



## Instructor contact information

**Instructor:** Patrick Knock

**Office Phone:** (281) 656-1244

**Office:**

**Office Hours:** By Appointment  
(or hours of availability)

**E-mail:** Patrick.a.knock@lonestar.edu

**Website:** [www.pknock.com](http://www.pknock.com)

**Department/Division Contact:** John A. Duerk, Ph.D. Interim Chair, Government Department,  
ART113-T, (281)290-3580, [john.a.duerk@lonestar.edu](mailto:john.a.duerk@lonestar.edu)

## Welcome to

**Course Title:** Federal Government

**Term and Year:** Fall 2017

**Course Subject:** GOVT

**Course Number:** 2305-5027  
2305-5029

**Class Days & Times:** TTH 4:30-5:50pm  
TTH 6:30-7:50pm

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Lecture Hours:** 3

**Class Room Location:** Casa Rm 214

**Lab Hours:** 0

**External Hours:** 0

**Total Contact Hours:** 48  
(All hrs. x 16)

## Course overview

### **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.

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

- | Explain the origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States.
- | Demonstrate knowledge of the federal system.
- | Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice.
- | Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government.
- | Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in the political system.
- | Analyze the election process.
- | Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
- | Analyze issues and policies in U.S. politics.

In our efforts to prepare students for a changing world, students may be expected to utilize computer technology while enrolled in classes, certificate, and/or degree programs within LSCS.

The specific requirements are listed below:

Online quizzes, online assignment submissions, Microsoft Word document submissions, Powerpoint or prezi presentation creation.

## Getting ready

**Prerequisites:** Prerequisite: ENGL 0305 or ENGL 0365 AND ENGL 0307 or ENGL 0375 OR higher level course (ENGL 1301) OR placement by testing

**Co-requisites:** None

**Required Material:** Marone & Kersh BY THE PEOPLE Debating American Government, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Oxford University Press

**Optional Materials or Reference Texts:** Readings will be assigned during class and provided online.

## Instructor guidelines and policies

**Attendance:** Attendance to all classes is expected. Should you anticipate an absence, please notify the instructor in advance. An excessive number of absences will prohibit the successful completion of this course. If you should miss a class, it is the student's responsibility to obtain lecture notes and assignments from a classmate.

**Assignments:** There will be a variety of assessments in this class including but not limited to; Exams, reading and vocabulary quizzes, writing assignments and presentations. All assignments are to be completed and submitted to the instructor on the scheduled due date. No late assignments will be accepted.

**Make-up Exams:** Students should contact the instructor prior to missing a scheduled examination by phone, in-person, by e-mail, or by voice mail. An opportunity to take an alternative examination will be offered to those who make prior contact with the instructor. All make-up exams will be administered in the Cy-Fair Assessment Center. The Final Exam may not be made up.

**Electronic devices:** Please turn off all personal electronic devices prior to entering the classroom, It is appreciated that you give your full attention to the lectures and discussions during class. If the instructor has a purpose for you to use such devices he will ask you to use your device.

**Department/Division Contact:** John A. Duerk, Ph.D. Interim Chair, Government Department,  
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**GRADE DETERMINATION:**

| Your grade will be determined by the following | Details   | Points (if applicable) | Percent of Final Average |
|--|---|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Exam Grades                                    | There will be 4 unit Exams during the Semester  |                        | 35                       |
| Presentations/Classwork/Quizzes                | There will be presentations during the semester. Quizzes will cover chapter reading, vocabulary, etc. |                        | 15                       |
| Short topic papers                             | There will be at least two 500 word papers due during the semester                                    |                        | 10                       |
| Semester policy paper                          | This is a research paper  |                        | 20                       |
| Final Exam                                     | This will be a comprehensive exam.  |                        | 20                       |
| Total:   |   |                        | 100%                     |

**LETTER GRADE ASSIGNMENT:**

| Letter Grade | Final Average in Percent |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| A            | 100-89.5                 |
| B            | 89.4-79.5                |
| C            | 79.4-69.5                |
| D            | 69.4-59.5                |
| F            | >59.5                    |

**Final Examinations**

A final evaluation activity will occur during the published final evaluation period. The appropriate dean **must** approve any variation to this schedule.

