



# Federal Government-14165

## GOVT-2305

F8B 2022 Section 0003 3 Credits 10/17/2022 to 12/11/2022 Modified 10/17/2022

### Course Meetings

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#### Course Modality

This is an Online Anytime accelerated 8-week class.

- We only meet virtually and asynchronously. There are no in-person requirements
- Time management is important
- A quiet space to read and think is helpful but not required
- A willingness to learn differently is required
- I will ask you to trust me as the real deal, a professor that is your partner
- You have no reason to trust me, so I will work to earn it

### Welcome and Instructor Information

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#### Professor: Dr. Cammy Shay

Email: [cammy.shay@hccs.edu](mailto:cammy.shay@hccs.edu)

Office: Eastside Campus, AM 101

Phone: 713-718-7141

Website: <https://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/cammy.shay> (<https://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/cammy.shay>)

#### What's Exciting About This Course

This course offers you a unique opportunity to learn about current issues in American government and politics through the lens of political science. This is far more interesting than teaching a textbook. I don't do that. Using collaboration, we will make connections between theory and reality, facts and opinions, ideals and realities, and science and faith.

#### My Personal Welcome

I am very excited to welcome you to GOVT 2305 - Federal Government. In this course we learn the key concepts that help us better understand politics going on around us, in our communities, around the country, and around the world.

I'm teaching in a totally new way, one that will only work if you join me.

#### Preferred Method of Contact

Use Canvas email to contact me, plz.

#### Professor: Dr. Cammy Shay

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## Course Overview

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### GOVT 2305 - Federal Government

Origin 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.

#### Requisites

You must have passed ENGL 1301 (Composition I) or be co-enrolled in ENGL 1301 as a corequisite.

#### Government Department

<https://learning.hccs.edu/programs/government>

## Core Curriculum Objectives (CCOs)

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This course satisfies the Government/Political Science requirement in the HCCS core curriculum. The HCCS Government Program Committee has specified that the course addresses the following core objectives:

**Critical Thinking Skills**—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information

**Communication Skills**—to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication

**Empirical/Quantitative Skills**—to include manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions

**Teamwork**—to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal

**Personal Responsibility**—to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making

**Social Responsibility**—to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

## Student Learning Outcomes and Objectives

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### Course Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

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.

### Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. **Federal institutions**- identify and describe the institutions of the American national government.
2. **Evaluation of sources**- identify and evaluate information sources for our political news data and opinion

3. **Analytic inquiry**- analyze the effects of the historical social political economic and cultural forces on politics and government
4. **Citizenship**- recognize and assume the responsibilities of citizenship by developing one's critical thinking skills, engaging in public discourse, and by obtaining information through the news media.

## Departmental Practices and Procedures

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### Program-Specific Student Success Information

Expect to spend at least twice as many hours per week outside of class as you do in class reading, studying the course content, and preparing discussions and assignments. Additional time will be required for written assignments. The assignments provided will help you use your study hours wisely. Successful completion of this course requires a combination of the following:

- Reading the textbook
- Attending class in person or online
- Completing assignments
- Participating in class activities, including discussions

Success in this course requires reading (and re-reading) and studying the material using the course objectives as a guide. Time management is important because on time completion and submission of your work is expected.

## Instructional Materials and Resources

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### Instructional Materials

You are linked to two free open-source ebooks as well as other materials in Canvas. Do not spend any money on books for this class.

## Course Requirements

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This course was designed using collaborative learning ideas, which means we will respectfully engage with one another in deep conversations about American government and politics. Participation in Conversations and the Class Project, therefore, is humbly submitted as a requirement.

### Assignments, Exams, and Activities

Conversations will call on you to let me know what you are learning. You will write about an interesting topic or issue in American politics after doing assigned readings. These assigned readings do not require attention to details or memorization of any information. Rather, they should be read for general awareness of the course Module themes and key concepts. I will participate and offer guidance.

The Project will call on you to contribute to developing a full and thorough knowledge of a political science article.

Type	Weight	Topic	Notes
Conversations	50% or 100 points	What is the current health of American Democracy?	This class is based on learning deeply about American government and politics in theory and practice by applying knowledge to issues of current concern.
Class Project	50% or 100 points	Race, partisanship, and income inequality	Dissecting a 2016 article by noted political scientist, Dr. Paul Pierson, we will dig deep into the connections he makes through empirical research.

