

Brookhaven College, Social Science Division
GOVT 2301.2002 American Government
Spring 2012

Location and Time: Rm. K246 Monday and Wednesday 9:00-10:20

Credit Hours: 3 hours

Instructor: Jeremy R. Backstrom

Phone: (972) 860-7444 ext. 92660

E-Mail: jbackstrom@dccc.edu

Office Hours: Before/after class and by appointment.

Office: Room K231 (Adjunct Faculty Office)

Class Web: <http://ecampus.dccc.edu/>

Required Course Materials:

Textbooks/reading materials:

- Karen O'Connor, Larry J. Sabato, Stefan D. Haag and Gary A. Keith. *Essentials of American & Texas Government: Roots and Reform. 2009 Edition.* New York: Pearson Publishing, ISBN: 0-205-69779-8.
- Dallas Morning News, New York Times, Washington Post or access to any other major newspaper.

Technology Requirements:

- Internet access (free access available in campus computer labs)
- Basic use of a personal computer (word processing and internet browsing).
- Access to the DCCCD e-Campus system: <http://ecampus.dccc.edu>
Use your student ID number preceded by a lower case letter "e" as both your username and password to gain access to the course the first time. Use the following example:

Username: e1234567

Password: e1234567

Software Requirements:

- Microsoft Office or Open Office (Free alternative to MS Office)

Current Catalog Course Description:

This is a Texas Common Course Number. This is a DCCCD Core Curriculum Course.

Prerequisite: The following must be met: (1) Developmental Reading 0093 or English as a Second Language (ESOL) 0044 or have met the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Reading Standard AND (2) Developmental Writing in 0093, or English as a Second Language (ESOL) 0054 or have met the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Writing Standard.

Course Content:

The purpose of this course is to help you to obtain an understanding of the organization, principles, and various functions of the United States government on the national, state, and local level. Together, we will analyze the history, structure, changes, and continued evolution of our government. The larger effort in this course is to understand how and why the United States has created a vast, dynamic, and complex governmental system. Upon completion of this course, you will have the analytical skills and the knowledge necessary to better understand politics in modern America and why it works the way that it does. In addition, the course is intended to

improve your capacity to think clearly and dispassionately about government and politics as well as to make rational judgments concerning political questions within the context of the values of American democratic tradition.

The course partially satisfies a requirement of 6 hours of American and state government for graduation from accredited Texas colleges and universities, and satisfies a requirement of one semester of Texas government for Texas teacher certification. The course will provide you with a grasp of the organization and implementation of government, and the role of human beings in shaping and directing process.

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the study of political science. Topics include the origin and development of constitutional democracy (United States and Texas), federalism and intergovernmental relations, local governmental relations, local government, parties, politics, and political behavior. (To ensure transferability, students should plan to take both Government 2301 and 2302 within the DCCCD.)

Core Curriculum Intellectual Competencies (above 12th grade level):

Reading- the ability to analyze & interpret a variety of printed materials – books, documents, and articles

Writing- the ability to produce clear, correct & coherent prose adapted to purpose, occasion and audience

Speaking- the ability to communicate orally in clear, coherent, and persuasive language appropriate to purpose, occasion, and audience

Listening- the ability to analyze and interpret various forms of spoken communication, possess sufficient literacy skills of writing, reading

Critical thinking- the ability to think and analyze at a critical level

Computer Literacy- the ability to understand our technological society, use computer based technology in communication, solving problems, acquiring information.

Student Learning Outcomes for Government 2301

- **Describe** the basic character of political culture in the United States and Texas.
- **Describe** the basic structure of the US and Texas Constitutions.
- **Propose** alternative solutions to constitutional problems.
- **Compare** and contrast different systems of government.
- **Describe** elements of the political process at the state and national levels.
- **Evaluate** the claims and arguments made by political leaders.
- **Use** political concepts to examine real-world events.

Newspaper Headlines:

As this is a course in political science and an election year, I encourage you as students to become more cognizant of your government and pay attention to its daily activities. Therefore, I want to you to read the newspaper headlines (Dallas Morning News, New York Times, Washington Post etc.), watch the news on the television or read online news (local news or national news such as CNN, MSNBC, FoxNews, BBC). During each class, we will devote the first 5-10 minutes of class to discussions concerning current events involving our government and politics.

