

CLARENDON COLLEGE
DIVISION OF LIBERAL ARTS
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT 2305.106
3 CREDIT HOURS
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:00 – 11:55 a.m.
Admin Rm 103

Fall 2025

Instructor: Kim Jeffrey Office 110 Phone: 806-874-4812 E-Mail: Kim.Jeffrey@clarendoncollege.edu

Office Hours:	Monday	9:00 – 10:00	1:00 – 2:30
	Tuesday	9:00 – 9:30	1:00 - 2:30
	Wednesday	9:00 - 10:00	1:00 - 2:30
	Thursday	9:00 – 9:30	1:00 - 2:30
	Friday	9:00 – 10:00	or anytime by appointment.



The required textbook for this course is ***American Government 3e***. It is an online textbook that has been authored and published by OpenStax.org. The links to this book are available in your course in Open LMS. You may order a printed version of this book for OpenStax.org. (It is not free).

Course 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.

Method of Instruction: Each class will consist of in-class lectures and/or power point presentations by the instructor on relevant material from the textbook.

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.

Core Objectives for Government and Political Science

The objectives for Government 2305 include:

- Critical thinking skills, creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- Effective written, oral, and visual communication skills.
- Personal responsibility, the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.
- Social responsibility, intercultural competency, civic knowledge, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, the learner shall be able to:

1. Explain the origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States – Assesses CT and COM with Chapter Critical Thinking Assignments
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the federal system - Assesses CT and COM with Chapter 3 Critical Thinking Assignments
3. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice – Assessed CT and COM with Chapter 2, 4, 8, 11 Critical Thinking Assignments
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government – Assesses CT and COM with Chapter 2, 4, 8, 11 Critical Thinking Assignments
5. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in the political system - Assesses SR with Chapters 6 and 10 Critical Thinking Assignments
6. Analyze the election process – Assesses SR with Chapter 7 Critical Thinking Assignments
7. Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens – Assesses PR with Opinion Paper, Participation, Rights and Responsibilities.
8. Analyze issues and policies in U.S. politics – Assesses CT, COM, and PR with Opinion Paper – Issues and Policies.

Class Attendance Policy: For this course, I will submit an attendance report each for each class time. Students who are in class will be marked "present." Students can be placed on academic probation or lose financial aid for non-attendance. If you are late, it is your responsibility to make sure the instructor counts you as present. The class participation grade will be based on the student's attendance.



The class participation score will be based on the student's attendance. You cannot participate if you are not in class.

- **For Monday/Wednesday/Friday class:**
 - **4 unexcused absences = 50 on Class Participation score**
 - **5 unexcused absences = 0 on Class Participation score.**
 - **More than 8 unexcused absences will result in a grade of 'F' for this course.**
- Three tardies will be counted as one absence.
- **For Tuesday/Thursday class:**
 - **3 unexcused absences = 50 on Class Participation score**
 - **4 unexcused absences = 0 on Class Participation score.**
 - **More than 6 unexcused absences will result in a grade of 'F' for this course.**
- Three tardies will be counted as one absence.
- If you are late, it is your responsibility to make sure the instructor counts you as present.
- Excessive absences will be referred to the Vice-President of Academics and Student Affairs and/or Assoc. Dean of Education.

Excused Absences: Approved participation in school-sponsored activities is considered an excused absence. It is **your responsibility to inform the instructor prior to the school-sponsored activity**. It is also your responsibility to make arrangements for making up any exams missed to do the excused absence.

An absence MAY also be excused based on the following:

- Illness on the part of the student or severe illness or death in your immediate (not extended) family
- You must provide documented proof of the reason for your absence or it will not be excused.

Class Policies: Students are responsible for all college regulations as stated in the Clarendon College Catalog available in the administration office.

