

# El Paso Community College

## Syllabus

### Part II

## Official Course Description

<b>SUBJECT AREA</b>	<u>Government</u>
<b>COURSE RUBRIC AND NUMBER</b>	<u>GOVT 2305</u>
<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	<u>American Government and Politics</u>
<b>COURSE CREDIT HOURS</b>	<u>3                      3                      :</u> <u>0</u>
	Credits                      Lec                      Lab

### I. Catalog Description

Studies the 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. **Prerequisite: READ 0309 or INRW 0311 or ESOL 0340 or by placement exam or ENGL 1301 with a “C” or better or ENGL 1302 with a “C” or better. (3:0).**

### II. Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of this course, The American Government student will be able to:

- A. Explain the importance of reading for background information, preparing for class using out-of-class time, and listening for pertinent class material as presented by the instructor.
- B. Express verbally or in writing an understanding of the vocabulary, political concepts, and political values as pertains to the American political system.
- C. Express verbally or in writing an understanding of the intellectual and political foundations of the federal system.
- D. Express verbally or in writing an understanding of the major components and structure of the American governmental system (executive, legislative, and judiciary) and describe the processes that are used to govern.
- E. Express verbally and in writing an understanding of the political dynamics of parties, interest groups, and the bureaucracy and the interaction of those institutions with the American governmental structure.
- F. Express verbally or in writing an understanding of the political policies and outcomes based on the Bill of Rights, civil law, foreign and domestic policy, monetary policies, and public opinion.

### III. THECB Learning Outcomes (ACGM)

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.

#### **IV. Evaluation**

Students may be evaluated using various techniques not limited to but may include testing and examinations, research papers, community projects, extra credit and other written and electronic assignments.

American Government has a College Level Examination Program (CLEP) challenge exam available for those students who wish to gain credit through examination. Check with an academic Counselor to sign up for this exam.

- A. Grading will follow current EPCC catalog standards. The assignment of letter grades to numerical or percentage scores is to be determined by the Instructor and is noted in Part I of the Syllabus.

Grade Scale:

A = Excellent	I = Incomplete (See current college catalog)
B = Above Average	W = Withdrew or withdrawn (See current college catalog)
C = Average	
D = Below average	
F = Failing	

- B. Attendance Policy: Unless noted otherwise by the Instructor (Syllabus, Part I), the current college catalog policy on Attendance and Course Pursuit will apply to this course.

#### **V. Disability Statement (Americans with Disabilities Act [ADA])**

EPCC offers a variety of services to persons with documented sensory, mental, physical, or temporary disabling conditions to promote success in classes. If you have a disability and believe you may need services, you are encouraged to contact the Center for Students with Disabilities to discuss your needs with a counselor. All discussions and documentation are kept confidential. Offices located: VV Rm C-112 (831-2426); TM Rm 1400 (831-5808); RG Rm B-201 (831-4198); NWC Rm M-54 (831-8815); and MDP Rm A-125 (831-7024)

#### **VI. 6 Drop Rule**

Students who began attending Texas public institutions of higher education for the first time during the Fall 2007 semester or later are subject to a 6-Drop limit for all undergraduate classes. Developmental, ESL, Dual Credit and Early College High School classes are exempt from this rule. All students should consult with their instructor before dropping a class. Academic assistance is available. Students are encouraged to see Counseling Services if dropping because exemptions may apply. Refer to the EPCC catalog and website for additional information.