Communication and Email:

As indicated above, you can contact me via email at jbackstrom@dccd.edu. Please ensure that you address the email with the course number (GOVT 2301.2002) and your last name in the “subject line” (Example: Backstrom- GOVT 2301.2002). I request that you use proper English in your emails so I can understand your question/issue and offer you an answer or resolution to the issue. Proper English does not include the shortened version of words as those you would use in a text message/instant message/tweet. I will respond to your email in a timely manner, typically within 24 hours on the weekdays and 48 hours on the weekends. Please be aware that while this is my general and intended practice for responding to your e-mails, it is subject to the changes and interruptions of life.

Additionally, I will be available 10-15 minutes prior to class and after class. If you need to meet with me for a longer period of time, please email me and schedule an appointment to meet with me in the Adjunct Faculty Office, Room K231. If this policy does not meet your needs, I will schedule a day and time each week so we can discuss your questions and issues via “Google Talk”.

Attendance Policy:

As adults, you are expected to attend every class. **Attendance is required and roll will be taken at every class.** In addition, you are expected to be in the classroom on time. If you continue to have a problem with being on time, you will be listed as absent for the day. Excessive absences or tardiness will count against you for your final grade. Each late arrival (1-10 minutes) will count as a tardy. If you are tardy twice, this will count as an absence. If you arrive late by 10 minutes or more, you will be marked as absent. If you depart early, you will also be marked as absent unless you discuss the necessity for an early departure with me before we begin class.

You have a total of four absences that you may use at your discretion. **At the fifth absence and each subsequent absence, your overall grade for the course will be reduced by one letter grade.** Additionally, it is *your responsibility* to obtain the notes for the missed class from one of your fellow students.

Finally, as a student in this course, you are expected to come into each class having read the required readings and be prepared to participate in the discussion. My lectures complement the readings and it will benefit you to take notes from my lectures in addition to reading the required chapters.

Additional Policies:

Personal laptops may be used to take notes during the class; however, this is not an invitation to check your email, surf the internet, chat online, or any other activity that would disturb your attention from your class work. If caught engaging in one of these infractions, I will warn you only once. After this warning, you will not be allowed to bring your laptop to class.

Cell phones, blackberries, I-pods, or any other electronic communication device must be shut off during class. Similar to the policy regarding laptops, I will warn you only once; after, I will not tolerate any violation of this policy. You will be asked to leave the classroom for that day and be listed as absent for the class.

This is a course on US government/politics and each of us has our own personal thoughts and opinions on the matter. As your instructor, I encourage scholarly debate and discussion in

the classroom. However, you must be respectful of your fellow students and their opinions. I will not tolerate any outbursts or demeaning (hateful, racist, sexist, or obscene) attacks/comments against your fellow students regarding their opinions or observations. If this does occur, I will consider it as a disturbance to the learning experience of the classroom, instruct you to leave for that day and you will be listed as absent. At the instructor's discretion, a student that violates these guidelines may be removed from the course and possibly the campus.

Assignments and Grading:

Quizzes: (This section is worth 10% of your total grade)

You are expected to complete the assigned readings prior to the designated date in accordance to the course calendar. Additionally, it is expected that you will take notes from my lectures as they will assist you in preparing for the exams. In order to ensure that you are keeping up with your reading and taking notes, there will be five pop quizzes covering the assigned readings. You will be permitted to use your notes from the readings and my lectures for the quiz. Finally, if you miss the quiz, there are no quiz makeups.

Homework: (4 assignments worth 5% each. This section is worth 20% of your total grade)

There will be 4 homework assignments due throughout the semester and I will provide the assignments at a later date. They must be completed and turned in by the due date at the beginning of class (9:00 AM). **I will not accept late homework assignments. If you do not complete the homework assignment, you will receive 0 points for the assignment, which is worth 5% of your final grade.**

All homework assignments will be in essay format (pro/con argument) and must adhere to the following formatting requirements:

- 2 pages in length (I will not accept 1 page or 3 pages. It must be 2 pages.)
- Must be typed/word processed
- Double spaced
- Times New Roman Script
- 1 inch margins
- MLA or APA citation for your sources (if necessary)
- Limited grammatical errors
- A cover page with your name, course/section number, and essay topic (The cover page does not count toward the 2 pages in length).

