

# TOMBALL COLLEGE

A NORTH HARRIS MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Technology, Business, and Social Sciences Division

## AMERICAN GOVERNMENT: National, State, and Local I

<b>Course Title:</b>	American Government: National, State, and Local I
<b>Course/Section Number</b>	2301/30004
<b>Credit Hours/Contact Hours</b>	3 semester credit hours/48 instructional contact hours
<b>Prerequisites</b>	Must meet college level reading scores 3 hrs. lec.
<b>Semester and Year</b>	Summer 2004
<b>Instructor</b>	Roy Edward Casagranda
<b>Class days and times</b>	MTWTh: 12:40-2:50
<b>Class Room Location</b>	WC 208
<b>Office Location</b>	S153J
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Before and after class and by appointment
<b>Office Phone:</b>	281-357-3741
<b>e-mail</b>	<a href="mailto:Roy.E.Casagranda@nhmccd.edu">Roy.E.Casagranda@nhmccd.edu</a>

*The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter.*

Winston Churchill

### COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Ø Explore the theoretical reasons for the existence of government.
- Ø Explain the historical development of the US government.
- Ø Discuss the origins and effects of the constitution.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

O'Connor, Sabato, Haag, & Keith; *AMERICAN GOVERNMENT: CONTINUITY AND CHANGE* (2004)

**EVALUATION:**

There will be three major exams in this course. No make up exams will be given. Should you miss a test your grade will be based on the other tests.

REQUIREMENT	PERCENT OF FINAL AVERAGE
EXAM 1	15%
EXAM 2	30%
EXAM 3	45%
PARTICIPATION/QUIZZES	10%

**LETTER GRADE ASSIGNMENT:**

Final letter grades will be assigned after determining total points earned, computing individual final averages in percent as follows:

Final Grade Scale	Letter Grade
90 – 100	A
80 – 89	B
70 – 79	C
60 – 69	D
0 – 59	F

Fifty percent of each exam will be taken directly from the assigned readings and current events, and the remaining fifty percent will come from the lectures.

**CURRENT EVENTS:**

Students are required to keep up with current events through the broadcast or print media (see [www.casagrande.com](http://www.casagrande.com) for a list of internet media links) and will be required to discuss these events in a meaningful way. Failure to identify important current events could harm your classroom participation grade.

**QUIZZES:**

Periodically unannounced quizzes will be given to assess the level of understanding of required readings and current events. There will be no make up quizzes.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

It is the responsibility of each student to obtain the lecture notes from another student. Attendance and participation in all classes is expected. Do not come to class late. Missing class will harm your participation grade, (even if you miss an exam). The professor reserves the right to drop any student absent three or more times.

**WITHDRAWAL POLICY:**

Withdrawal from the course after the “official day of record” will result in a final grade of “W” on the student transcript and no credit will be awarded for the course. Prior to the official withdrawal date, it is the student’s responsibility to initiate a course withdrawal request.

**TENTATIVE LECTURE SCHEDULE:**

<b><u>SECTION I: ORIGINS OF THE US POLITICAL SYSTEM</u></b>
<b>(O’Connor, et al. Chapters 2, 3, 4, appendix 1, &amp; appendix 2)</b>
Origins of government
Democratic Theory
Causes for civil society
Origins of the US Constitution
Federalism
<b>Test # 1: June 14, 2004</b>
<b><u>SECTION II: THE ELECTORAL PROCESS</u></b>
<b>(O’Connor, et al. Chapters 11, 13, 14, 15, &amp; Appendix 3)</b>
Single Member District Representation
Proportional Representation
Public Opinion
Media
The Electoral College
Political Parties
<b>Test # 2: June 23, 2004</b>
<b><u>SECTION III: IDEOLOGY</u></b>
<b>(O’Connor, et al. Chapters 1, 12, &amp; 16)</b>
Capitalism
Marxism, socialism, communism
Fascism
Conservative Ideology
Liberalism
Mill, Calhoun
Malcolm X
Contract theory
<b>Final: July 7, 2004</b>

