Instructor: Keith Hidalgo
Office Location: Office SAA-142 (New building)
Office phone: 481-8300 extension 3399
Office hours: M-Th 0915-1030
Email: khidalgo@howardcollege.edu
Prerequisites: None
Class Meeting Times/Dates: August 24-December 11
409/419 – ONLINE
LV4 – 10:45am-11:35am; LV5 – 11:45am-12:35pm
400 – M/W 8:00am-9:15am

I. Course Description:
This course is a study of 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.

II. Instructional Materials:

III. Course Requirements:
- Research Projects: Each student will present their research as presentation using Microsoft PowerPoint, or written essay paper, as assigned. Research will cover topics assigned by the instructor in the area of the policy issues or structure of the federal government. All topics must be approved by the instructor. Late projects will result in an automatic letter grade deduction for the project. Plagiarism or failure to turn in a research project will result in a ZERO grade.
- Examinations: Classes will complete 3 course examinations. The examinations will be some combination of short answer, multiple choice, and essay.
- Quizzes: Online classes complete chapter quizzes. Face to face classes conduct chapter discussions.

IV. Program Outcomes:
1. Critical Thinking Skills to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
2. Communication Skills to include effective written, oral, and visual communication.
3. Personal Responsibility: the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.
4. Social Responsibility to include intercultural competency, civic knowledge, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities.

V. Student Learning Outcomes:
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.

VI. **Attendance Policy/Makeup Work:**
See [www.howardcollege.edu](http://www.howardcollege.edu), Catalog, page 36. Attendance will be taken at every class session. Individual attendance records will be used to determine grades for borderline students – more than four absences can result in lowering your final average by a full letter grade (10 points). If a student has extenuating circumstances and must miss an exam, he/she must contact the instructor. If the student does not contact the instructor regarding missed exams, or does not contact the instructor to make up the exam, the student will receive a grade of ZERO.

VII. **Class Assessment/Grading:**
Two Semester Exams - 50% of grade (25% each)
Class research assignment - 25% of grade
Final Exam - 25% of grade

VIII. **Course Content:**

College-level courses may include controversial, sensitive, and/or adult material. Students are expected to have the readiness for college-level rigor and content.

IX. **Confidentiality in Courses:** Any personal information shared by students in college-level courses, either written or verbal, face-to-face or online, is not considered confidential nor does it fall under FERPA guidelines. Students should refrain from sharing information they do not wish to make public knowledge. The instructor reserves the right to report pertinent information to the appropriate administration if s/he feels that the student may be a danger to him/herself or others.

X. **ADA Statement:**
Any student who requires special accommodations due to a documented disability under the provisions of the American with Disabilities Act should contact the District Coordinator the first week of class.

XI. **Course Calendar (Mini semesters will condense into three weeks – see below)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Week 6 – Ch 6 Congress</th>
<th>Week 11 – Ch 11 Political Parties</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 2 – Ch 1</td>
<td>Week 7 – Ch 7 The Presidency</td>
<td>Week 12 – Ch 12 Campaigns</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3 – Ch 2</td>
<td>Week 8 – Ch 8 The Bureaucracy</td>
<td>Week 13 – Ch 13 Policy</td>
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<td>Week 4 – Ch 3</td>
<td>Week 9 – Ch 9 The Judiciary</td>
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<td>Week 5 – Ch 4/5</td>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Week 14 – Ch 14 Policy</td>
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<td>Civil Liberties/Rights</td>
<td>Week 10-Ch 10 The Media</td>
<td>Week 15 – Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>(Week 1-if mini)</td>
<td>(Week 2 – if mini)</td>
<td>(Week 3 – if mini)</td>
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XII. **Smoking and eCigarettes:** Smoking or other use of tobacco products and use of electronic cigarette devices is prohibited in all Howard County Junior College district facilities and vehicles.

XIII. **Additional Information:**
Please note the important add/drop/refund dates found on the Howard College webpage at [www.howardcollege.edu](http://www.howardcollege.edu) located under Current Students – San Angelo – Business Office.