Your grade for the homework assignment will be determined by your ability to answer the question correctly, your ability for critical thinking, and your ability to write. As a college student, you are expected to meet college level writing requirements. **Therefore, I highly encourage you to take your time in completing your homework assignments and to proofread your paper before you hand it in. Proofreading your paper does not mean to merely run a spelling and grammar check as they often overlook multiple errors. Furthermore, a spelling and grammar check does not aid you in conveying an argument for or against an issue; thus, you need to proofread your papers.**

Furthermore, at this level of your academic career, you should ensure to use citation for thoughts and ideas that are not your own. If you fail to provide citation for ideas that are not your own, this is plagiarism and you will be penalized heavily. Finally, I will not accept references

such as Wikipedia, dictionaries, encyclopedias or other such sources. They are not college-level sources.

Exams: (3 exams worth 15% each. This section is worth 45% of your grade.)

There are three exams given during this course, covering the textbook readings and lecture materials for the specific unit. Furthermore, the exams are not cumulative and will only cover the information for the specific unit of the course. The exams will be closed book, closed notes multiple choice exams. **Students must provide their own scantrons and #2 pencils for the exams.** I will not bring in extra scantrons or pencils so you must have your own materials or borrow them from another student.

Finally, I do not give make up exams unless there are extraordinary circumstances, which must be documented. You must contact me in advance of the exam if you need to miss an exam for an emergency. However, you must provide medical or legal documentation to justify your request to miss a scheduled exam and take a make up exam. If you do not contact me within 12 hours of the exam, you will not be permitted to take a makeup exam. If you do not take a makeup exam, you will receive a “0” for the exam.

Film Project (1 project worth 25% of your total grade)

The film project is a **mandatory component of the course. If you fail to submit the project in its entirety, you will receive a failing grade for the course.** The film project serves as a standard course assessment for all GOVT 2301 students. We will discuss the project at greater length throughout the semester; however, I highly encourage you to plan your project early and consult with me concerning your project. There is more information about the film project at the end of the syllabus.

Grading Rubric:

A: 90-99%

B: 80-89%

C: 70-79%

D: 60-69%

F: 59% and below.

Late Work Policy

All assignments for this course are expected on or before the deadline as indicated on the assignment. As a reasonable person, I understand that uncontrollable personal circumstances may arise. Thus, I am willing to work with you through such issues should they arise and you must submit a late assignment. **If you need to submit a late assignment, you must contact me in advance of the deadline for my approval and for arrangements to be made concerning the assignment.** Written documentation will be required in order to confirm your request to submit a late assignment.

Late homework assignments will be heavily penalized unless there are extenuating circumstances. There is a 10 point penalty per day for late homework assignments. This includes weekends and holidays. If the assignment has not been submitted within 5 days, you will receive a “0” for the homework assignment. **If you receive a “0” for the research project, you will fail the course.**

Tentative Reading and Course Outline:

(I will announce the exact dates of the homework assignments on Week 2.)

- Week 1:** January 17: *Classes Begin*
January 18: *M-W Classes Begin*
January 18: Introduction to the course
- Week 2:** January 23: **Introduction to Political Science and American Politics (Chap. 1)**
January 25: **Introduction to Political Science and American Politics (Chap. 1)**
- Week 3:** January 30: **Introduction to Texas Politics and Government (Chap. 15)**
February 1: **The U.S. Constitution (Chap. 2)**
- Week 4:** February 6: **The U.S. Constitution (Chap. 2)**
February 8: **The U.S. Constitution (Chap. 2)**
- Week 5:** February 13: **Texas Constitution (Chap. 16) & Federalism (Chap. 3)**
February 15: **Federalism (Chap. 3)**
- Week 6:** February 20: Review and Discussion
February 22: **EXAM #1**
- Week 7:** February 27: Review of **EXAM #1 & Civil Liberties (Chap. 4)**
February 29: **Civil Liberties (Chap. 4)**
- Week 8:** March 5: **Civil Liberties (Chap. 4)**
March 7: **Civil Liberties (Chap. 4)**
- Week 9:** March 12: *Spring Break Begins*
- Week 10:** March 19: *Classes Resume*
March 19: **Public Opinion and the Media (Chap. 10)**
March 21: **Public Opinion and the Media (Chap. 10)**
- Week 11:** March 26: Review and Discussion
March 28: **EXAM #2**
- Week 12:** April 2: **Film or Special Guest (TBA)**
April 4: **Film or Special Guest (TBA)**
April 6: *Easter Holiday Begins*
- Week 13:** April 9: *Classes Resume*
April 9: **Film Project due by 9:00 AM**
April 9: Review of **EXAM #2 & Political Parties and Interest Groups (Chap. 11)**
April 11: **Political Parties and Interest Groups (Chap. 11)**

