

Fall 2024
GOVT 2306-001: Texas Government
Department of Social Sciences
South Plains College

Instructor: Dr. Timothy Holland
Course Time: Mondays and Wednesdays at 11:00AM
Course Number: GOVT 2306 (Texas Government)
Section Number: 001
Location: AD 140
Professor's Office: AD 134
Email: tholland@southplainscollege.edu
Office Phone: (806) 716-2972

Course Description: This course is a survey of fundamental principles of political science, including the American system of government and the origins and development of the constitutions of the United States. This course satisfies the Legislative requirement for teacher certification.

Credit: 3 lecture hours

Prerequisites: TSI compliance in reading

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 intergovernmental relations, political participation, the electoral process, public policy, and the political structure 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 Calendar

Week	Day	Date	Lecture Topic
Week 1	Monday	26-Aug	Syllabus and Introduction Activities
	Wednesday	28-Aug	Introduction to Texas Politics
Week 2	Monday	2-Sep	Federalism and the States
	Wednesday	4-Sep	Federalism and the States
Week 3	Monday	9-Sep	Origins and Development of the Texas Constitution
	Wednesday	11-Sep	Origins and Development of the Texas Constitution
Week 4	Monday	16-Sep	Origins and Development of the Texas Constitution

	Wednesday	18-Sep	Civil Liberties, Civil Rights, and Duties of Citizenship
Week 5	Monday	23-Sep	Civil Liberties, Civil Rights, and Duties of Citizenship
	Wednesday	25-Sep	Exam 1
Week 6	Monday	30-Sep	Legislative Power in Texas
	Wednesday	2-Oct	Legislative Power in Texas
Week 7	Monday	7-Oct	Legislative Power in Texas
	Wednesday	9-Oct	Executive Power in Texas
Week 8	Monday	14-Oct	Executive Power in Texas
	Wednesday	16-Oct	Judicial Power in Texas
Week 9	Monday	21-Oct	Judicial Power in Texas
	Wednesday	23-Oct	Judicial Power in Texas
Week 10	Monday	28-Oct	Exam 2
	Wednesday	30-Oct	Campaigns, Elections, and Voting
Week 11	Monday	4-Nov	Campaigns, Elections, and Voting
	Wednesday	6-Nov	Campaigns, Elections, and Voting
Week 12	Monday	11-Nov	Political Parties
	Wednesday	13-Nov	Political Parties
Week 13	Monday	18-Nov	Interest Groups
	Wednesday	20-Nov	Public Opinion
Week 14	Monday	25-Nov	Public Policy
	Wednesday	27-Nov	Public Policy
Week 15	Monday	2-Dec	Public Policy
	Wednesday	4-Dec	Public Policy
Week 16	Monday	December 10 at 10:15AM	Final Exam

*This is a tentative calendar for topics and we will adjust the schedule as needed to discuss topics longer or for less time as may be necessary. Please note the final exam takes place at a different time than or normal class time.

Office Hours: Please attend my regularly scheduled office hours listed below if you have any questions or concerns. My office is located in the Administration Building, room 134. If you cannot attend my office hours you may email me to set up an alternative time or we can discuss your question or concern via email.

Office Hours	AD134
Monday	1:00PM-3:00PM
Tuesday	1:00PM-3:00PM
Wednesday	By appointment only
Thursday	1:00PM-3:00PM
Friday	10:00AM-12:00PM
Email	tholland@southplainscollege.edu

Textbook: There will not be a textbook in this course.

Grading Scale:

Grade	Percent
A	90% or greater
B	80% to 89.99%
C	70% to 79.99%
D	60% to 69.99%
F	Less than 60%

Grade Distribution:

Graded Item	Percent of Grade
Exams	60%
Quizzes	30%
Attendance and Participation	10%
TOTAL	100%

Exams: There will be three exams in this course. Each exam will be worth 20% of your total grade and will be completed in class. Each exam will be composed primarily of multiple-choice questions and fill-in-the-blank questions, but there will likely be true/false questions. I may include an essay question if necessary, but you will be informed of the question before the exam takes place.

Quizzes: There will be ten quizzes assigned throughout this course. Each quiz will be worth 3% of your total grade. You will complete each quiz in Blackboard and I will announce in class when each quiz will be due. Quizzes will be composed of primarily multiple-choice questions, but may also include true/false questions, matching questions, and fill-in-the-blank questions.