### Grading Formula

Two Rubrics will be used to show you what kind of work is associated with each grade level.

Grade	Range	Notes
A	90 to 100% or 180 to 200 points	Outstanding contributions to Conversations and the Class Project.
B	80 to 89% or 160 to 179 points	Good contributions to the conversations and the class project
C	70 to 79% or 140 to 159 points	Contributions to the conversations and the class project show acceptable effort
D	60 to 69% or 120 to 139 points	Whether over-committed with life obligations or not, contributions do not meet the minimum expectations
F	59% and below or <119 points	Not having sufficient time to improve work that was subpar, unwillingness to engage

## \* Instructor's Practices and Procedures

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### Incomplete Policy

Timely participation is expected in all Conversation and Project forums.

In order to receive a grade of Incomplete ("I"), a student must have completed at least 85% of the work in the course. In all cases, the instructor reserves the right to decline a student's request to receive a grade of Incomplete.

### Missed Assignments/Make-Up Policy

Everyone can resubmit once per Conversation submission in the belief that more time spent with the topic will equate to more understanding.

More details about this policy can be found in Canvas.

### Academic Integrity

Through your participation in the Conversations, you will show me what you have learned about the federal government and politics. In the Class Project, you will show me how you construct knowledge collaboratively. Your written work will demonstrate understanding and application of concepts. In everything you submit, I assess your ability to earn the grade you want to get at the end of the term. I expect every student to abide by professional academic ethics.

Here's the link to the HCC information about academic integrity (Scholastic Dishonesty and Violation of Academic Scholastic Dishonesty and Grievance):

<https://www.hccs.edu/studentprocedures> (<https://www.hccs.edu/studentprocedures>)

### Attendance Procedures

This class will only work if all students spend an appropriate amount of time reading, thinking, applying, and writing. You know best how to allocate your days, but make sure you contribute to every Conversation and Class Project in a timely manner. You'll need somewhere between 6 and 12 hours a week devoted to this class. If we all commit to it, we can have an amazing learning experience.

### Student Conduct

We are going to write a lot collaboratively, so everyone is expected to approach our work professionally. Ours will be an academic journey over volatile political terrain.

### Instructor's Course-Specific Information

We must accept that there will be differences of opinions and beliefs about the purpose and role of government in society and on political issues. We must embrace the benefits of this kind of diversity in order to more fully understand consequential politics today. We will not fight about politics. We will not write in anger.

### Devices

You will be able to access the course from a mobile device. This may work for doing readings but won't work so well with doing

written work. For submitting entries to the Conversations and Class Project, you should use a computer.

## Faculty Statement about Student Success

I will work collaboratively with you by providing feedback to help you meet your grade objective. This is a partnership, and both parties must be actively involved to make it work

## Faculty-Specific Information Regarding Canvas

This course section will use Canvas (<https://eagleonline.hccs.edu> (<https://eagleonline.hccs.edu>))

HCCS Open Lab locations may be used to access the Internet and Canvas. For best performance, Canvas should be used on the current or first previous major release of Chrome, Firefox, Edge, or Safari. Because it's built using web standards, Canvas runs on Windows, Mac, Linux, iOS, Android, or any other device with a modern web browser.

Canvas only requires an operating system that can run the latest compatible web browsers. Your computer operating system should be kept up to date with the latest recommended security updates and upgrades.

## Social Justice Statement

Please join me in honoring the values expressed in this statement:

Houston Community College is committed to furthering the cause of social justice in our community and beyond. HCC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender identity and expression, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or veteran status. I fully support that commitment and, as such, will work to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. In this course, we share in the creation and maintenance of a positive and safe learning environment. Part of this process includes acknowledging and embracing the differences among us in order to establish and reinforce that each one of us matters. I appreciate your suggestions about how to best maintain this environment of respect. If you experience any type of discrimination, please contact me and/or the Office of Institutional Equity at 713-718-8271.

## HCC Policies and Information

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### Our Vision

Houston Community College shapes the future for all students with innovative, affordable, timely, responsive, and continuously improving educational programs and services. Partnered with the communities we serve, we take a defining role in regional economic, workforce, and social development.

