

Statement of the SPC Social Science Department's  
Government/Political Science Division for  
GOVT 2306 Common Course Syllabus

*(As required by the Texas Legislature and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and approved by Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and SPC)*

Department: Social Sciences

Discipline: Government

Course Number: GOVERNMENT 2306

Course Title: Texas Government (Federal 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, Reese, ATC, 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excessive and in the instructor's opinion, minimum course objectives cannot be met due to absences, the student will be withdrawn from the course.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 be expected to:

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:
  1. Generating and communicating ideas by combining, changing, or reapplying existing information,
  2. Gathering and assessing information relevant to a question,
  3. 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:
  1. Demonstrating intercultural competence,
  2. Identifying civic responsibility,
  3. 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:
  1. Reading, understanding and affirming agreement and acceptance of principles, guidelines and requirements set forth in the "Statement of Personal Responsibility of Students" (Attached)
  2. Evaluating choices and actions and relating consequences to personal decision-making
  3. Accepting personal responsibility for decisions and actions taken or not taken.

## Government 2306 Online Instructor Syllabus

### Course Description

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.

### Instructor Information

- **Name:** Professor: Britt Bearden
- **Email:** bbearden@southplainscollege.edu
- **Office:** Lubbock Downtown Center 1016B
- **Office Hours:** M/W: 9:00AM – 9:30AM and 12:15PM – 1:00PM | T/TH: 12:15PM – 2:30PM | F: 8:00AM – 9:00AM
- **Textbook:** Governing Texas 5<sup>th</sup> Edition | Authors: Champagne and Harpham | Publisher: Norton | ISBN: 978-0393539226
- If you are having issues financially with purchasing this book, the 4<sup>th</sup> edition is acceptable.

### Course Grade and Assignments

- **Syllabus Quiz | State of Texas Quiz | Practice Discussion = 5%**
- **Chapter Quizzes = 40%**
- **Discussions = 35%**
- **Preliminary Essay Assignment = 5%**
- **Essay = 15%**

### Syllabus Quiz

- **Time:** 60 minutes
- **Attempts:** Unlimited
- **Questions:** 2 questions
- **Purpose:** Ensure you read, understood, and agree to the syllabus

### State of Texas Quiz

- **Time:** 60 minutes
- **Attempts:** Unlimited
- **Questions:** 10 questions
- **Purpose:** Earn easy points and learn about the State of Texas

## Practice Discussion

You will practice posting to the discussion board by introducing yourself and replying to a classmate.

### Information to Post:

- Where you are from
- What you plan to major in
- Your favorite vacation
- Your interest in government/politics (be honest!)

## Chapter Quizzes

- Number of Assignments: 8 chapter quizzes
- Number of Assignments Graded: Your top 7 highest quiz grades
- Time: 15 minutes
- Attempts: 1
- Questions: 15
- **Purpose:** Test your knowledge of each assigned chapter

## Discussions Postings

**Purpose:** develop your ability to write in Academic English and test knowledge on chapters.

Number of Assignments: 3 Discussions

### Basic Instructions:

- Discussion Post Length: 400 words
- Reply Length: 100 words
- **A full rubric and instructions can be found in Blackboard.**

## Preliminary Essay Assignment

**Purpose:** to help you on your essay and receive feedback on your topic and thesis before you begin writing your final essay.

### Basic Instructions:

- Choose a relevant topic
- Craft a thesis statement
- Find at least 5 sources you can use in your essay
- **An example, rubric, and further instructions can be found on Blackboard**

## Essay

**Purpose:** display your knowledge and research skills by writing an academic essay about a topic of your choosing relating to United States government. You can either choose to write an expository or argumentative essay.

It is important to write in third person and try NOT to editorialize.

### Basic Instructions:

- Double spaced
- 12 point font
- Times New Roman
- 1 inch margins
- at least 1200 words in length (that is NOT including headers, footers, citations, etc.)
- Uses citations (APA or MLA)
- **A full rubric and instructions can be found at the end on Blackboard.**

**Note: Expect written assignments to be graded within a business week of the due date.**

## Course Requirements, Expectations, and Policies

### Late Policy and Technology Problems

I do not accept late work.

If for some reason the professor or the Blackboard server has made a mistake, you will not be penalized.

Always start early and finish early to avoid problems.

### Extra Credit

I do not offer extra credit.

### Drop Policy

Students who enroll in a course but have “Never Attended” by the official census date, as reported by the faculty member, will be administratively dropped by the Office of Admissions and Records.

Other than that, it is your responsibility to drop the course.

### Disruption of Classroom Environment

Your professor will not tolerate any disruption of the classroom environment. This includes any problems your facilitator encounters with you AND hateful/disrespectful remarks made in the classroom, on discussion postings, email, or chat. I will drop you from the course for such violations.

### Emailing Your Professor

I require students to send a professional email when contacting me. If you send an unprofessional email to me, I will respond asking you to retype your email.

When emailing, please include what course you are enrolled in (Example: GOVT 2305.156).

