

South Plains College
GOVT 2306: Texas Government (Internet)
Spring 2017

Instructor: Timothy Holland
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Office Hours: Monday 11:00am-12:00pm; Tuesday 11:00am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-2:00pm;
Wednesday 11:00am-12:00pm; Thursday 1:00pm-2:00pm; Friday 9:00am-12:00pm; or by
Appointment

Department of Social Sciences

Discipline: Government

Course Number: GOVERNMENT 2306

Course Title: Texas Government (Texas Constitution and Topics)

Credit: 3 Lecture, 0 Lab

Satisfies a core curriculum requirement? Yes, Social Science and ALL Undergraduate Degrees

Prerequisites: TSI compliance in Reading

Available Formats: Conventional, INET, ITV

Campus: Online

Course Time & Location: Online

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Appointment

Textbook: In this class we will use *Lone Star Politics: Tradition and Transformation in Texas*. 5th
Edition by Ken Collier, Steven Galatas and Julie Harrelson-Stephens. ISBN: 9781506346298

Course Description: This course is a study of the functions performed in the American system of state governments, with special reference to the development of governance in Texas and its Constitutions. This course satisfies the Legislative requirements for teacher certification.

Course Purpose: Government 2306, as taught at South Plains College, is a reading intensive course designed to acquaint the learner with the origin and development of the Texas Constitution, structure and powers of state and local government, federalism and inter-governmental relations, political participation, the election process, public policy, and the political culture of Texas. This course meets the statutory requirements as set forth by the State of Texas.

Approval Number: 45.1002.5125

Course Requirements: To maximize a student's potential to complete this course, he/she should attend all class meetings, complete all homework assignments and examinations in a timely manner, and complete all other projects or papers as assigned in the instructor's specific instructions.

Course Evaluation: See the instructor's course information sheet for specific items used in evaluating student performance.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):

Students who have completed this course will:

1. Explain the origin and development of the Texas Constitution
2. Demonstrate an understanding of state and local political systems and their relationship with the federal government
3. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice in Texas
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of Texas Government
5. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in Texas
6. Analyze state and local elections processes
7. Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
8. Analyze issues, policies and political culture of Texas.

Fundamental Component Areas (FCA):

Students will be expected to perform satisfactorily in four FCA.

1. Critical Thinking Skills – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information by:
 - a. Generating and communicating ideas by combining, changing, or reapplying existing information,
 - b. Gathering and assessing information relevant to a question,
 - c. Analyzing, evaluating, and synthesizing information.
2. Communication – to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral or visual communication by:

Developing, interpreting, and expressing ideas through written, oral, or visual communication.
3. Social Responsibility Skills – to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively I regional, national, and global communities by:
 - a. Demonstrating intercultural competence,
 - b. Identifying civic responsibility,
 - c. Engaging in regional, national, and global communities.
4. Personal Responsibility – to include the ability to connect choices, action, and consequences to ethical decision-making by:

- a. Reading, understanding and affirming agreement and acceptance of principles, guidelines and requirements set forth in the “Statement of Personal Responsibility of Students” (Attached)
- b. Evaluating choices and actions and relating consequences to personal decision-making
- c. Accepting personal responsibility for decisions and actions taken or not taken

Internet Access

This course is an online course and you must have reliable access to a computer and the internet. If you do not own a computer or do not have reliable internet access then I would recommend using the computer lab, library or other appropriate alternative. You must have access to a computer and the internet to complete this course. Failure to have access to either a computer or the internet is not a valid excuse for missing assignments, quizzes, exams or other course content. Please make sure that you have a reliable internet connection when beginning exams and quizzes as you will only have one opportunity to complete those assessments.

Class Schedule

For each week there are readings, lecture slides and an assessment that must be completed. ***You will have until 11:59PM on the End Date to complete the week’s assessment.*** It is your responsibility to follow the schedule and complete assessments by their end date.

Week	Begin Date	End Date	Weekly Topic	Assessment
1	August 28	September 4	Introduction to Politics	Quiz 1 and Quiz 2
2	September 5	September 11	Constitutional Development	Quiz 3
3	September 12	September 18	Federalism	Quiz 4
4	September 19	September 25	Civil Liberties and Civil Rights	Short Essay 1
5	September 26	October 2	Exam 1	Exam 1
6	October 3	October 9	Public Opinion and Interest Groups	Quiz 5
7	October 10	October 16	Political Parties	Discussion Post 1
8	October 17	October 23	Elections, Campaigns and Voting	Quiz 6
9	October 24	October 30	Judiciary	Short Essay 2
10	October 31	November 6	Exam 2	Exam 2
11	November 7	November 13	Congress	Discussion Post 2
12	November 14	November 20	Presidency	Short Essay 3
13	November 21	November 27	Thanksgiving Break	None
14	November 28	December 4	Bureaucracy	Discussion Post 3
15	December 5	December 11	Public Policy	Quiz 7
16	December 12	December 13	Final Exam	Final Exam