<https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/>)

## HCC Grading System

HCC uses the following standard grading system:

Grade	Grade Interpretation	Grade Points
A	Excellent (90-100)	4
B	Good (80-89)	3
C	Fair (70-79)	2
D	Passing (60-69), except in developmental courses.	1
F	Failing (59 and below)	0

Grade	Grade Interpretation	Grade Points
FX	Failing due to non-attendance	0
W	Withdrawn	0
I	Incomplete	0
AUD	Audit	0
IP	In Progress. Given only in certain developmental courses. A student must re-enroll to receive credit.	0
COM	Completed. Given in non-credit and continuing education courses.	0

## Link to Policies in Catalog and Student Handbook

Here's the link to the HCC Catalog and Student Handbook: <https://catalog.hccs.edu/> (<https://catalog.hccs.edu/>)

In it you will find information about the following:

- Academic Information
- Academic Support
- Attendance, Repeating Courses, and Withdrawal
- Career Planning and Job Search
- Childcare
- disAbility Support Services
- Electronic Devices
- Equal Educational Opportunity
- Financial Aid TV (FATV)
- General Student Complaints
- Grade of FX
- Incomplete Grades
- International Student Services
- Health Awareness
- Libraries/Bookstore
- Police Services & Campus Safety
- Student Life at HCC
- Student Rights and Responsibilities
- Student Services
- Testing
- Transfer Planning
- Veteran Services

## Link to HCC Academic Integrity Statement

<https://www.hccs.edu/student-conduct> (<https://www.hccs.edu/student-conduct>) (scroll down to subsections)

## Campus Carry Link

Here's the link to the HCC information about Campus Carry:

<https://www.hccs.edu/campuscarry> (<https://www.hccs.edu/campuscarry>)

## HCC Email Policy

When communicating via email, HCC requires students to communicate only through the HCC email system to protect your privacy. If you have not activated your HCC student email account, you can go [to HCC Eagle ID \(https://www.hccs.edu/email\)](https://www.hccs.edu/email) and activate it now. You may also use Canvas Inbox to communicate.

## Office of Institutional Equity

Use the following link to access the HCC Office of Institutional Equity, Inclusion, and Engagement: <https://www.hccs.edu/eeo> (<https://www.hccs.edu/eeo>)

### Ability Services

HCC strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including long and short term conditions, mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please meet with a campus Abilities Counselor as soon as possible in order to establish reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s) and Ability Services. It is the policy and practice of HCC to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. For more information, please go to <https://www.hccs.edu/accessibility> (<https://www.hccs.edu/accessibility>)

### Title IX

Houston Community College is committed to cultivating an environment free from inappropriate conduct of a sexual or gender-based nature including sex discrimination, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and sexual violence. Sex discrimination includes all forms of sexual and gender-based misconduct and violates an individual's fundamental rights and personal dignity. Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex-including pregnancy and parental status in educational programs and activities. If you require an accommodation due to pregnancy please contact an Abilities Services Counselor. The Director of EEO/Compliance is designated as the Title IX Coordinator and Section 504 Coordinator. All inquiries concerning HCC policies, compliance with applicable laws, statutes, and regulations (such as Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504), and complaints may be directed to:

David Cross  
Director EEO/Compliance  
Office of Institutional Equity & Diversity  
3100 Main  
(713) 718-8271  
Houston, TX 77266-7517 or [Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu](mailto:Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu) (<mailto:Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu>)

<https://www.hccs.edu/titleix> (<https://www.hccs.edu/titleix>)

### Office of the Dean of Students

Contact the office of the Dean of Students to seek assistance in determining the correct complaint procedure to follow or to identify the appropriate academic dean or supervisor for informal resolution of complaints.

<https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-complaints/speak-with-the-dean-of-students/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-complaints/speak-with-the-dean-of-students/>)

## Student Success

Expect to spend at least twice as many hours per week outside of class as you do in class studying the course content. Additional time will be required for written assignments. The assignments provided will help you use your study hours wisely. Successful completion of this course requires a combination of the following:

- Reading the textbook
- Attending class in person and/or online
- Completing assignments

- Participating in class activities

There is no short cut for success in this course; it requires reading (and probably re-reading) and studying the material using the course objectives as a guide.

