/Essay
Nov. 15 Chapter 16 Notes: Foreign Policy and Democracy
Nov. 17 Test/Essay
Nov. 23 Rough Draft
Nov. 29 Chapter 9 Notes: Public Opinion
Dec. 1 Discussion: The Marketplace of Ideas
Dec. 2 Research Paper Due
Dec. 3 Research Project Group Discussion
Dec. 7 Guest Speaker
Dec. 8 Review for Exam
Dec. 9 Final Exam
Dec. 10--22 High School Texas Politics Component