**Tentative Instructional Outline:**

| Week Number | Activities and Assignment                             | Objectives and Details   |
|-------------|---|--|
| 1           | Read Chapter 1 Spirit of America                      | Introduction of course, what types of govt are there?  |
|             | Intro essay about self and goals                      | Who are the American people what are our beliefs?  |
|             | Quiz on chapter 1 and lecture                         | Where are you on the political spectrum, what does it mean?  |
| 2           | Read Chapter 2 The Ideas shaping America              | What type of Democracy are we/Should we be   |
|             | Quiz  |  |
| 3           | Read Chapter 3 Constitution Quiz                      | Why did we go from being colonies to individual States?  |
|             | Why Independence, what would you declare independence | Understand what independence meant to the colonists.   |
|             | Read assigned federalist paper                        | Why are we no longer a Confederation, why a Constitution<br>What is different in the Constitution, is its order important? |

| Week Number | Activities and Assignment  | Objectives and Details   |
|-------------|--|--|
| 4           | Read Chapter 4 Federalism, Quiz  | Why do we have a Federal system and not a Unitary?   |
|             |  | What are the responsibilities of the different Governmental units                                  |
|             | Exam Unit 1 Chpts. 1-4   | How has the idea of Federalism changed over time   |
| 5           | Read Chapter 7 and 9   | What is Public opinion?  |
|             | Quiz   | What is the Media's role in our Govt.  |
| 6           | Read Chapters 11 and 12, Quiz  | What is a political Party?   |
|             | Revisit Federalist 10  | What are interest groups?  |
|             | Create an Interest Group or Political Party  | What's the difference?   |
| 7           | Read Chpts. 8 and 10, Quiz   | Campaigns and Voting Important?  |
| 8           | Exam Unit 2 Chapters 7-12  | Finish Political Unit  |
|             | Policy Paper Introduced  |  |
|             | Begin reading Chpts 17-18  |  |
| 9           | Read Chapter 13, Quiz  | Congress is the Lawmaking Branch is it supposed to be more powerful than the other two branches?   |
|             | Federalist paper   |  |
| 10          | Read Chpt. 14, Quiz  | The many Roles of the President, too many for 1 person?  |
|             | Continue reading 17-18   |  |
|             | Federalist Paper   |  |
| 11          | Read Chpt. 15, Quiz  | Bureaucracy yay!   |
|             | Exam Unit 3 Chpts 13-15  | Who actually operates Government   |
| 12          | Read Chapter 16, Quiz  | Federal Courts too powerful?   |
|             |  | Federalist Paper reading   |
| 13          | Read Chapter 5, Quiz   | Thanksgiving Holiday no class Thursday 11-23   |
|             |  | Civil Rights vs. Civil Liberties   |
|             |  | How are your freedoms protected?   |
| 14          | Read Chapter 6, Quiz   | Groups fighting for their freedoms, are we there yet?  |
| 15          | Exam Unit 4 Chpts. 16,5,& 6  | <b>Policy Paper due 12-8-17</b>  |
|             |  | Review for Final Exam  |
| 16          | Final Exam Schedule<br><a href="http://www.lonestar.edu/examsch">http://www.lonestar.edu/examsch</a> | <b>5027 Final Exam December 14, 2017 4:00pm</b><br><b>5029 Final Exam December 12, 2017 5:30pm</b> |

**Lone Star College-CyFair is committed to your success! One of our cultural beliefs is [Students Matter!](#)**

If you are experiencing challenges achieving your academic goals, please contact your advisor or instructor. Advisors can provide assistance with questions related to academics, while the Counseling office can assist with ADA accommodations and personal barriers. All concerns related to classroom instruction must first be addressed with the instructor.