## Canvas Learning Management System

Canvas is HCC's Learning Management System (LMS), and can be accessed at the following URL:

<https://eagleonline.hccs.edu> (<https://eagleonline.hccs.edu>)

HCCS Open Lab locations may be used to access the Internet and Canvas. For best performance, Canvas should be used on the current or first previous major release of Chrome, Firefox, Edge, or Safari. Because it's built using web standards, Canvas runs on Windows, Mac, Linux, iOS, Android, or any other device with a modern web browser.

Canvas only requires an operating system that can run the latest compatible web browsers. Your computer operating system should be kept up to date with the latest recommended security updates and upgrades.

## HCC Online Information and Policies

Here is the link to information about HCC Online classes, which includes access to the required Online Information Class Preview for all fully online classes: <https://www.hccs.edu/online/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/online/>)

## Scoring Rubrics, Sample Assignments, etc.

Look in Canvas for the scoring rubrics for assignments, samples of class assignments, and other information to assist you in the course. <https://eagleonline.hccs.edu/> (<https://eagleonline.hccs.edu/>)

## Instructor and Student Responsibilities

As your Instructor, it is my responsibility to:

- Provide the grading scale and detailed grading formula explaining how student grades are to be derived
- Facilitate an effective learning environment through learner-centered instructional techniques
- Provide a description of any special projects or assignments
- Inform students of policies such as attendance, withdrawal, tardiness, and making up assignments
- Provide the course outline and class calendar that will include a description of any special projects or assignments
- Arrange to meet with individual students during office hours, and before and after class as required

As a student, it is your responsibility to:

- Attend class in person and/or online
- Participate actively by reviewing course material, interacting with classmates, and responding promptly in your communication with me
- Read and comprehend the textbook
- Complete the required assignments and exams
- Ask for help when there is a question or problem
- Keep copies of all paperwork, including this syllabus, handouts, and all assignments
- Be aware of and comply with academic honesty policies in the [HCCS Student Handbook](https://www.hccs.edu/studenthandbook) (<https://www.hccs.edu/studenthandbook>)

## Copyright Statement

In order to uphold the integrity of the academic environment and protect and foster a cohesive learning environment for all, HCC prohibits unauthorized use of course materials. Materials shared in this course are based on my professional knowledge and experience and are presented in an educational context for the students in the course. Authorized use of course materials is limited to personal study or educational uses. Material should not be shared, distributed, or sold outside the course without permission. Students are also explicitly forbidden in all circumstances from plagiarizing or appropriating course materials. This includes but is not limited to publically posting quizzes, essays, or other materials. This prohibition extends not only during this course, but after. Sharing of the materials in any context will be a violation of the HCC Student Code of Conduct and may subject



the student to discipline, as well as any applicable civil or criminal liability. Consequences for unauthorized sharing, plagiarizing, or other methods of academic dishonesty may range from a 0 on the specified assignment and/or up to expulsion from Houston Community College. Questions about this policy may be directed to me or to the Manager of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity.

## Sensitive or Mature Course Content

In this college-level course, we may occasionally discuss sensitive or mature content. All members of the classroom environment, from your instructor to your fellow students, are expected to handle potentially controversial subjects with respect and consideration for one another's varied experiences and values.

## EGLS3

The EGLS<sup>3</sup> ([Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System \(https://www.hccs.edu/egls3\)](https://www.hccs.edu/egls3)) will be available for most courses near the end of the term until finals start. This brief survey will give invaluable information to your faculty about their teaching. Results are anonymous and will be available to faculty and division chairs after the end of the term. EGLS<sup>3</sup> surveys are only available for the Fall and Spring semesters. -EGLS3 surveys are not offered during the Summer semester due to logistical constraints.

<https://www.hccs.edu/egls3> (<https://www.hccs.edu/egls3>)

## Housing and Food Assistance for Students

If you are experiencing any hardship related to food, shelter, mental health, or other basic needs areas, please visit the Basic Needs page for resources (<https://www.hccs.edu/cares> (<https://www.hccs.edu/cares>)). You have the option to take the Basic Needs Questionnaire and ask to be contacted by a counselor for additional assistance or support (<https://www.hccs.edu/basicneeds> (<https://www.hccs.edu/basicneeds>)). Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable doing so.