April 12: *Last Day to Withdraw with a "W"*

- Week 14:** April 16: **Campaign, Elections, and Voting (Chap. 12)**
April 17: *Registration for currently enrolled students begins for May Term/Summer 2012 classes*
April 18: **Campaign, Elections, and Voting (Chap. 12)**
- Week 15:** April 23: **Political Parties, Interest Groups, Elections and Campaigns in Texas (Chap. 21)**
April 25: TBD
- Week 16:** April 30: TBD
May 2: *Last Day of M-W Classes.*
May 2: Review and Discussion
- Week 17:** May 7-10: *Final Exams.*
May 10: *Spring 2012 Semester Ends*
June 12: *Registration for currently enrolled students begins for Fall 2012 classes*

Outline of Course:

Exam 1:

Chapter 1: (*Introduction to Political Science and American Politics*)
Chapter 15: (*Introduction to Texas Politics and Government*)
Chapter 2: (*The U.S. Constitution*)
Chapter 16: (*Texas Constitution*)
Chapter 3: (*Federalism*)

Exam 2:

Chapter 4: (*Civil Liberties*)
Chapter 10: (*Public Opinion and the Media*)

Exam 3:

Chapter 11: (*Political Parties and Interest Groups*)
Chapter 12: (*Campaign, Elections, and Voting*)
Chapter 21: (*Political Parties, Interest Groups, Elections, and Campaigns in Texas*)

******The instructor reserves the right to modify any course requirements and calendar due dates as necessary to manage and conduct this course online.***

Institutional Policies:

Withdrawal:

If you are unable to complete this course, it is **YOUR** responsibility to withdraw formally. **The withdrawal request must be received in the Registrar's Office by April 12, 2012 before 7:00 PM.** Failure to do so will result in your receiving a performance grade, usually an "F." If you drop a class or withdraw from the college before the official drop/withdrawal deadline, you will

receive a “W” (Withdraw) in each class dropped. For procedures see the Brookhaven College website and select A-Z and “Add/Drop/Withdraw Information” for a listing.

Stop Before You Drop:

For students who enrolled in college level courses for the first time in the fall of 2007, Texas Education Code 51.907 limits the number of courses a student may drop. You may drop no more than 6 courses during your entire undergraduate career unless the drop qualifies as an exception. Your campus counseling/advising center will give you more information on the allowable exceptions. Remember that once you have accumulated 6 non-exempt drops, you cannot drop any other courses with a “W”. Therefore, please exercise caution when dropping courses in any Texas public institution of higher learning, including all seven of the Dallas County Community Colleges.

For more information, you may access: <https://www1.dcccd.edu/cat1112/ss/oep/dw.cfm>

Academic Dishonesty Policy:

Scholastic dishonesty is a violation of the Code of Student Conduct. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion. As a college student, you are considered a responsible adult. Your enrollment indicates acceptance of the Dallas County Community Colleges Code of Student Conduct published in the Brookhaven College Catalog <https://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/ss/code.cfm?loc=2> .

The Americans with Disabilities Act Information:

If you are a student with a disability and/or special needs who requires ADA accommodations, please contact your Disability/Special Services office in Room S-124 or call 972-860-4673 on the Brookhaven Campus.

Student Absences due to Religious Observance:

Absences for observance of religious holy days are excused. A student whose absence is excused to observe a religious holy day is allowed to make-up an examination or complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence.

Repeating This Course:

Effective with the Fall 2005 Semester, the Dallas County Community Colleges will charge additional tuition to students registering the third of subsequent time for a course. All third and subsequent attempts of the majority of credit and Continuing Education/Workforce Training courses will result in additional tuition to be charged. Developmental Studies and some other courses will not be charged a higher tuition rate. Third attempts include courses taken at any Dallas County Community Colleges since the Fall 2002 Semester.

Retrieving your Grade and eConnect:

Specific instructions for obtaining your grades can be found at <https://eConnect.dcccd.edu/eConnect/eConnect>. Go the Brookhaven College website and select A-Z and student services to learn about all their services.

Students Receiving Financial Aid:

If you are receiving Financial Aid grants or loans, you must show participation in this class prior to the certification date by either e-mailing or contacting the instructor or logging on to eCampus at <http://ecampus.dcccd.edu>. Do not drop or stop attending any class without consulting the Financial Aid office. Changes in your enrollment level and/or failing grades may have adverse consequences. For more information see the Brookhaven College website and select A-Z Financial Aid or phone: the Financial Aid Call Center at 972-587-2599.

