

Clarendon College

Course Number: GOVT 2305 Name of Course: Federal Government Fall 2023

CLARENDON COLLEGE

Division of Liberal Arts

Course Name: GOVT 2305, Federal Government

Semester: Fall 2025

Credit Hours: 3

Instructor: Michael McLatchy

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Office Hours:

M: 9:45-11:45am

T: 10:00-12:00am, 1:00-5:00 pm

R: 10:00-12:00am

The "Messages" feature in Open LMS (Moodle) is the main method you should use to contact me. I will make every effort to check the course website regularly and respond to your message requests by the next business day. **I teach classes in the prison all day Mondays and Wednesdays, I will not have access to check my messages for most of the day on Mondays and Wednesdays. However, I will make every effort to respond the next day.**

Online Course Website

This online course uses in Open LMS (Moodle) as its online course management program. All instructions, tutorials, exams, and assignments are provided at the course website. All assignments will be submitted there. Due dates for all assignments are listed in the "Course Schedule" at the course website. Most communication between you and your instructor and fellow classmates will be handled in Open LMS through the "Messages" feature and discussion forums. You will be able to log into the course website once you have officially registered for the course and once you have been added to the course website. The course website will become available to you by the first day of the semester. If you register late, you will generally have access to the course within 24 hours after you register. **In order to be successful in completing this 3-credit hour course, you should plan to spend between 6-9 hours per week on the course.**

The information explaining how to log into your course website can be obtained by going to [Clarendon College's](#) home page, and clicking on the **Login to Online Classes** button. If you have any difficulty logging in, email our help desk at: administrator@clarendoncollege.edu

Required Enrollment Verification Activity

Students who fail to complete the Syllabus Agreement & Enrollment Verification Activity by the official census date may not be able to continue in the course. This could result in an F for the course and forfeiture of Financial Aid. The census date for this term can be found on the Academic Calendar located at the Inside CC link on Clarendon College's home page. **For Fall 2024 the census date is**

Wednesday, September 11.

Online Attendance Policy

Regular attendance is mandatory in all online courses. Specific activities within each Unit will be identified for each week under “Graded Activities” that must be completed in order for students to be considered “in attendance.” Failure to complete these assignments can result in forfeiture of Financial Aid and failure of the class.

Course Description

Origins and development of the U.S. Constitution, structure and powers of the national government including the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, federalism, political participation, the national election process, public policy, civil liberties and civil rights

Statement of Purpose

Government 2305 partially satisfies the requirements for the Associates degree at Clarendon College and is designed for transfer to a senior college or university.

Required Instructional Materials:

Textbook: The textbook for the course is *American Government 3e* published and authored by OpenStax College. A link to your Open Stax textbook appears in each unit of your course page. OpenStax access and your textbook are free of charge.

Technology: You will need the following: computer access, Adobe Reader, Excel, and PowerPoint. Remember to have your computer fully charged before beginning an assignment.

Methods of Instruction: Online instruction will include lectures, PowerPoint/ presentations, and question and answer forums. Q and A Forums will follow a shared inquiry format with reading. Homework will include chapter readings, vocabulary study, and short answer questions.

Core Objectives:

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

Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, the learner shall:

1. Explain the origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States; (Assesses Core Objective Critical Thinking Skills. Assessed with Short Answer Question: *Federalist 51* and Objective Test 1.)
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the federal system; (Assesses Core Objective Critical Thinking Skills. Assessed with Objective Test 1)
3. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice; (Assesses Core Objective Critical Thinking Skills. Assessed with Objective Test 1.)
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government; (Assesses Core Objective Critical Thinking Skills. Assessed with Objective Tests 2 and 3.)
5. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in the political system; (Assesses Core Objective Social Responsibility. Assessed with Short Answer Question: *Federalist 10* and Objective Test 5.)
6. Analyze the election process; (Assesses Core Objective Social Responsibility. Assessed with Objective Test 5.)
7. Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens; (Assesses Core Objective Personal Responsibility. Assesses Core Objective Communication Skills Assessed with Political Participation Essay. Assesses Personal Responsibility. Assessed with Objective Test 3.)

