



GOVT 2305 - Federal Government 401 Course Syllabus

Description

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.

Prerequisites TSI Reading complete

Credits 3

Lecture Hours 3

Lab Hours 0

Extended Hours 0

Contact Hours 48

State Approval Code 45.1002.51 25

Instructor Name Brian Naples

Semester/Year Spring 2025

Meeting Time and Location

GOVT 2305.401 meets online. Students are expected to spend at least 3-4 hours per week** reading, reviewing, and participating in assigned activities for successful completion of this course.

Alternate Operations During Campus Closure

In the event of an emergency or announced campus closure due to a natural disaster or pandemic, it may be necessary for Panola College to move to altered operations. During this time, Panola College may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include, but are not limited to: online learning management system (CANVAS), online conferencing, email messaging, and/or an alternate schedule. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor Panola College's website (www.panola.edu) for instructions about continuing courses remotely, CANVAS for each class for course-specific communication, and Panola College email for important general information.

Student Basic Needs

Unexpected circumstances may arise, but Panola College offers various resources to support students. If you need mental health services or are facing challenges with transportation, affording class materials and supplies, or accessing food regularly—issues that may impact your class performance—please visit panola.edu/resources.

Class Attendance

Regular and punctual attendance of classes and laboratories is required of all students. When a student has been ill or absent from class for approved extracurricular activities, he or she should be allowed, as far as possible, to make up for the missed work. If a student has not actively participated by the census date, they will be dropped by the instructor for non-attendance. This policy applies to courses that are in-person, online, hybrid, and hyflex.

Attendance in online courses is determined by submission of an assignment or participation in an activity. According to federal guidelines, simply logging into a distance learning course without participating in an academic assignment does not constitute attendance. Distance learning is defined as when a majority (more than 50%) of instruction occurs when the instructor and students are in separate physical locations. Students must engage in an academic activity prior to the course census date.

When an instructor feels that a student has been absent to such a degree as to invalidate the learning experience, the instructor may recommend to the Vice President of Instruction that the student be withdrawn from the course. Instructors may seek to withdraw students for non-attendance after they have accumulated the following number of absences:

Fall or spring semesters:

3 or more class meeting times per week - 5 absences

2 class meeting times per week - 3 absences

1 class meeting per week - 2 absences

The student is responsible for seeing that he or she has been officially withdrawn from a class. A student who stops attendance in a class without officially withdrawing from that class will be given a failing grade; consequently, the student must follow official withdrawal procedures in the Admissions/Records Office.

Please note: Health Science and Cosmetology courses may require more stringent attendance policies based on their accreditation agencies. Please see the addendum and/or program handbook for further information concerning attendance.

Pregnant/Parenting Policy

Panola College welcomes pregnant and parenting students as a part of the student body. This institution is committed to providing support and adaptations for a successful educational experience for pregnant and parenting students. Students experiencing a need for accommodations related to pregnancy or parenting will find a Pregnancy and Parenting Accommodations Request form in the Student Handbook or may request the form from the course instructor.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Course Policy

AI is a helpful tool for research; therefore, it may be used by students for research purposes. However, the goal of this course is for students to gain a particular set of skills and knowledge, as stated in the instructional goals, learning outcomes, and course content of this syllabi. Students who use AI for an easy/quick grade (regardless of the assignment type) rather than the acquisition of skill and knowledge are hindering their academic growth. Consequently, the instructor, whose expertise is the basis for assessing student development, reserves the right to change a student's grade on any work, provably or suspiciously related to AI, which is inconsistent with these goals. In cases of disputed grades, an instructor may require students to repeat their performance on a course assignment in a controlled environment and without the use of AI to demonstrate their true acquisition of course skills and knowledge. The refusal or failure to repeat the performance shall be considered the acceptance of the originally assessed grade.

Instructional Goals and Purposes

The purpose of this course is to serve as an introduction into the American political system.

Learning Outcomes

After studying all materials and resources presented in the course, the student will be able to:

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.

Course Content

A general description of lecture/discussion topics included in this course are listed in the Learning Outcomes section of this syllabus.

