

Clarendon College
Division of Liberal Arts
Government 2305 Federal Government
(3 credit hours)
Syllabus Fall 2025

Instructor: Mrs. Linda Comer
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Course Description: Federal Government is an introduction to the theory and practice of politics and government in America at the national level. Topics include political theory, the U.S. Constitution, federalism, political participation and elections, the institutions of government, and domestic and foreign policies.

Statement of Purpose: This course partially satisfies the Government/Political Science component of the core curriculum and is designed for transfer to a senior college or university

Required Instructional Materials:

Online Textbook: Krutz, G. and Waskiewicz, S. *American Government*. Rice University. 28 July 2021. openstax.org/details/books/american-government-3e

Fall 2025 Calendar of Important Dates:

Classes begin Monday, August 25
Last Day to Register and/or Add/Drop Thursday, August 28
Labor Day Monday, Sept. 1
Census Date Wednesday, September 10
Columbus Day Monday, Oct. 13
60% of term completed Wednesday, Oct. 29
Last Day to Drop with a "W" Thursday, Nov. 13
Thanksgiving Holidays Wed- Friday Nov 26-28
Final Exams Mon-Wed, Dec 8-10
Final Grades due @ 2:00 PM Thursday, Dec. 11

Methods of Instructions: All of the following will be used in the course as a method of instruction:

Lecture- discussion	Assigned reading from texts
Guided collaborative learning	Media Assisted Instruction
Research projects	

Course Objectives:

Critical thinking skills (CT) – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
Communication skills (COM) – to include effective written, oral, and visual communication

Social responsibility (SR) –to include intercultural competency and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Personal responsibility (PR) – to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making

Student Learning Outcomes

The learner shall:

1. Explain the origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the federal system.
3. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government.
5. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in the political system.
6. Analyze the election process.
7. Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens
8. Analyze issues and policies in U.S. politics.

Grading Policies:

The final semester grades will be figured as set in the current catalog:

90 to 100 = A	80 to 89 = B
70 to 79 = C	60 to 69 = D
Below 59 = F	

Tests and Major Assignments	50% of each 6-weeks grade
Daily work	30% of 6 weeks grade
Participation	20% of 6 weeks grade

A student's final grade will be made available through Student Portal at Clarendon College's website

Submitting Assignments:

All papers should be typed using Times New Roman (or regular font) size 12 font in MLA format. Regardless of subject matter, college work must be well-written. Grammar, spelling, and punctuation do matter. Work must be received by the due date.

Class Policies:

All make-up work due to absences is the responsibility of the student. Incomplete or missing work will have a detrimental affect on a student's final grade.

College Policies

Academic Integrity Policy

STUDENT ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND CLASSROOM ETHICS

Clarendon College is committed to a philosophy of honesty and academic integrity. It is the responsibility of all members of the Clarendon College community to maintain

academic integrity at Clarendon College by refusing to participate in or tolerate academic dishonesty. Any act of academic dishonesty will be regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense. Academic dishonesty 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, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment before it is given;
3. observing the work of another during an examination or providing answers to another during the course of an examination;
4. using an unauthorized source of information during an examination, classroom activity, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment;
5. entering an office, classroom, laboratory, or building to obtain an unfair advantage;
6. taking an examination for another person;
7. completing a classroom activity, laboratory exercise, homework assignment, or research paper for another person;
8. altering grade records;
9. using any unauthorized form of an electronic communication device during an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory activity; and/or,
10. plagiarism. (Plagiarism is defined as the using, stating, offering, or reporting as one's own an idea, expression, or production of another person's work without proper credit. This includes, but is not limited to, turning in a paper purchased or acquired from any source, written by someone other than the student claiming credit, or stolen from another student.)

Students are responsible for reporting known acts of academic dishonesty to a faculty member, the program coordinator, the vice president, and/or dean. Any student with knowledge of a violation who fails to report it shall him/herself be in violation and shall be considered to have committed an act of academic dishonesty.

While academic integrity and honesty are the responsibility of the individual student, each individual faculty member, teaching assistant, and/or laboratory instructor is responsible for classroom management and for maintaining ethical behavior within the classroom and/or

laboratory. Faculty who discover or suspect a violation should discuss the matter with the suspected violator(s) and attempt to resolve the case at that point. In cases of convincing evidence, the faculty member should take appropriate action. The faculty member and student should complete a Counseling Sheet regarding the violation. (The Counseling Sheet should contain at a minimum the date and time of the violation, the course, the instructor's name, the student's name, an explanation of the infraction or facts of the case, and the resolution to the incident.) This form should be signed by the student, faculty member, program coordinator, and the Vice President of Academic Affairs. The Vice President of Academic Affairs will maintain a file on all violations. If a faculty member prefers to report the case directly to Vice President of Academic Affairs, it remains his/her prerogative to do so. Additionally, if the faculty member and the accused student cannot reach a resolution or if the faculty member believes that suspension from school is the only fair sanction, the case should immediately be reported, by the faculty member, in writing, to the Vice President of Academic Affairs. If

the Vice President of Academic Affairs observes any trends in student behavior which involve more than one violation or act of academic dishonesty, the Vice President of Academic Affairs is responsible for notifying all faculty members involved, for contacting the student(s) involved, and after consultation with the faculty member(s) involved for taking the appropriate action. The Vice President of Academic Affairs is responsible for the timely notification (normally within two weeks) to all parties of an action taken. Students wishing to appeal a disciplinary decision involving academic integrity or acts of academic dishonesty may do so through the Student Appeals and Grievance Procedure.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