- **Any student who used their cell phone during class will be counted as absent.**
- Students are expected to conduct themselves in the classroom in a manner that is conducive to academic progress. Disruptive conduct is considered a serious offense. Faculty members reserve the right to remove a student for a class for just cause. Students removed will be referred to the Vice-president of Students for disciplinary action, up to and including disciplinary suspension.
- **Cell phones, pagers, headphones, and all other electronic devices must be off and out of sight** before you enter the classroom. **This includes ear phones.** These electronic devices may be turned on and set on silent mode only with the expressed consent of the instructor.
- If you abuse this policy you will be counted absent, I will ask you to leave the classroom, and you will be referred to the Vice-president of Students.
- Do not leave the classroom during class-time unless it is an emergency.
- ***These policies will be enforced.***



School Course Policies: Academic Integrity Policy 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 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 exercise; 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.)** **(Clarendon College Student Handbook 2021-2022--homepage. Click on "Inside CC" – under "Students" – click on "Forms and Resources" – then click on "2021-2022 Student Handbook" – Find the "Student Code of Conduct" section and then the "Student Academic Integrity" section – P. 43.**

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. 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.

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- PLAGIARISM:** Read the following explanations carefully and be sure that you understand them.
- 1. AI and Internet use:** Copying and pasting from the Internet and/or ChatGPT or any AI program is plagiarism. All work must have an appropriate and accurate citation, this includes the use of any form of AI.
 - 2. Purchasing papers:** The purchase of a paper or any form of assignment is plagiarism.
 - 3. Word-for-word plagiarism:** The student quotes his or her source without using quotation marks. Even if the student cites the source, he or she is still plagiarizing because proper quotation procedures were not used.
 - 4. Paraphrased plagiarism:** The student uses a source and with the exception of changing a few words or phrases essentially quotes the original. Even if the source is properly cited, the writing is still plagiarized because the student has used the author's style, vocabulary, and content and claimed it as his or her own.
 - 5. Improper citations:** If a student uses someone's information other than his or her own, the source of the material must be properly cited. Failure to do so is plagiarism.

6. **Improper use of ideas:** Ideas are as equally protected as words. If the student uses someone's ideas, but expresses them in his or her words, the student plagiarizes if he or she does not cite the source of the idea.

7. **Student sharing:** While students are certainly free to work together and study together, an assignment that calls for individual work must reflect the student's personal effort. If a student borrows or copies another student's work, that is plagiarism. If a student has another student write a paper, that is plagiarism. If two students collaborate on an individual assignment and turn in the same work, that is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. It involves legal issues about improper use of materials that do not belong to the student. Plagiarism is unethical. A student must do his or her own work; otherwise, the learning process is compromised. Plagiarism is unfair to fellow students who take the time and make the effort to do their own work. **Essentially, plagiarism is cheating and will not be tolerated. You will receive a zero for any assignment that is plagiarized.**



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. According to Texas state law a student is only allowed to drop the same class twice before he/she will be charged triple the tuition amount for taking the class a third time or more. Furthermore, beginning with the Fall 2007 semester, students in Texas may only drop a total of 6 courses throughout their entire undergraduate career. After the 6th dropped class, he/she will no longer be able to withdraw from any classes.

Accommodation 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.

Student Rights and Responsibilities: Student Rights and Responsibilities are listed on the College website at: [www.clarendoncollege.edu/Resources/Legal/24-25/FLA\(LEGAL\).pdf](http://www.clarendoncollege.edu/Resources/Legal/24-25/FLA(LEGAL).pdf)

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/insideCC>. 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/insideCC>.



Students are responsible for ensuring that their work is consistent with Clarendon College's expectations about academic. This course uses TURN-IT-IN to ensure academic integrity. Turnitin will give you a reading of percentages of work that is used in another text, whether that be an online text, a source (such as your textbook), a paper that was submitted to another college, or any string of words that have been used in another context.



Turnitin uses an AI detection program and will show the percentage of possible AI-generated text. This report is seen only by the instructor. Any amount of AI generated text can be considered plagiarism and will receive a zero.

Grades and Assignments: All assignments can be found on the CC Student Portal Open LMS. Save your written assignments to your computer or flash drive as either an .rtf file or doc.x and then upload it the Open LMS.

Exams will be give during class time and will be based on the textbook reading assignments and in-class lectures. 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

Your official final grade will be made available through your Student Portal at Clarendon College's website.

