

**GOVERNMENT 2305**  
**TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE**  
**Spring 2017**

INSTRUCTOR: Harry Kershaw

Office: B.215  
Phone: 230-3333

TEXT: Course materials are available at the Brazosport College bookstore, on campus or online at [www.brazosport.edu/bookstore](http://www.brazosport.edu/bookstore). A student of this institution is not under any obligation to purchase a text from the college bookstore. The same text may be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

Recommended Text: Wilson, James Q. American Government: Institutions and Policies. Boston, Mass., Cengage Learning, 2014 Ed. ISBN 9781305109001

COURSE           The following topics will be covered in this course:  
CONTENT:       1. Introduction  
                  2. United States Constitution – Origin and Development  
                  3. Federalism  
                  4. National Governmental structure – Legislative, Executive and Judicial Branches  
                  5. Political Participation and Electoral Process  
                  6. Civil Liberties: 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment freedoms, equality under the law, due process

MAJOR EXAMS : There will be three major exams plus the Final Exam. These exams will include both objective and discussion items. The Final is not comprehensive. The lowest of the four exam grades will be dropped

OUTSIDE       **Each student will be required to complete one of the following papers:**  
PAPERS

1. Book Review – Read and review a book written by or about an American President of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. (Theodore Roosevelt thru Bill Clinton). Prepare a review of the book containing the following:
  - a. author's thesis
  - b. a brief summary of the book
  - c. your analysis/evaluation of the book – this part of the paper should be emphasized
2. Prepare an essay evaluating the first three months of the Trump presidency, what he is calling the "First Hundred Days". Discuss key issues and actions taken during this period of time. Do you feel that President Trump is making good on the positions he took during his successful run for the White House? This is a position paper – support and defend your views on these key issues. Include a list of your sources.

GRADING: The final course grade will be computed in the following manner:

Three exams ..... 75%  
Paper ..... 25%

PART I: Introduction, Constitutionalism, Federalism.

Exam #1: Mon-Wed classes = Mon, February 6  
Tues-Thur classes = Thurs, February 2

PART II: National Governmental Structure and Federalism – Congress.  
Political Participation. Election Process

Exam #2: Mon-Wed classes = Wed, March 1  
Tues-Thur classes = Thurs, March 2

PART III: National Governmental Structure (continued) – Executive & Judicial Branches

Exam #3: Mon-Wed classes = Wed, April 5  
Tues-Thur classes = Thurs, April 6

PART IV: Civil Liberties, 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment Freedoms, Equality under the Law, Due Process

- **Papers due on or before Friday, April 28**
- **FINAL Exams: Begin Thursday, May 4**
- **Grades due Wednesday, May 10, 3:00 PM**

**Regarding Academic Honesty:**

Brazosport College assumes that students eligible to perform on the college level are familiar with the ordinary rules governing proper conduct including academic honesty. The principle of academic honesty is that all work presented by you is yours alone. Academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion shall be treated appropriately. Please refer to the Brazosport College Student Guide for more information. This is available online at <http://www.brazosport.edu>.

Academic dishonesty violates both the policies of this course and the Student Code of Conduct. In this class, any occurrence of academic dishonesty will be referred to the Dean of Student Services for prompt adjudication, and may, at a minimum, result in failure in this course. Sanctions may be imposed beyond your grade in this course by the Dean of Student Services.

**Regarding Students with Disabilities:**

Brazosport College is committed to providing equal education opportunities to every student. BC offers services for individuals with special needs and capabilities including counseling, tutoring, equipment, and software to assist students with special needs. Please contact Phil Robertson, Special Populations Counselor, 979-230-3236 for further information.