

South Plains College

GOVT 2306

FALL 2022 – Second Eight Weeks

## **Texas Government**

Hybrid course.

Meet face – to – face  
on TR at 1pm in SS  
101 with online  
assignments

Professor Drew Landry

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Office Hours: MW: 1:00 – 3:30pm; Friday: 9am – 12pm (noon); or by appointment

### **Common Course**

Department: 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: Levelland, Lubbock Downtown Center,

Lubbock Center, Reese, Plainview

Textbook: Varies according to instructor. Refer to each instructor's instructions for textbook requirements.

Course Specific Instructions: Each instructor will attach his/her course with specific instructions.

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: 45.1002.51 25

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.

Attendance Policy: Whenever absences become excessive and in the instructor's opinion, minimum course objectives cannot be met due to absences, the student will be withdrawn from the course. Each instructor will have additional information about attendance on his/her course information sheet.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students who have completed this course will:

1. Explain the origin and development of the Texas Constitution.
2. Demonstrate and 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 the state and local election process.
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

### **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. In this course, students will learn about 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.

### **Course Requirements/Expectations**

This is an online distance learning and face – to – face hybrid course. It takes a great deal of discipline, self-motivation, and effective time management to successfully complete any course, let alone a hybrid. Many students find it helpful to set aside specific times each week to work on the course.

Also understand this is an eight-week course and the pace will be quick. Assignments will be due every few days so please pay close attention to the course calendar and plan your time accordingly.

The face – to – face time is to answer and explain upcoming material and assignments. Students need to come to class prepared to ask questions about the chapters and issues concerning them. Please take advantage of the class meetings.

While this course requires no prior knowledge of Texas politics, there is considerable reading related to a wide range of topics. It is essential that students complete the weekly readings before attempting the assignments. We cover a great deal of material so it is critical that you take careful notes and keep abreast of the readings and assignments. If you feel you need extra help in managing the course materials, contact me and I will help you.

### **Required Textbook**

Jones, M.P., & Crain, E (2021). *Texas Politics Today*. Boston, MA: Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

\*MindTap will not be utilized during the semester but those who wish to use it will be accommodated.

## **Syllabus Agreement**

Every student has four (4) days to examine the syllabus. By remaining in this course beyond that point, the student indicates his/her acceptance of the syllabus. Any student who remains in the class beyond the first week, agrees to comply with the rules expressed or implied in this syllabus.

## **Grading Policy**

All quizzes, exams, and class sessions have specific due dates and are given in every assignment. The last assignment is due Friday, December 9, 2022.

### *Quizzes*

This course will be fairly straightforward. You will read one chapter a week and then take its corresponding quiz. Quizzes will be twenty – five (25) multiple choice, true/false, or matching questions worth six tenths (.6) of a point apiece; meaning every quiz is worth fifteen (15) points.

Students may work ahead but not backwards on the quizzes. Every session has a specific due date and they are made known to students; however, only a doctor's note will allow students to work on an exam once the due date expires. Once students complete all of the assignments, they have successfully finished the course.

All quizzes are to be taken without the assistance of your textbook or any outside source.

### *Essays*

At the end of every unit, students will answer cumulative questions pertaining to the chapters that were studied in every unit. The purpose of this is to test students' ability to analyze information, make connections to the chapters, and write proficiently at the collegiate level.

If, *unless directed otherwise in the assignment*, a student embeds, copies and pastes, or cites an outside source (including your textbook) into his/her answer, that student will receive a zero (0) on the essay. If the offense happens a second time, the student will be reported to the Department Chair and I will recommend the student be removed from the course due to plagiarism.

These are not research papers but think of them as in-class essays instead.

Students need to submit the essay in the correct submission box. Should a student put the essay in the comment section and submit it, the grade will be 70% the first time. If it happens a second time, the student's grade will be 50% and the grade will be 30% if it happens a third time. On the fourth and fifth occasions, the grades will be 0%. Students must proofread and ensure to submit the assignments correctly as followed.

### *Discussions*

There will be a few discussions during the eight-week course. The links to the discussions will be located in the appropriate folder when clicking on the "Exams, Quizzes, and Schedule" tab.

The discussion may be over a topic in your reading or an outside article that coincides with the chapter. Your participation in the discussion board is essential as each one is worth 50

points. Since this is a summer course with shortened time, not every discussion will be assigned.