Students in all sections of this course will learn the following content:

- Theories and Types of Government
- The U.S. Constitution
- Federalism
- Political Parties, Voting, and Elections

- The Three Branches of Government
- Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
- Political Economy
- U.S. Foreign Policy

Methods of Instruction/Course Format/Delivery

This class will convey the course material through lectures, discussions, primary/secondary documents have guest speakers, instructional videos, and PowerPoint presentations. Reciprocally, students are expected to take notes, listen proactively, ask questions, conduct research, and read the textbook.

Video and Audio Recordings: At the instructor's discretion, students are welcome to make audio recordings of the class lectures for their personal study use. They are invited to place their cell phones or other devices on the podium for the recordings at the start of class. The instructor reserves the right to make audio and video recordings of all classes and any personal encounters with students. Class recordings may be used on Canvas or other internet platforms for educational purposes. Personal recordings will be kept private per FERPA and only be used in cases of an appeal/legal defense.

Major Assignments/Assessments

The following items are assigned and assessed during the semester and used to calculate the student's final grade.

Assignments

The following items will be assigned and assessed during the semester and used to calculate the student's final grade.

Assignments

1. **Exams:** Exams will be administered over assigned readings and lecture material. The number and style of the exams may vary based on the instructor and the length of the course. The exams will measure a student's comprehension of the course material.
2. **Assignments:** Routine work assignments will be administered during the semester. The assignments will cover the course materials, such as readings, lectures, videos, etc. The number and style of assignments will vary based on the length of the semester and the individual instructor. Collectively, the assignments make up a main portion of the final grade as they ensure students are engaged in the course.
3. **Attendance:** This course adheres to the college attendance policy found in the student handbook. Excessive absences "invalidate the learning experience" and may result in a student being withdrawn from the college course and given a failing grade.
4. **Make-up Work:** The instructor has full discretion on the allowance of make-up work for missed assignments, including exams. Make-up work will only be given for serious causes, such as medical emergencies or family death. The instructor may require documentation as proof of the cause and has full discretion on when to schedule make-up work. Students should be aware that internet/power outages typically do not count as a "serious cause" since most work is available for completion for several days.

Extra Credit: The instructor reserves the right to extend extra credit assignments to the class. Extra credit is not a part of the regular class grade. It is offered solely at the discretion and goodwill of the instructor.

Assessments

Assessment(s):

1. Students must demonstrate their dedication to being responsible citizens by completing the United States Citizenship Exam.
2. Students must demonstrate their ability to think critically about government by passing a quiz concerning the checks and balances of government.
3. Students must demonstrate their ability to reasonably communicate ideas about current political issues by participating in a class discussion.
4. Students must demonstrate their personal responsibility by regularly attending class throughout the semester.

Course Grade

The grading scale for this course is as follows:

- Exams: 50%
- Assignments: 50%
- Attendance: Students must attend/complete 80% of the course to receive a passing grade.

Grade Distribution

- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69
- F = 59 or below

Texts Materials, and Supplies

Texts, Materials, and Supplies:

- All the required materials for this course are provided to the students in Canvas at no cost.

Required Readings

Required materials for this course are provided

Recommended Readings

Recommended Readings:

- All recommended readings are provided in Canvas at no cost to the students.

Other

- Courses conducted via video conferencing may be recorded and shared for instructional purposes by the instructor.
- For current texts and materials, use the following link to access bookstore listings: <https://www.panolacollegestore.com>.
- For testing services, use the following link: <https://www.panola.edu/student-services/student-support/academic-testing-center>.
- If any student in this class has special classroom or testing needs because of a physical learning or emotional condition, please contact the ADA Student Coordinator in Support Services located in the Charles C. Matthews Student Center or go to <https://www.panola.edu/student-services/student-support/disability-support-services> for more information.
- Withdrawing from a course is the student's responsibility. Students who do not attend class and who do not withdraw will receive the grade earned for the course.
- Student Handbook: <https://www.panola.edu/> (located on at the bottom under student)