Testing Center:

Cell phones and pagers are no longer allowed in the Testing Center (if applicable).

General Statement:

The instructor reserves the right to modify any course requirements and calendar due dates as necessary to manage and conduct this course online. Students are responsible for contacting the instructor and seeking clarification of any requirement that is not understood.

Film Evaluation Project (Mandatory)

Introduction:

This project is a mandatory component of this course. It serves as the standard course assessment for all GOVT 2301 students. **Failure to submit this project in its entirety will result in a failing grade for the course.** There are two steps to completing this project.

The major project for this course is to view one film that is of personal interest from the list provided below. The films have been screened by the instructor and have been found to be of considerable value as it pertains to the content of a GOVT 2301 course. The final work product is to be a high quality report using the specific guidelines provided for the project.

The films listed can be obtained at your local video store or in some cases at your local library. I suggest that you carefully examine the requirements for this activity prior to selecting a film. Then as you watch the film, create a detailed set of notes that you can refer to as you prepare your paper. Again, examine your notes and carefully consider the project guidelines. Spend some time developing your ideas before typing up a report. In general, plan to spend about 10 hours on this project. That includes the time needed to view the film (possibly twice), write the report and edit the final copy.

The final work product is to have a minimum of one page annotating the politics involved in the plot of the film and a minimum of two pages analyzing the film using each of the questions/prompts provided for this activity. The minimum writing requirement for this project is three full pages in your own words (this does not include the cover page, extensive quotes, opinion section or the works cited page). Failure to meet these minimum requirements will result in the report being marked incomplete, thus receiving a zero and having to repeat the course.

Grade Value: The grading scale is based on a maximum value of 100 points. The entire project will be graded using the Film Evaluation Rubric. **Late or incomplete assignments will receive a zero, resulting in a failing grade for the course (this is a mandatory activity).**

Submission: The assignment is to be submitted to the appropriate online dropbox on e-campus prior to the final deadline. Remember, you may only submit one file. Be sure all parts of the project are submitted together in one file (cover page, annotation, analysis, opinion section and works cited).

Deadline: Submit your project anytime before the final deadline for your course section (see the course calendar for details).

List of Approved Films:

- **Lions for Lambs** (R): Three parallel storylines unfold to share a common bond and a powerful message. One story tells the journey of two soldiers in Afghanistan, another takes place in the office of a professor at a California University, and the third is a dialogue between a reporter and a Congressman. United Artists, 2007.
- **Bowling for Columbine** (R): Controversial filmmaker Michael Moore explores the roots of America's predilection for gun related violence and seeks meaning for the right to bear arms. Alliance Atlantis Communications, 2002.
- **The Siege** (R): A hypothetical plot examines how various government entities would respond to a series of terrorist attack in New York City and how they would deal with complex Constitutional issues in the effort to fight terrorism. 20th Century Fox, 1998.
- **All the President's Men** (PG): The story of the infamous media driven investigation of the break-in at the Watergate Hotel, which would eventually lead to the resignation of an American President. Warner Brothers, 1976.
- **Wag the Dog** (R): Media spin doctors demonstrate how influential they have become in this satirical look at modern politics. New Line Cinema, 1997.
- **The Distinguished Gentleman** (R): A con man uses the likeness of his name to get elected to the US Congress. Once in public office, he must decide between his own interests and those of his constituents. Hollywood Pictures, 1992.
- **Primary Colors** (R): The story of Jack Stanton, a governor running for President and deal with a sex scandal along the way. Universal, 1998.
- **Recount** (R): A chronicle of the weeks after the controversial 2000 U.S. presidential election and the subsequent recounts in Florida questioning the integrity of the electoral process in the United States. HBO Films, 2008.
- **Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** (NR): Classic Jimmy Stewart movie shows a naive businessman who takes a courageous stand as a Senator. Columbia, 1939.
- **Bulworth** (R): A Congressman has a nervous breakdown and decides to tell the public the truth about American politics by adopting hip-hop culture and spreading his message through rhyiming/rap. Twentieth Century Fox, 1998.