Students need to make an original post and respond to two different original posts made by their classmates before the deadline. Students may respond more times than the required amount.

Discussing politics can bring about an emotional side of people and that is why a “Netiquette” is found in the “Welcome – Start Here” page. Be sure to read and understand it because your acceptance of its use will be implied when you participate in the first discussion.

#### Grading Discussions

If a student only makes one post throughout the week, the grade for such a post has the potential of making 25 points. If a student makes two posts throughout the week, the grade has the potential of making 33 points. In order to reach the maximum amount of points, three posts – consisting of one (1) original post and two responses to two different original posts – must be made.

This part of the grade is meant to engage in a dialogue about issues, not to complement one another on her/his original post. Any response to an original post that does not add to the given discussion (such as “good post,” “good job,” “you did really well,” etc.) will count against that student’s weekly discussion grade.

Finally, there will be no extra credit or bonus available for students.

### Grades

#### Calculating Grades

In calculating final grades, I keep it simple. I divide the points a student accumulates over the semester by the total points possible, then multiply that answer by one hundred (100). The result of the calculations will be the student’s percentage for the semester.

#### Rounding

On the issue of “rounding up” on grades, I have a strict but fair policy. I do not “round up” for any border line student unless that student has at least a “.9.” If a student has not attained a “.9,” then he/she’s grade will not be “rounded up.”

#### Grading Scale

100 – 90% A  
89 – 80% B  
79 – 70% C  
69 – 60% D  
59% and below F

#### Grade Breakdown

3 Discussions (two worth 50 points, one worth 10 points) = 110 points  
13 Quizzes (12 worth 15 points each, and one worth 10 points) = 190 points  
4 Essays (each worth 120 points) = 480 points

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Total Points Possible: 780

At the end of the semester, I will not respond to any student who wishes to plead for a grade change. Students need to keep track of their grades throughout the semester.

## **Communications**

There are many methods to contact me. The top of the syllabus has my office hours if you need a face to face discussion; my email if a quick explanation will suffice your question; and my office number if you need an over the phone conversation. I am dedicated to a two (2) business day response to any correspondence from you. Odds are in favor of me getting back to you sooner than that. If there is an emergency – which is defined as a test failing on you via a Blackboard failure – then you should email me – at my SPC email – immediately.

Do NOT send me a message at any time through Blackboard. Only email me through my SPC email.

When sending an email to me, please put the class you are enrolled in the subject line. That will immediately help me find your information and help you.

## **Attendance Policy**

Regulating attendance in a hybrid course is tricky. If you attend the face – to – face sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1pm regularly, you are considered attending. If you do not attend the face – to – face sessions but do the online work, you are considered halfway attending. If you do not attend the in-person sessions and submit no work for more than two weeks, you are considered no longer attending.

For more information concerning the attendance policy, please see the South Plains College General Catalog.

## **Academic Integrity**

It is the aim of the faculty of South Plains College to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own any work which he or she has not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offender liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension.

**Cheating:** Dishonesty of any kind on examinations or on written assignments, illegal possession of examinations, the use of unauthorized notes during an examination, obtaining information during an examination from the textbook or from the examination paper of another student, assisting others to cheat, alteration of grade records, illegal entry or unauthorized presence in an office are examples of cheating.

Complete honesty is required of the student in the presentation of any and all phases of course work. This applies to quizzes of whatever length, as well as to final examinations, to daily reports and to term papers.

**Plagiarism:** Offering the work of another as one's own, without proper acknowledgment, is plagiarism; therefore, any student who fails to give credit for quotations or essentially identical expression of material taken from books, encyclopedias, magazines and other reference works, or from the themes, reports or other writings of fellow student, is guilty of plagiarism.

### **Punishment for Plagiarism**

Any student who commits plagiarism and is caught in doing so will be punished on the first offense with a zero (0) for the grade. If a student commits and is caught on a second offense of plagiarism, the professor will seek the removal of the student from the course with an F for the

grade, report the student to the Dean of Students, and may suggest the student's expulsion from the college.

**Intellectual Property:** All material on the course's Blackboard page, including quizzes, are the intellectual property of the professor and at no time may a student screenshot a question or post any exam or quiz material online. If a student does this, he/she will be warned on the first offense. If the instance repeats, the student will be disciplined accordingly. This is a form of stealing from me and it will not be tolerated.