### Evaluation of Instruction

Lone Star College-CyFair is committed to acting intentionally about student success. As part of its institutional effectiveness efforts, our instructors are assessed in several ways. For the continuous improvement of our instruction, all students are encouraged to provide input for each course they take each semester using the Course Evaluations Questionnaire, which can be accessed through your myLonestar account. This occurs approximately half way through your course, and you will be notified when surveys are available for completion. Instructions on how to access and complete the Course Evaluations Questionnaire can be found by logging into your [MyLoneStar Account](#) and clicking on the Quicklinks – “How To” Documents. The college deans review these evaluations each semester. Additionally, the deans and/or department chairs may visit each instructor’s class at some time during the semester to observe the instructional environment being provided and complete an assessment of the instructor.

### Withdrawal Policy

Withdrawal from the course after the official day of record and prior to the [“W” Day](#), (November 13, 2017) will result in a final grade of “W” on your transcript. You are strongly encouraged to meet with your professor prior to withdrawing from a course, to consider all options prior to withdrawing. No credit will be awarded for a course earning a “W.” If you stop attending class, you must withdraw at the registration office prior to “W” day. If you stop attending class and do not officially withdraw, you will receive an “F” for the course.

### Six Drop Rule

Students who enrolled in Texas public institutions of higher education as first-time college students during the Fall 2007 term or later are subject to section 51.907 of the Texas Education Code, which states that an institution of higher education may not permit a student to drop (withdraw with a grade of “W”) from more than six courses, including courses that a transfer student has previously dropped at other Texas public institutions of higher education that have already been counted against their [six drop limit](#). Each student should fully understand this drop limit before you drop any course. Please see a Counselor or Advisor in our Student Services area for additional information and assistance. **Dropping a transitional and/or ESOL course does not count against the six drop limit.**

## **Lone Star College-CyFair Campus Policies**

We encourage students to read the [Student Handbook](#) and [LSC Catalog](#) for a comprehensive list of policies and procedures.

### Student Behavior Expectations

*Students are expected to conduct themselves appropriately while on College property or in an online environment. Students may receive disciplinary action up to and including suspension, if they violate College rules, disrupt classes, or interfere with the opportunity of others to obtain an education. Students who pose a threat to the safety of others will be subject to immediate withdrawal from the classroom, campus environment, and/or online environment, as well as face subsequent criminal charges, as appropriate. Please refer to the [Student Code of Conduct](#) for additional information.*

## Academic Integrity

Lone Star College-CyFair 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, disciplinary action may include but is not limited to requiring you 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. For additional information, please read the [Academic Integrity Brochure](#).

## Academic Appeals

An academic appeal is a formal request by a student to change a grade or to challenge a penalty imposed for violations of standards of academic integrity such as plagiarism or cheating. Before a student brings an academic appeal, he or she should first meet with the instructor to request that a change be made. For additional information, please read the [Academic Complaint and Appeal Process](#).

## Student Absence on Religious Holy Days

The student must notify the faculty member in writing within the first 12 days of the semester of the intent to be absent due to a religious holy day. Under Texas Education Code 51.911, a student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time as established by the faculty member.

## Campus Safety and Security

Lone Star College is committed to maintaining the safety of the students, faculty, staff, and guests while visiting one of our campuses. To help ensure your safety during an emergency (safety, fire, severe weather, etc.), please follow the instructions of college officials. Safety information and resources may be found on the [Office of Emergency Management](#) website and are also posted in each classroom. In the event you wish to report an emergency, please contact the police at 281.290.5911 or utilize the red handled emergency phones located in classrooms.

The Texas Legislature enacted campus carry by passing Senate Bill 11, effective at LSC on August 1, 2017. Senate Bill 11, known as the "Campus Carry" law, amends Texas law to allow license holders to carry concealed handguns on college campuses. To carry a concealed handgun on LSC campuses, an individual must have a valid License to Carry issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety. LSC has established rules and regulations regarding enforcement of Campus Carry. Lone Star College prohibits concealed carry in some areas of LSC campuses. For more information about Campus Carry, visit the LSC [Campus Carry](#) website.

