

El Paso Community College/Andress High School Syllabus

Instructor's Course Requirements

Govt. 2305–American Government and Politics–Fall 2011

I. Instructor Information

Instructor: David Hohnholt	Phone Messages: 915-526-4237
Email: dhohnhol@episd.org	Class Location: Room C320
Office Hrs: 5 th and 3 rd Periods	Website: www.roomC320.com

II. Text and Materials

Required Textbook: O'Connor, Karen, et al., *Essentials of American Government: Roots and Reform* (2009 ed.) Pearson/Longman Publishers, New York, New York

Course Description and Objectives: See attached Syllabus Course Official Description

III. Course Requirements

Course Structure

This is a lecture and discussion based class. You are expected to read the assigned chapters prior to class, and be ready with questions and answers to discuss. Quizzes over the assigned chapters are designed to ensure that students are keeping up with the reading.

You will need a three-subject spiral notebook to record your answers to assigned chapter questions, lecture notes, and article reflections.

Course Grading: Your course will be determined by the following weighted average:

Grade Category (Nine Weeks Grade)	Grade Weight
Exams	45%
Quizzes	20%
Participation	15%
Assignments	25%

Semester Grade	Weight
1 st Nine Weeks	45%
2 nd Nine Weeks	45%
Final Exam	10%

IV. Instructor's Policies

Attendance

Your participation grade will reflect your commitment to being in class on time, the level of engagement during lectures, and your participation in class discussions. You must sign in upon entering the classroom.

Exams

Each exam will cover 2-3 chapters of the text as well as any articles that were discussed in class. The tests will be multiple-choice with a few essay questions. Plan on three tests per nine weeks. Remember, each test is worth 45% of your total grade for the nine weeks, so please take these tests very seriously.

One may miss an exam only for extreme and documented circumstances. Make-up exams will be allowed only for documented emergencies, and then, only at my discretion. Do not rely on being able to make up an exam if you miss the exam. If a make-up is allowed, the make-up exam will be given the first day that the student is able to return to our class.

Discussions

It is expected that all students be engaged in classroom discussions. Please maintain proper discussion etiquette at all times. This means one person talks at a time, and we do not interrupt each other. Disagreement is welcome and expected, but you must be courteous in your critiques.

Quizzes

Expect quizzes at the beginning of every day, although I may not give one every day. Quizzes will be over the chapter material assigned for that week. I will drop the lowest quiz grade. If you are tardy when I begin the quiz, you will receive a zero for that quiz.

Notebook

You will need to buy a three-subject spiral notebook for notes, reflections, and to answer the chapter questions that are assigned. You must write neatly to receive full credit. This notebook will be turned in and graded each week.

Tardies

Tardies will be recorded in the sign-in binder. Upon the third tardy, a referral to the office will be generated. Tardies will result in lost participation points and possible zeros on quizzes. Please be sure to be on time.

Withdrawing from Class: It is the student's responsibility to drop the class if circumstances warrant. Please see the EPCC class schedule for this semester for the deadline to withdraw from a class.

Disability Services

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 are located at: VV Rm C-112 (831-2426); RG Rm B-201 (831-4198) NWC Rm M-54 (831-8815) and MDP Rm A-125 (831-7024).

Code of Conduct

All forms of academic misconduct and cheating are prohibited and will result in an automatic grade of zero for the relevant exam, discussion or assignment as well as referral of the student to the College's disciplinary system.

Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, any of the following actions in this course:

1. cheating or knowingly assisting another student in committing an act of cheating or other form of academic dishonesty;
2. plagiarism, which includes, but is not necessarily limited to, submitting examinations, processed materials, or other material as one's own work when all or part of such work has been in any way prepared by another person or copied from another person;
3. unauthorized possession of examinations or examination questions or answers (examinations and examination questions may not be kept or duplicated by any student), reserve library material, or instructor material;
4. unauthorized changing of answers or grades on an examination, in an instructor's grade book, or on a grade sheet or report; or unauthorized access to computer records; and
5. non-disclosure or misrepresentation in filling out any request for information, application, or other university record in, or for, any academic departments or colleges.

Class Guidelines

1. Complete Assignments Timely: Tardy assignments will lose one letter grade each day the assignment is later.
2. Do Not Engage in Academic Misconduct: Students may not cheat on exams, submit written work that is not their own, plagiarize, or keep or copy examinations or examination questions or answers.

V. Calendar

A course schedule is below

Government 2305 Schedule			
Class Week	Topic	Exams, Assignments, and Discussion Due Dates	Reading Due For This Week
Week 1 8/22-8/26	Course Introduction	Review syllabus acquire textbook	"Death by Government" Chapter 1
Week 2 8/20-9/02	The Political Landscape		Chapter 1 & 2
Week 3 9/05-9/09	Decl. of Ind.; Fed. Papers; Constitution		Chapter 2 Appendix pp 436-45
Week 4	Federalism	Exam 1 Exam covers	Chapter 3

		chapters 1-3 and assigned readings.		
Week 5				
9/26-9/29	Civil Liberties		Chapter 4	
Week 6				
10/3-10/07	Civil Rights		Chapter 5	
Week 7		Exam 2		
10/10-10/14	Congress	Chapters 4-6	Chapter 6	
Week 8	The Presidency Executive Branch and Federal Bureaucracy			
10/17-10/21			Chapter 7 & 8	
Week 9		Nine Weeks Test		
10/24-10/28		Parent/Teacher Conference (26 th)		
Week 10				
10/31-11/04	The Judiciary		Chapter 9	
Week 11		Exam over chapters 7-10		
11/7-11/11	Public Opinion and the News Media;		Chapters 10	
Week 12	Political Parties and Interest Groups Voting, Elections, and Campaigns			
11/14-11/18			Chapter 11 & 12	
Week 13				
11/28-12/02	Social and Economic Policy		Chapter 13	
Week 14		Exam over chapters 11-14		
12/5-12/09	Foreign and Defense Policy		Chapter 14	
Week 15				
12/12-12/16		Final Exam		

Disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to revise the course syllabus and course outline if necessary. Notice of any changes to the syllabus and course outline will be given via email, should the need arise.