## Student Resources

### Tutoring

HCC provides free and convenient academic support, in a large variety of subjects, to HCC students in both an online environment and in-person on campus. Tutoring is provided by HCC personnel in order to ensure that it is appropriate. Visit the HCC Tutoring Services website for more information at <https://hccs.edu/tutoring> (<https://hccs.edu/tutoring>).

### Libraries

The HCC Library System consists of 9 libraries and 6 Electronic Resource Centers (ERCs) that are inviting places to study and collaborate on projects. Librarians are available both at the libraries and online to show you how to locate and use the resources you need. The libraries maintain a large selection of electronic resources as well as collections of books, magazines, newspapers, and audiovisual materials. The portal to all libraries' resources and services is the HCCS library web page at <https://library.hccs.edu> (<https://library.hccs.edu/>).

### Supplementary Instruction

Supplemental Instruction is an academic enrichment and support program that uses peer-assisted study sessions to improve student retention and success in historically difficult courses. Peer Support is provided by students who have already succeeded in completion of the specified course, and who earned a grade of A or B. Find details at <https://www.hccs.edu/supplemental-instruction> (<https://www.hccs.edu/supplemental-instruction>)

### Resources for Students:

<https://www.hccs.edu/covid19students> (<https://www.hccs.edu/covid19students>)

### Basic Needs Resources:

<https://www.hccs.edu/support-services/counseling/hcc-cares/basic-needs-resources/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/support-services/counseling/hcc-cares/basic-needs-resources/>)

## Student Basic Needs Application:

<https://www.hccs.edu/basicneeds> (<https://www.hccs.edu/basicneeds>)

## COVID-19

Here's the link to the HCC information about COVID-19:

<https://www.hccs.edu/covid-19> (<https://www.hccs.edu/covid-19>)

## Instructional Modalities

### In-Person (P)

Safe, face-to-face course with scheduled dates and times

### Online on a Schedule (WS)

Fully online course with virtual meetings at scheduled dates and times

### Online Anytime (WW)

Traditional online course without scheduled meetings

### Hybrid (H)

Course that meets safely 50% face-to-face and 50% virtually

### Hybrid Lab (HL)

Lab class that meets safely 50% face-to-face and 50% virtually

## Course Calendar

Module	Weeks	Topic	Dates
1	1	Politics & Power	Oct. 17-23, 11:59 PM
2	2 & 3	Unequal Treatment	Oct. 24-Nov. 6, 11:59 PM
3	4 & 5	Improper Influence	Nov. 7-Nov.20, 11:59 PM
4	6 & 7	Partisan Polarization	Nov. 21-Dec. 4, 11:59 PM
5	8	Reforms?	Dec. 5-11, 11:59 PM

## Syllabus Modifications

I reserve the right to modify the syllabus at any time during the term and will promptly notify students in writing, typically by email, of any such changes.

When	Topic	Notes

## Additional Information

## Departmental/Program Information

The Houston Community College Government Department supports students in a number of different ways. These include:

- Government Majors & Minors: Students can earn an Associate of Arts Degree in Government, which will prepare them for

majoring in Political Science or Government when they transfer to a university. Majors and Minors—those students who are interested in Political Science or Government—are supported by a faculty committee that will connect them to events, news, and opportunities.

- **Careers in Government:** The study of Government or Political Science prepares students for work in the public and private sectors by emphasizing critical thinking, analytical, and communication skills.
- **Government Student Organizations:** The Government Department supports the activities of the *Center for Civic Engagement* and the HCC *Political Science Club*, both of which hold discussions and sponsor events to connect students to politics in the real world.
- **GOVT Scholarship:** The Government Department will work with students to locate scholarship support, when possible.

## Process for Expressing Concerns about the Course

If you have concerns about your progress in this course, please reach out to your instructor for assistance first. If your instructor is not able to assist you, then you may wish to contact the Department Chair.

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Faculty Division Chair - Government  
Angela Morales Building, 101.12  
6815 Rustic  
Houston, Texas, 77087  
713-718-6979  
steven.tran@hccs.edu