8. Analyze issues and policies in U.S. politics. (Assesses Core Objective Social Responsibility. Assessed with Opinion Essay: DC v. Heller and Objective Test 4. Assesses Core Objective Communication Skills. Assessed with Opinion Essay: DC v. Heller.)

Makeup Work: No work can be submitted late. However, unavoidable emergencies can occur. If this happens to you, contact me with the appropriate documentation so I can consider whether to make an exception.

Grading Policies:

Final = 10% (NO Exemption)

Objective Tests = 40%

Assignments = 20%

Discussions (attendance activities) = 30%

Semester 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

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

College Policies:

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.

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)

Withdrawing from (Dropping) the Course:

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.

If you decide that you are unable to complete this course or that it will be impossible to complete the course with a passing grade, you may drop the course and receive a "W" on your transcript instead. (The last day to drop a course is available on the Academic Calendar, located at the Student link on the Clarendon College website.) Withdrawal from a course is a formal procedure that you must initiate. If you do not go through the formal withdrawal procedure, you will receive whatever grade you have earned.

Whether to drop a class or not requires a lot of thought. 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.

Fall 2021 Dates to Remember

Classes Begin.....	Monday, August 26
Last Day to Register and/or Add/Drop	Thursday, August 29
Census Date	Wednesday, September 11
Last Day to Drop with a "W".....	Thursday, November 14
Final Exam.....	Tuesday, December 10
Final Grade Rolls Submitted by 2p.m.....	Thursday, December 12
End of Fall Semester (Grades Posted to Transcripts 2 PM).....	Friday, December 13

Tentative Course Schedule

This course includes all graded activities with their due dates. It also identifies which activities must be completed to be considered "in attendance." The course schedule is subject to change. If due dates change, you will be notified through the Messages feature. It will be also changed in the Syllabus and Quick Links section.

Before beginning the course complete the following activities:

1. Read the syllabus and complete the syllabus quiz;
2. **Answer the Class Contract EVA question (*Complete this activity to be considered "in attendance" the week of August 25-29*);**
3. Participate in the ice breaker question and answer forum.

UNIT I

August 25-September 2 (Due Tues., Sept. 2 at 11:55 p.m.)

View Lecture: *Foundations*. View PowerPoint: *Five Principles*.

Read *American Government 3e*: Sections 2.3, 2.4, and 2.5. View PowerPoint: *Founding Documents*. Review Vocabulary Flash Cards. Answer Practice Quiz 1 questions.

[3-2-1 Discussion](#) (Complete this activity to be considered "in attendance" this week.)

September 3-9 (Due Tues., Sept. 9 at 11:55 p.m.)

Read *American Government 3e*: Sections 3.1, 3.2, and 3.5.

View PowerPoint: *Federalism and the Separation of Powers*. Review Vocabulary Flash Cards. Answer Practice Quiz 2 questions.

[3-2-1 Discussion](#) (Complete this activity to be considered "in attendance" this week.)

Complete Objective Test 1. Deadline is 11:55pm, **Sept. 9.**

UNIT II

September 10-16 (Due Tues., Sept. 16 at 11:55 p.m.)

View Lecture: *Institutions*. Read *American Government 3e*: Sections 11.1, 11.4, and 11.5.

View PowerPoint: *Congress: The First Branch*. Review Vocabulary Flash Cards. Answer Practice Quiz 3 questions.

[3-2-1 Discussion](#) (Complete this activity to be considered "in attendance" this week.)

September 17-23 (Due Tues., Sept. 23 at 11:55 p.m.)

Read *American Government 3e*: Sections 12.1, 12.4, 12.5 and 15.2-15.3.

View PowerPoint: *The Presidency and Executive Branch Bureaucracy*. Review Vocabulary Flash Cards. Answer Practice Quiz 4 questions.