**DO NOT attempt to communicate with me through Blackboard. I only communicate through email, preferably your SPC email.**

**Unless there are unforeseen circumstances, you can expect me to reply to emails within 24 hours. If I do not, don't be afraid to email me again or forward your message to me.**

### **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Resources:**

There are now websites that will actually generate semi-unique material that somewhat resembles original material. Since the technology is available to create this content, technology is also available to detect this content.

Make no mistake, this is plagiarism. I am not asking AI to write a paper, I am asking you, the student, to create this content.

If you submit work that is not your own, original material, it will be considered plagiarism and receive a grade of zero. The incident will also be detailed to the Dean of Students for disciplinary actions.

Keep in mind some grammar software (Grammarly) is flagged as AI. I suggest not using these programs to avoid confusion.

### **Academic Integrity**

Plagiarism is the taking of credit for something that is not the work of the owner. It is cheating and will not be tolerated. See the General Catalog for more information on plagiarism. Cheating or dishonesty of any type in this course will result in the student being dropped from this course with an "F."

### **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.

### **South Plains College Statements:**

For information regarding Intellectual Exchange, Disabilities, Non-Discrimination, Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations, CARE (Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation) Team, and Campus Concealed Carry, please use the following link: [Syllabus Statements \(southplainscollege.edu\)](https://southplainscollege.edu).

## Course Schedule and Readings:

### Section 1:

	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Assignments to be Working On</b>	<b>Assignments Due</b>
<b>Week 1</b>	Syllabus	Syllabus Quiz  State of Texas Quiz  Practice Discussion	None
<b>Week 2</b>	Chapter 2: Texas Constitution	Chapter 2 Quiz	None
<b>Week 3</b>	Chapter 7: Legislative Branch	Chapter 7 Quiz	Syllabus Quiz  State of Texas Quiz  Practice Discussion
<b>Week 4</b>	Chapter 8: Executive Branch	Chapter 8 Quiz	Chapter 2 Quiz  Chapter 7 Quiz
<b>Week 5</b>	Chapter 9: The Judicial Branch	Chapter 9 Quiz  Discussion 1	Chapter 8 Quiz
<b>Week 6</b>	Chapter 10: Local Government	Discussion 2  Chapter 10 Quiz	Chapter 9 Quiz  Discussion 1
<b>Week 7</b>	Chapter 3: Federalism	Discussion 2  Chapter 3 Quiz	Chapter 10 Quiz
<b>Week 8</b>	None	Discussion 2	Chapter 3 Quiz  Preliminary Essay Assignment

**Section 2:**

	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Assignments Due</b>
<b>Week 9</b>	Chapter 5: Campaigns and Elections	Discussion 2 Chapter 5 Quiz	Discussion 2
<b>Week 10</b>	Chapter 5: Campaigns and Elections  Chapter 4: Political Parties	Chapter 5 Quiz  Chapter 4 Quiz	Chapter 5 Quiz
<b>Week 11</b>	Chapter 4: Political Parties	Chapter 4 Quiz	None
<b>Week 12</b>	Chapter 4: Political Parties  Chapter 6: Interest Groups	Chapter 4 Quiz  Discussion 3	Chapter 4 Quiz
<b>Week 13</b>	Chapter 6: Interest Groups	Discussion 3	Discussion 3
<b>Week 14</b>	None	Essay	None
<b>Week 15</b>	None	Essay	None
<b>Week 16 / Finals Week</b>	None	None	Essay

## Concise Calendar and Due Dates

- Syllabus Quiz: **Due February 2<sup>nd</sup> by 5:00PM**
- State of Texas Quiz: **Due February 2<sup>nd</sup> by 5:00PM**
- Practice Discussion: **Due February 2<sup>nd</sup> by 5:00PM**
- Chapter 2 Quiz: **Due February 9<sup>th</sup> by 5:00PM**
- Chapter 7 Quiz: **Due February 9<sup>th</sup> by 5:00PM**
- Chapter 8 Quiz: **Due February 16<sup>th</sup> by 5:00PM**
- Chapter 9 Quiz: **Due February 23<sup>rd</sup> by 5:00PM**
- Discussion 1: **Due February 23<sup>rd</sup> by 5:00PM**
- Chapter 10 Quiz: **Due March 1<sup>st</sup> by 5:00PM**
- Chapter 3 Quiz: **Due March 8<sup>th</sup> by 5:00PM**
- Preliminary Essay Assignment: **Due March 8<sup>th</sup> by 5:00PM**
- **SPRING BREAK: March 11<sup>th</sup> – March 15<sup>th</sup>**
- Discussion 2: **Due March 22<sup>nd</sup> by 5:00PM**
- Chapter 5 Quiz: **Due March 29<sup>th</sup> by 5:00PM**
- Chapter 4 Quiz: **Due April 12<sup>th</sup> by 5:00PM**
- Discussion 3: **Due April 19<sup>th</sup> by 5:00PM**
- **Last Day to Drop: April 25<sup>th</sup>**
- Essay: **Due May 6<sup>th</sup> by 5:00PM**