Guidelines for the Film Report:

Page 1 - The Cover page

1. Follow all of the general formatting guidelines for this course. Place the title of the project, your name, course and section number, instructor's name, current semester and word count on the cover page.
2. Use the full MLA or APA citation for the film as the title of your report. Once you do this, it will not be necessary to cite the film on your works cited page. See this link for the specific set

of rules (using MLA) and an example of what to do when citing films:

<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/MRC/mla.html>

Page 2 - Starting on a new page, under the heading "Annotation" address item # 3 (using one full page only):

3. Provide a high quality annotation of the film using the following criteria:

- a. The annotation must be in your own words, using the language of a political science student. Do not submit something like the film abstract found online or on the back of the DVD (a summary). The purpose of the annotation is to demonstrate your ability to identify the political ideas being conveyed in the plot of the film. In other words, what are the political points being made and how did they evolve during the plot of the film?
- b. Someone reading your annotation should get a general feel about the political issues being engaged in the film without having to see it. Writing a good annotation is challenging, this is very different from a "book report" or summary type activity. You may want to review the film more than once before you begin writing. You are to use your own judgments, no one is permitted to use outside sources for this aspect of the project.
- c. Do not express your feelings, reactions or personal views in the summary. That is the purpose of the opinion page, a separate requirement within this project. Be sure to keep your opinions separate from your report (stay objective).
- d. The annotation for each film report must be 1 full page in length. If too short, it doesn't provide enough information; if too long, you are probably trying to put in all the facts or details, which is not the purpose of annotating.

Pages 3 and beyond - Starting on a new page, under the heading "Analysis" address items # 4-8 (using a minimum of two full pages in your own words and a maximum of 4 pages for this section):

4. Clearly identify how the film engages four (4) different course topics covered this semester. You are expected to make four (4) specific references using different scenes from the selected film.
5. Indicate whether the film provided sufficient evidence or facts to support the main idea(s). There is always a little truth in fiction. Give specific examples to support your answers. You will need to cite historical or current events to address this prompt. List all outside sources on a works cited page.
6. Explain whether or not the content was biased or objective (films use bias and objectivity intentionally to convey ideas). Provide at least 2 specific examples from the film to support your analysis.
7. Provide the writer's / director's / author's qualifications on the subject matter. Who you investigate depends on the source of the film. If it is based on a book, you would research the author. If you find the qualifications are in another subject area, be sure to mention what you found and where you found it. List your sources on a works cited page.
8. Identify at least 2 things you learned from the film about the world of politics that were not specifically addressed in the formal course readings, lectures or videos.

Starting on a new page, under the heading "Opinion" address item # 9:

9. The purpose of the opinion section is to express your affective thoughts separate from your objective thoughts. In other words, simply state your personal opinion of the film. Think of your audience, try to rate it in terms that would appeal to your fellow students. Would they find it useful or interesting? This is where you get to play the role of a film critic. The opinion section should be no more than one paragraph on a separate page.

Finally - **Proof and Edit**

10. Proofread to ensure the final product is grammatically correct and logically structured. It is your responsibility to find someone (friend, fellow student, English teacher, English tutor, relative, neighbor, etc.) to go over your rough draft and make corrections before your final copy is submitted. I do not expect perfection, but I do expect college level performance. Thus, your writing should demonstrate what you have learned in class through your written analysis. Suggestion: sometimes it's a good idea to read your draft copy out loud to yourself to hear if it makes sense.

Project Checklist (do not turn in your report until you answer YES to each question below):

- Have you read, re-read and carefully followed the requirements for the project? Have all the formatting requirements been met?
- Did you write a concise political annotation of the film in your own words using one full page?
- Have you explained the connection of the film to 4 different course concepts using 4 different scenes from the film?
- Did you indicate whether the film provided sufficient facts based on historical / current events to substantiate the main idea(s)? Have you included a citation for these references?
- Did you indicate whether the film was biased or objective? Did you explain and give at least 2 examples?
- Have you provided background information on the writer / director / author? Have you included a citation for these references?
- Did you identify and discuss two concepts you learned from the film or program that were not specifically addressed in the course material?
- Is the report a minimum of 3 full pages for the annotation and the analysis (excluding the cover page, the opinion page, the works cited page and any cited text)?
- Does your personal opinion appear on a separate page? Is it written for the appropriate audience?
- Have you done everything possible to ensure the report is grammatically correct? Have you asked someone to proofread your draft before preparing the final copy (preferably a tutor from a campus writing lab)?
- Is the final product the best work you are capable of doing? If not, then keep working on it ahead of the deadline. If it is your best effort, then I expect all project guidelines were followed and that you have met college level writing standards. Take the time to earn the grade that you want!