**Course Syllabus**

**GOVT 2305 - Federal Government**

**Revision Date: 1/13/2016**

**Catalog 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.

Lecture hours = 3, Lab hours = 0  
Prerequisites: None  
Semester Credit Hours: 3  
Contact Hours per Semester: 48  
State Approval Code: 45.1002.51 25

**Core Components and Related College Student Learning Outcomes**  
This course counts as part of the academic requirements of the Panola College Core Curriculum and an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree. ☑ Yes ☐ No: If no, skip to Instructional Goals.

The items below marked with an X reflect the state-mandated outcomes for this course IF this is a CORE course:

- ☑ Critical Thinking Skills – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation and syntheses of information  
  - ☑ CT1: Generate and communicate ideas by combining, changing, or reapplying existing information  
  - ☐ CT2: Gather and assess information relevant to a question  
  - ☐ CT3: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information

- ☑ Communication Skills – to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication  
  - ☑ CS1: Develop, interpret, and express ideas through written communication  
  - ☐ CS2: Develop, interpret, and express ideas through oral communication  
  - ☐ CS3: Develop, interpret, and express ideas through visual communication

- ☐ Empirical and Quantitative Skills – to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions  
  - ☐ EQS1: Manipulate and analyze numerical data and arrive at an informed conclusion  
  - ☐ EQS2: Manipulate and analyze observable facts and arrive at an informed conclusion

- ☐ Teamwork – to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with
Instructors may weigh the grades within the percentages provided here.

A student’s performance in this course will be assessed according to the following:

**Instructional Goals and Purposes:**
The purpose of this course is to serve as an introduction into the American political system.

**Learning Outcomes: [from the ACGM catalog]**
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:**
Students in all sections of this course will learn the following content:

1. Evolution of the constitution
2. Structure of the constitution
3. Essential ideas and people at constitutional convention
4. Background of constitutional amendments and landmark Supreme Court decisions
5. Political style employed in campaigns
6. Electoral Politics and campaigning
7. The Press and Political socialization
8. Major Political ideologies
10. Legislative Process
11. Political Action Committees, Lobbyists, Interest Groups
12. Process and function of the federal judiciary, including the Supreme Court
13. Historical background of the presidency, as well as responsibilities, and powers of the office
14. The executive branch beyond the scope of the presidency

**Methods of Instruction/Course Format/Delivery:**
Lectures / In class and online discussions / Web based research / Note taking and proactive listening / Guest speakers / Examination of relevant current events / Inspection of primary and secondary documents / Instructional videos / PowerPoint presentations / Textbook reading assignments

**Assessment and Grade Distribution:**
A student’s performance in this course will be assessed according to the following: *(Note: the individual instructors may weigh the grades within the percentages provided here)*

1. Exams: Exams will make up the majority of the course grade.
2. Term Paper: A term paper will be assigned by the instructor during the semester.
3. Assignments: Assignments will consist of quizzes, online discussions, class presentations, and other forms of at-home assignments deemed appropriate by the instructor.

4. Attendance: Attendance will be taken regardless of the weight on the final grade. A lack of attendance may result in the dismissal of the student from the class in accord with college policy. 

Extra credit may be offered (on an equal basis to all class participants) by the instructor at his/her discretion. Student participation in extra credit activities must be properly documented. Extra credit is not a part of the regular class grade and may not be relied upon or demanded by the student to pass the class. It is offered solely at the discretion and good-will of the instructor.

Grade Distribution

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

Class Policies

Each department instructor shall define all class policies, assignment/assessment details, and class procedures not defined herein. All class policies shall be in accord with the college handbook, state, and federal law.

Texts, Materials, and Supplies:

2. Other readings / articles may be distributed at the instructor’s discretion.

Other:

- For current texts and materials, use the following link to access bookstore listings: http://www.panolacollegestore.com
- For testing services, use the following link: http://www.panola.edu/elearning/testing.html
- 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 Administration Building or go to http://www.panola.edu/student-success/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.