The full details of Student Rights and Responsibilities policies can be viewed on Clarendon College's website at: [www.clarendoncollege.edu/Resources/Legal/24-25/FLA\(LEGAL\).pdf](http://www.clarendoncollege.edu/Resources/Legal/24-25/FLA(LEGAL).pdf)

Course Withdrawal

Course Withdrawal--Students desiring to make schedule changes after their initial registration each semester must do so during the designated "Drop and Add" period as scheduled in the College Catalog. Students will be required to pay tuition and fees applicable to any class(es) added to their schedule.

Official withdrawal from a course is initiated in the Office of the Registrar. However, each student should consult with his/her academic advisor or the Associate Dean of Enrollment before officially withdrawing from a course. A student who stops attending a class without officially dropping it may receive a grade of "F" for that class.

Final Exams:

The schedule of final exams times is published at the beginning of the semester. You can find the schedule for final exams at: <https://www.clarendoncollege.edu/Resources/Final%20Exam%20Schedules%2024-25.pdf>

Do not make plans to leave school before your scheduled final exam. Faculty members cannot on their own authorize a student to take a final exam early. In exceptional circumstances if a student needs to take a final exam early, he/she may request early final exams by filling out the form at: <https://www.clarendoncollege.edu/Resources/Admin/Request%20for%20Early%20Final%20Exams.pdf>

Grievance/Appeals

If you have a dispute concerning your grade or policies in this class, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor to discuss the matter. Should things remain unresolved, please follow the procedures described in the Clarendon College Student Handbook or College Policy Manual.

Accommodations Statement

REQUIREMENTS OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, any student who feels that he or she may need any special assistance or accommodation because of an impairment or disabling condition should contact the Associate Dean of Enrollment Services at 806-874-4837 / janean.reish@clarendoncollege.edu or visit the Clarendon campus at Clarendon College. It is the policy of Clarendon College to provide reasonable accommodation as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the Associate Dean of Enrollment Services.

Nondiscrimination Policy

Clarendon College, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

It is the policy of Clarendon College not to discriminate based on gender, age, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, veteran's status, national or ethnic origin, or sexual orientation. Harassment of a student in class, i.e., a pattern of behavior directed against a particular student with the intent of humiliating or intimidating that student will not be tolerated. The mere expression of one's ideas is not harassment and is fully protected by academic freedom, but personal harassment of individual students is not permitted.

Tentative Course Schedule:

Week 1: August-13-15

Introduction to class

Democracy

Assignment: Survey

Week 2: August 18-22

Chapter 1- Government and Civic Engagement

Week 3: August 25-29

Chapter 2- The Constitution and Origins

Assignment: Timeline

Labor Day, Sept 1

Week 4: September 1-5

Chapter 3- American Federalism

Assignment: US/States PP

Exam #1

Week 5 : Sept. 8-12

Chapter 11-Congress

Assignment: Congressional Fact Sheet

Week 6: Sept 15-19

Chapter 12- Presidency

Assignment: Presidential Project

Week 7: Sept. 22-26

Chapter 15- The Bureaucracy

Assignment: Cabinet

Week 8: Sept 29-Oct 3

Chapter 13- Courts

Assignment: Court Structure

Exam #2

Week 9: Oct 6-10

Chapter 9-Political Parties

Assignment: Campaign Project

Week 10: Oct 13-17

Chapter 7- Voting and Elections

Week 11: Oct 20-24

Chapter 10- Interest Group

Assignment: IG Reading

Week 12: Oct 27-31

Chapter 4- Civil Liberties

Assignment: SC Cases

Week 13: Nov 3-7

Chapter 4- Civil Liberties (continue)

Assignment: SC Cases

Week 14: Nov 10-14

Chapter 8- Media

Assignment: Media Analysis

Week 15: Nov 17-21

Chapter 15- Criminal and Civil Law

Week 16: Nov 24-28

Thanksgiving Break Nov 25-Dec. 1

Week 17: Dec 1-5

Chapter 16- Domestic/Foreign Policy
Assignment: Group Discussion

Week 18: Dec 8-10 Finals Week

Final Exam: Monday, Dec 8

Note: This is a tentative outline planned for this course, and it may be changed at any time at my discretion. You will be notified in advance of any changes.