Course Grades:

	42%	Exams (4 exams, 14 points each).
	24%	Critical Thinking Questions (8 assignments).
	24%	Opinion Papers (3 assignments, each represents 8 points).
	10%	Discussion and Class Participation score assessed at end of semester
	Total	100%

All written assignments for this course will be submitted through Open LMS. **You will need your user ID and assigned password.** If you change your password, please remember it. If you need help, or have a problem, just ask. **Save your work on your computer or flash drive and upload it into LMS using a doc file or docx, RTF.** If I cannot open the file, I cannot grade it, and you will receive a zero.

Any student caught cheating will receive a zero for the assignment or exam. This includes copying from the internet and copying the work of another student. Any subsequent cheating will result in an "F" for this course, and the matter will be referred to the Vice-president of Students Affairs. Do not leave the classroom during a test.

Unit I:

Wed. August 25 - 27	Introduction and Syllabus
Aug 29	OpenStax Chapter 1: American Government and Civic Engagement
Sept. 1	Labor Day - Holiday
Sept – 3 - 10	OpenStax Chapter 2 Readings: The Constitution and Its Origins
Sept 12 – 19	OpenStax Chapter 3 Readings: American Federalism

- Chapter 1 Critical Thinking Questions: Due Friday, September 5
- Chapter 2 Critical Thinking Questions: Due Friday, September 12
- Chapter 3 Critical Thinking Questions: Due Friday, September 19

Sept 24 **Exam I: Covers Chapters 1, 2, 3**

Unit II

Sept 26 – Sept 29	OpenStax Chapter 4: Voting and Elections
Oct 1 - 6	OpenStax Chapter 5: The Presidency
Oct 8 –17	OpenStax Chapter 6: Foreign Policy

- Chapter 4 Critical Thinking Questions: Due Friday, October 3
- **Opinion Paper: Power and Presidential Government: Due Friday, October 10**
- Chapter 6 Critical Thinking Questions: Due Friday, October 17

October 13 **Columbus Day Holiday – no classes**

Oct 20 **Exam II: Covers Chapter 4, 5, 6**

Unit III:

Oct 22 - 24	OpenStax Chapter 7 Congress
Oct 27 – 31	OpenStax Chapter 8: Political Parties
Nov 3 –Nov 10	OpenStax Chapter 9: Interest Groups and Lobbying

- Chapter 8 Opinion Paper Issues and Policies - due Friday, October 31
- Chapter 9 Critical Thinking Questions: Interest Groups and Lobbying Due, Friday, November 7

Nov 12 **Exam III: Covers Chapters 7, 8, 9**

Nov 14 **Last Day to Drop a Class with a “W” Friday**

Nov 14 – 19	OpenStax Chapter 10: The Courts
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Nov 26 - 28 **Thanksgiving Holidays**

Nov 21 – Dec 3	OpenStax Chapter 11: Civil Liberties
Dec 5	OpenStax Chapter 12: The Media

- Chapter 10: Critical Thinking Questions: Due Friday, November 21
- Chapter 12: Critical Thinking Questions: Due Friday, November 21
- **Unit IV Opinion Paper – Right and Responsibilities: Due Friday, December 5**

Wednesday, December 10 @ 10:30 **Final Exam: Covers Chapter 10, 11**

Early finals are given only with express written approval from the VP of Academic Affairs (Brad Vanden Boogaard).

Suggested Readings are available in Open LMS.

- The Constitution of the United States; A Declaration of Independence
- Electoral College Votes by State, 2010 – 2020
- Selected U.S. Supreme Court Cases; Federalist Papers #10 and #51

CLASS CONTRACT

I have received and read the syllabus for **Federal Government 2305** taught during **Fall 2025** semester by Mrs. Jeffrey. Ms. Jeffrey has explained the syllabus to me and I agree to abide by the policies written in it. I understand the policies of class attendance, dropping the course, academic honesty and general class behavior, and, I understand the consequences of failing to comply with the policies.

Student Name

Date

Printed Name_____

Your Major _____

Future Career _____

Sports _____

Coach _____

_____ phone

_____ e-mail