### **Academic English**

South Plains College requires all students to become proficient in "academic English," a form of English 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. Professors expect all students to demonstrate proficiency in using the conventions of academic English in all their written work, whether it is in-class exams or take-home essays.

### **Diversity Statement**

In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group difference 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.

### **Nondiscrimination Policy**

South Plains College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities (choices of sports team, however, are fair game – ha). The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President for Student Affairs, South Plains College, 1401 College Avenue, Box 5, Levelland, TX 79336. Phone number 806-716-2360.

### **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 Office) 806-716-2577, Lubbock Centers (located at the Lubbock Downtown Center) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

### **Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations Statement**

If you are pregnant, or have given birth within six months, Under Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your education. To activate accommodations you must submit a Title IX pregnancy accommodations request, along with specific medical documentation, to the Health and Wellness Center. Once approved, notification will be sent to

the student and instructors. It is the student's responsibility to work with the instructor to arrange accommodations. Contact the Health and Wellness Center at 806-716-2529 or email [dburleson@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:dburleson@southplainscollege.edu) for assistance.

### **Computer Issues**

Having access to a properly functioning and update computer is absolutely necessary for this course. Students may arrange to visit the SPC computer lab, library, your local library, or someone else's computer, but using the excuse of a crashed computer will not be accepted for failing to complete tests or assignments. If a student does not have access to a functional computer, then do not take this course. Computer problems of any kind will not be excused. That is the nature of this computer course. If any student finds that unacceptable, then do not take the course.

### **Technical Support**

Email [blackboard@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:blackboard@southplainscollege.edu) or call 806-716-2180 for any and all technical problems with the Blackboard software (they are much better than me at solving computer problems).

### **South Plains College Libraries and Computer Labs**

South Plains College has many library and computer lab locations. Feel free to find them and their hours of operation by clicking on the link below.

<http://www.southplainscollege.edu/information-for/current-spc-students/library.php>

### **Student Responsibility**

It is the responsibility of the student to make sure all tests have been completed by their due date. Any test not completed by the due date automatically receives a zero (0). Computer problems or mechanical failures are not considered acceptable excuses for late tests or assignments. You are highly encouraged not to wait until the last minute to complete tests. Technical and personal problems are not considered acceptable excuses for late tests.

### **Financial Aid and Advising Assistance**

If you need assistance with financial aid or your course schedule you can contact the following:

Financial Aid:

806-894-9611 Ext. 3800

[finaid@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:finaid@southplainscollege.edu)

Advising:

806-716-2368 or 806-716-2366

### **Amendments**

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus at any time. Students will be notified of such change(s) with appropriate time to adapt.

## **COVID-19**

If a student misses an assignment(s) and/or exam(s) due to COVID-19 or any other illness, a doctor's note will be required in order to make up the assignment and/or exam. The note must cover the dates you missed, which must coincide with your missing assignment(s) and/or exam(s).

## **Confirmation**

Upon completion of reading the syllabus, please email me at [dlandry@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:dlandry@southplainscollege.edu) with the subject heading "Read the Syllabus" and state one thing you learned from the Grading Policy section. Please complete this task by 5pm, October 28th.

## **Course Calendar**

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Due Date</i>	<i>Location</i>
Syllabus Quiz and Chapter One	October 26, 5pm	Unit One
Chapter Two	October 29, 5pm	Unit One
Chapter Three	October 31, 5pm	Unit One
Unit One Essay	November 3, 5pm	Unit One
Chapter Four	November 6, 5pm	Unit Two
Chapter Five	November 9, 5pm	Unit Two
Unit Two Essay	November 13, 5pm	Unit Two
Chapter Six	November 16, 5pm	Unit Three
Chapter Seven	November 19, 5pm	Unit Three
Chapter Eight	November 22, 5pm	Unit Three
Chapter Nine	November 24, 5pm	Unit Three
Chapter Ten	November 26, 5pm	Unit Three
Unit Three Essay	November 30, 5pm	Unit Three
Chapter Eleven	December 2, 5pm	Unit Four
Chapter Twelve	December 5, 5pm	Unit Four
Unit Four Essay	December 9, 5pm	Unit Four