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

NHMCDD is committed to a high standard of academic integrity in the academic community. In becoming a part of the academic community, students are responsible for honesty and independent effort. Failure to uphold these standards includes, but is not limited to, the following:

plagiarizing written work or projects, cheating on exams or assignments, collusion on an exam or project, and misrepresentation of credentials or prerequisites when registering for a course. Cheating includes looking at or copying from another student's exam, orally communicating or receiving answers during an exam, having another person take an exam or complete a project or assignment, using unauthorized notes, texts, or other materials for an exam, and obtaining or distributing an unauthorized copy of an exam or any part of an exam. Plagiarism means passing off as his/her own the ideas or writings of another (that is, without giving proper credit by documenting sources). Plagiarism includes submitting a paper, report or project that someone else has prepared, in whole or in part. Collusion is inappropriately collaborating on assignments designed to be completed independently. These definitions are not exhaustive. When there is clear evidence of cheating, plagiarism, collusion or misrepresentation, a faculty member will take disciplinary action including but not limited to: requiring the student to retake or resubmit an exam or assignment, assigning a grade of zero or "F" for an exam or assignment; or assigning a grade of "F" for the course. Additional sanctions including being withdrawn from the course, program or expelled from school may be imposed on a student who violates the standards of academic integrity.

**CARDINAL RULES OF UNDERSTANDING GOVERNMENT:**

1. Informal things are at least as important as the formal.
2. Structure affects Process affects Outcomes.
3. Coercion is weakness and persuasion is strength.
4. Nothing is as it appears to be.

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

A survey of national, state, and local government, including such topics as the U.S. and Texas Constitutions; democratic theory; federalism; political culture, political socialization, and public opinion; political participation and electoral behavior; political parties and interest groups; press; and local government. These phenomena are examined at the national, state, and local levels with an emphasis placed on linkages with the formulation of public policy. This course satisfies state requirements for teacher certification in Texas. (4510025125)



**ADA STATEMENT:**

The NHMCCD colleges are dedicated to providing the least restrictive learning environment for all students. The college district promotes equity in academic access through the implementation of reasonable accommodations as required by the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title V, Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) which will enable students with disabilities to participate in and benefit from all post-secondary educational activities.

If you require reasonable accommodations because of a physical, mental, or learning disability, please notify the instructor of this course as soon as possible and preferably before the end of the first two weeks of class to arrange for reasonable accommodations.

**GUARANTEED GRADUATE POLICY:**

North Harris Montgomery Community College District guarantees that graduates of its Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, or Associate of Applied Science and all Certificate programs, providing under certain circumstances, additional education and training tuition free to students lacking appropriate mastery of specified competencies. For additional information, refer to the NHMCCD college catalog.

**SOFTWARE PIRACY:**

Law strictly prohibits unauthorized copying of software purchased by Tomball College for use in laboratories. Tomball College administration will take appropriate disciplinary action against anyone violating copyright laws.

**COMPUTER VIRUS PROTECTION:**

Computer viruses are, unfortunately, a fact of life. Using the diskettes on more than one computer creates the possibility of infecting computers and diskettes with a computer virus. This exposes the computers of the college, your personal computer, and any others you may be using to potentially damaging viruses. The college has aggressive anti-virus procedures in place to protect its computers, but cannot guarantee that a virus might not temporarily infect one of its machines. It is your responsibility to protect all computers under your control and use and ensure that each diskette you use, whenever or wherever you use it, has been scanned with anti-virus software. Since new viruses arise continually, your anti-virus software must be kept current. And, since no anti-virus software will find every virus, keeping copies of data (backups) is extremely important.

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT:**

It is the policy of the North Harris Montgomery Community College District to provide equal employment, admission and educational opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

NHMCCD Colleges strive to provide an excellent learning environment free from harassment or intimidation directed at any person's race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability. Any form of harassment will not be tolerated.