## Guidelines for Children of College Students

Children of students may not enter the classroom or lab areas. See [Board Policy Section II.D.2.04](#) for more information.

## Equal Opportunity Statement

Lone Star College is committed to the principle of equal opportunity in education and employment. Lone Star College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, disability, age, veteran status, sexual orientation, nationality or ethnicity in its programs and activities.

## FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), also known as the Buckley Amendment, was established to protect the privacy rights of all students and applies to any educational facility receiving federal funds. We cannot release certain information to another person without an [Authorization to Release Student Information Form](#).

## Library

The Lone Star College-CyFair Library is located in the Learning Commons building and contains informational resources for both college students and community members. Not only is the library an academic library, but it is also a branch of the Harris County Public Library. Librarians are professionally trained to assist students with any aspect of research, including using the library; locating and evaluating information sources; and citing information sources. Librarians are available to assist whenever the library is open. The Library contains over 125,000 books, online information databases, 185 computers, free wireless internet, and many more information/research related amenities to ensure student success.

## Academic Success Center (Barker Cypress Campus - Learning Commons - 2nd Floor)

The Academic Success Center (ASC) offers: [Tutoring](#): For all disciplines or 281.290.3279, The Science Center (LRNC 203), Math Center (LRNC 205) and the Writing Center (LRNC 208). Student success seminars are also offered throughout the semester.

## Academic Success Center Open Labs (TECH 104 & CASA 223)

The Academic Success Center Open Labs are quiet work and study areas available to all students. Students access the labs with their LSC ID card. The ASC Open Labs are available during extended hours during all semesters. Basic software assistance, access to Mac and PC computers loaded with courseware, printing, copying, and scanning are available in TECH 104 and CASA 223. For more information, please visit the [Academic Success website](#) or contact 281.290.5980 or [cfasclabs@lonestar.edu](mailto:cfasclabs@lonestar.edu).

## Counseling Services

Counseling services are available to students who are experiencing difficulty with academic issues, selection of college major, career planning, disability accommodations, or personal issues. Students may contact [Counseling, Career, and Disability Services](#) at 281.290.3260, email: [CyFair.Counseling@lonestar.edu](mailto:CyFair.Counseling@lonestar.edu) or stop by CASA 109 to make an appointment.

Students may contact counseling services at the Fairbanks Center or Cypress Center. The Fairbanks Center contact is 832.782.5110, email; [Fairbanks.counselor@lonestar.edu](mailto:Fairbanks.counselor@lonestar.edu), or FBC120. The Cypress Center contact is 832.920.5029, [Lolita.B.Page@lonestar.edu](mailto:Lolita.B.Page@lonestar.edu), or CYC, or 100B.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act Statement (Disability Services)**

Lone Star College- CyFair is dedicated to providing the least restrictive environment for all students. We promote equity in academic access through the implementation of reasonable accommodations as required by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title V, Sections 504 and 508, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and the Americans with Disabilities Amendment Act (ADAAA). These laws enable students with disabilities to participate in and benefit from all post-secondary educational courses and activities.

A student requesting accommodations for a disability must contact the Counseling/Disability Services Office and register for services. The Assistive Technology Lab is available for students who benefit from its various technologies to convert text to speech, magnify items, convert text to Braille, etc. after their accommodations have been determined by the Counseling office. If possible, the student requesting services should make an initial contact with the office at least 4 weeks prior to the start of the first class. Any disability related documentation and requests for assistive technology should be submitted to the Disability Services office, which is located on the LSC-CyFair campus in CASA 109. You may contact Stephanie Dillon, Disability Services Counselor, at 281-290-3260 or 281-290-3533 or [Stephanie.g.dillon@lonestar.edu](mailto:Stephanie.g.dillon@lonestar.edu) for additional information and/or to schedule an appointment. Additional information may be accessed online at <http://www.lonestar.edu/disability-services.htm>

### **Syllabus Disclaimer**

It is the instructor's right to modify the class schedule when necessary and cover course topics as he/she feels is necessary to meet the learning outcomes, therefore this syllabus is subject to change.