Exams

There will be three exams and exam will be multiple choice. Each exam will only cover the material since the last exam. **The Final Exam will not be cumulative.**

Exam 1 will cover the material in Week 1 through Week 4

Exam 2 will cover the material in Week 6 through Week 9
 Exam 3 will cover the material in Week 11 through Week 15

Short Essay

On three occasions you will be asked to write a short essay to address a question pertaining to the subject of the week. Your short essay will be written assignment pertaining to a topic or issue we have already discussed in class.

Discussion Posts

On three occasions you will be asked to participate in a discussion forum. I will assign a topic for discussion and you must (1) submit a discussion post addressing the question posed to the Discussion Forum and (2) you must respond to the discussion post of at least one other student. You will be graded on completion of each task as well as your use of the course material.

Quizzes

There will be 7 quizzes. Each quiz will contain a few multiple choice questions addressing the relevant week’s course material. Reading the textbook, lecture slides and other course material on the topics of the week is sufficient to complete each quiz.

Grades

Grade Distribution			Grading Scale		
Assessment	Points	Percent	Letter	Percent	Points
Exam 1	200	20%	A	90% or higher	900 or higher
Exam 2	200	20%	B	80% to 89.9%	800 to 899.9
Final Exam	200	20%	C	70% to 79.9%	700 to 799.9
Short Essay 1	50	5%	D	60% to 69.9%	600 to 699.9
Short Essay 2	50	5%	F	59.9% or less	599.9 or less
Short Essay 3	50	5%			
Discussion Post 1	25	2.5%			
Discussion Post 2	25	2.5%			
Discussion Post 3	25	2.5%			
Quiz 1	25	2.5%			
Quiz 2	25	2.5%			
Quiz 3	25	2.5%			
Quiz 4	25	2.5%			
Quiz 5	25	2.5%			
Quiz 6	25	2.5%			
Quiz 7	25	2.5%			
TOTAL	1000	100%			

Plagiarism and Cheating

Plagiarism and cheating in any form will not be tolerated in this course. South Plains College policies allow a wide range of punishment for cheating including failing the assignment, quiz, exam or the course. I will be vigilant against cheating and we will discuss how to avoid plagiarism in class.

Extra Credit

There will be no extra credit opportunities in this course.

Office Hours

If you need to discuss your grade or the course content please feel free to attend any of my scheduled office hours. Office hours are the dedicated time I have scheduled to assist you. My office is located in the Administration Building in room 119. If you cannot attend my scheduled office hours please email me at tholland@southplainscollege.edu or set up an appointment with me to meet at another time.

Contact Information and Office Hours	
Instructor	Mr. Timothy Holland
Office	AD119
Email	tholland@southplainscollege.edu
Monday	11:00am-12:00pm
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Textbook

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Attendance Policy

Since this is an online course we won't be taking attendance. However, there is material that must be read and assessments that must be completed every week in this course. If you fail to complete the assessments from two weeks you will be dropped from the course.

Classroom Discussions

Throughout the semester you will have the opportunity to discuss topics through the Discussion Post platform. Given the nature of this course students may express political or other views contrary to your own and while you are not required to agree with those views you are required to be respectful. I encourage you to express your own views but you must be respectful in both tone and the delivery of your viewpoint.

Diversity Statement

In this class, I will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world, and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and

intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

Students with disabilities

Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland Student Health & Wellness Center 806-716-2577, Reese Center (also covers ATC) Building 8: 806-716-4675, Plainview Center Main Office: 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611, or the Health and Wellness main number at 806-716-2529.

URL: <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/health/disabilityservices.php>

SPC Policy regarding "standard English"

All written assignments should be presented using the conventions of Standard Written English. South Plains College requires all students to become proficient in "academic English," a form of English that is typically used in academic, professional, and business contexts. While slang, regional idioms, and informal kinds of self-expression are appropriate in some contexts, they are out of place in academic writing. Writing instructors and professors in courses across the campus expect all students to demonstrate proficiency in using the conventions of academic English in their written work, whether it is in-class exams or take-home essays.

Email Policy

All emails should include your name, course and section number. I am teaching multiple courses and most of your other professors are also teaching multiple courses therefore it is imperative that you include this basic information so that I can (and your other professors can) address your question or concern.

Do not use the blackboard email function. If you need to contact me please use my SPC email address tholland@southplainscollege.edu.

If you do not receive a response within 48 hours please re-send the email.