

**El Paso Community College**  
**Syllabus**  
**Part II**  
**Official Course Description**

<b>SUBJECT AREA</b>	<b>Government</b>								
<b>COURSE RUBRIC AND NUMBER</b>	<b>GOVT 2305</b>								
<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	<b>American Government and Politics (C)</b>								
<b>COURSE CREDIT HOURS</b>	<table border="0" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>3</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>3</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>:</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>0</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>Credits</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>Lec</b></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>Lab</b></td> </tr> </table>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Lec</b>		<b>Lab</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>:</b>	<b>0</b>						
<b>Credits</b>	<b>Lec</b>		<b>Lab</b>						

**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: 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 origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States.
- B. Demonstrate knowledge of the federal system.
- C. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice.
- D. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government.
- E. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in the political system.
- F. Analyze the election process.
- G. Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
- H. Analyze issues and policies in U.S. politics.
- I. Demonstrate **critical thinking skills** by engaging in creative thinking, innovation, and inquiry, and demonstrate analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- J. Demonstrate effective written, oral, and/or visual **communication skills**.
- K. Demonstrate **social responsibility skills** through intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and/or the ability to engage effectively in local, regional, national, and/or global communities.

- L. Demonstrate **personal responsibility skills** through the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.

### 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  
B = Above Average  
C = Average  
D = Below average  
F = Failing

I = Incomplete (See current college catalog)  
W = Withdrew or withdrawn (See current college catalog)

- 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.

**VII. Title IX and Sex Discrimination**

Title 9 (20 U.S.C. 1681 & 34 C.F.R. Part 106) states the following "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) prohibits stalking, date violence, sexual violence, and domestic violence for all students, employees and visitors (male and female). If you have any concerns related to discrimination, harassment, or assault (of any type) you can contact the Assistant to the Vice President for Student and Enrollment Services at 915-831-2655. Employees can call the Manager of Employee Relations at 915-831-6458. Reports of sexual assault/violence may also be reported to EPCC Police at 915-831-2200.