[3-2-1 Discussion](#) (Complete this activity to be considered "in attendance" this week.)

September 24-September 30 (Due Tues., Sept. 30 at 11:55 p.m.)

View Lecture: *The Rule of Law*. Read *American Government 3e*: Sections 13.1 and 13.2.

View PowerPoint: *The Judicial Branch*. Review Vocabulary Flash Cards. Answer Practice Quiz 5 questions.

[3-2-1 Discussion](#) (Complete this activity to be considered "in attendance" this week.)

Complete Objective Test 2. Deadline is 11:55pm, **Sept., 30.**

UNIT III

October 1-7 (Due Tues., Oct. 7 at 11:55 p.m.)

Read *American Government 3e*: Chapter 4. PowerPoint: *Civil Liberties/Civil Rights*. View Lecture by Ruth Bader Ginsburg: *Due Process*. Review Vocabulary Flash Cards. Answer Practice Quiz 6 questions.

[3-2-1 Discussion](#) (Complete this activity to be considered "in attendance" this week.)

October 8-14 (Due Tues., Oct. 14 at 11:55 p.m.)

Read *American Government 3e*: Chapter 5.

[3-2-1 Discussion](#) (Complete this activity to be considered "in attendance" this week.)

Complete Objective Test 3. Deadline is 11:55pm, **Oct. 14.**

UNIT IV

October 15-21 (Due Tues., Oct. 21 at 11:55 p.m.)

Read *American Government 3e*: Chapter 16. View Lecture: *Governance*. View PowerPoint: *Foreign Policy*. Review Vocabulary Flash Cards. Answer Practice Quiz 7 questions.

3-2-1 Discussion (Complete this activity to be considered “in attendance” this week.)

October 22-28 (Due Tues., Oct. 28 at 11:55 p.m.)

Read *American Government 3e*: Chapter 17. View PowerPoint: *Introduction to Public Policy and Government and Society*. Review Vocabulary Flash Cards. Answer Practice Quiz 8 questions.

3-2-1 Discussion (Complete this activity to be considered “in attendance” this week.)

Complete Objective Test 4. Deadline is 11:55pm, **Oct. 28.**

UNIT V

October 29-November 4 (Due Tues., Nov. 4 at 11:55 p.m.)

Read *American Government 3e*: Chapter 6. View Lecture: *Politics*. View PowerPoint: *Marketplace of Ideas*. Review Vocabulary Flash Cards. Answer Practice Quiz 9 questions.

3-2-1 Discussion (Complete this activity to be considered “in attendance” this week.)

November 5-11 (Due Tues., Nov. 11 at 11:55 p.m.)

Read *American Government 3e*: Chapter 7. View Lecture: *Political Parties and Special Interests*. View PowerPoints: *Political Parties, Elections, and Groups & Interests*. Review Vocabulary Flash Cards. Answer Practice Quiz 10 questions.

3-2-1 Discussion (Complete this activity to be considered “in attendance” this week.)

November 12-18 (Due Tues., Nov. 18 at 11:55 p.m.)

Read *American Government 3e*: Chapter 9.

Submit Political Participation/Socialization Survey. Deadline is 11:55 pm, **Nov. 19**
(Complete this activity to be considered “in attendance” this week.)

November 19-December 2 (Due Tues., Dec. 2 at 11:55 p.m.)

Read *American Government 3e*: Chapter 10. Listen to the oral arguments—*District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008). Read the *DC v. Heller* (2008) majority and dissenting opinions.

Submit Opinion Exercise—DC vs. Heller. Deadline is 11:55 pm, **Dec. 3**
(Complete this activity to be considered “in attendance” this week.)

Complete Objective Test 2. Deadline is 11:55 pm, Dec. 2.

Final Exam

December 3-9 (Due Tues., Dec. 9 at 11:55 p.m.)

Final Exam. Deadline is 11:55 pm, **Dec. 9.** (Complete this activity to be considered “in attendance” this week.)