Late Work: I will allow students to complete assignments and quizzes after their due date for half credit. Assignments and quizzes completed after their due date will only be eligible for half credit if they are completed within 7 days of their due date. A student may receive full credit for their assignments and quizzes if they have a reasonable excuse for not completing their coursework on time. A reasonable excuse will be determined at the discretion of the instructor. Late work will not be accepted once Week 15 has begun.

Attendance and Participation: You are required to regularly attend class and I will take roll at the beginning of each class. Attendance will account for 10 percent of your total grade. Your attendance grade will be calculated by dividing the number of days you have attended by the number of class days held throughout the semester. If you are sick or attending an SPC-sponsored event requiring your absence please email me so that I can mark you as excused. This is important so that I know you are not simply skipping class and your grade is not penalized.

Illness Policy: Please do not come to class if you are sick. Regardless of whether it's a cold, or COVID-19, or any other common illness, I would prefer you did not come to class so that you do not spread your illness to other students or myself.

COVID-19 Statement:

If you are experiencing any of the following symptoms, please do not attend class and either seek medical attention or test for COVID-19.

- Cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing
- Fever or chills
- Muscles or body aches
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- New loss of taste and smell

If you are positive for COVID-19 please notify DeEtte Edens, BSN, RN, Associate Director of Health & Wellness, at dedens@southplainscollege.edu or 806-716-2376. You should isolate for 5 days after which you may return to class if your symptoms are improving and you do not have a fever without the assistance of fever-reducing medications.

Plagiarism and Cheating: Plagiarism and cheating in any form will not be tolerated in this course. South Plains College provides for a wide range of punishments for cheating including failing the assignment, quiz, exam, or course. I will be vigilant against cheating and you will at a minimum fail the assignment, quiz, or exam in which cheating or plagiarism has occurred. Repeated instances of plagiarism or cheating will result in failure of the course and possibly disciplinary action by the College.

A.I. Policy: The use of A.I. technology to create or supplement written work for this class is prohibited. Using A.I. to create or supplement your written work constitutes both cheating and plagiarism in this course. If I suspect a student has used A.I. to create or supplement their written work or an A.I. detection service identifies part or all of the written work to have been generated using A.I., then I will assign the student a zero for the assignment. If a student's written work was incorrectly identified as created or supplemented by A.I. then the student must contact and meet with the instructor within 7 days of their grade posted in Blackboard. The instructor will replace the student's grade if they can demonstrate mastery of the content covered by the assignment. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the instructor if their assignment was incorrectly flagged as using A.I. to create or supplement their written work.

Extra Credit: I do not intend to provide any extra credit opportunities in this course. If I provide extra credit it will be announced to the entire class so do not ask me for extra credit.

Final Grades: Do not ask me to round up your grade. Any grade that is XX.5 or higher will be rounded up to the next whole number. Therefore, if you have an 85.5 your grade will be rounded up to an 86. However, if your grade was 85.4, then your grade would remain an 85.

Gradebook: You will be able to view your graded assignments, quizzes, and exams in the Gradebook.

Classroom Discussions: Although this class is primarily lecture-based, you will be encouraged to contribute to classroom discussions on the topic of the day or other relevant political topics which may arise. Given the nature of this course students may express political views contrary to your own and while no one is required to agree with another's political views you are required to be respectful. I encourage you to honestly express your views in this class but you must be respectful in both your tone and delivery.

Syllabus 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:
<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>

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 formal 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.

Electronic Devices: use of electronic devices for academic purposes is welcome in this class. You may use your laptop or tablet to take notes during class. Abuse of electronic devices for non-academic purposes will result in the banning of electronic devices (either individually or as a class). Do not use your phone during class. No video or audio recording devices may be used without the consent of the instructor or unless part of a disability accommodation.

Classroom Expectations: The following activities are prohibited in class. This list is not meant to be exhaustive of all prohibited behaviors.

1. Texting, emailing or other correspondence
2. Social media activity or other web browsing
3. Answering or initiating phone calls
4. Watching movies or other videos
5. Smoking, vaping, or chewing tobacco or other illicit substances

Emails: Every email must include your **name, course and section number** so that I can promptly address your question or concern. I will respond to your email within 24 hours. However, I will not respond to emails sent on Saturday or Sunday until the following Monday. Emails sent after normal business hours will not receive a response until the following workday. If Monday, or any other day is a public holiday for which SPC is closed, then I will not respond to the email until the following workday.

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

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):

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
5. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in Texas
6. Analyze state and local election processes
7. Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens
8. Analyze issues, policies, and the political culture of Texas

Fundamental Component Areas (FCA):

Students will be expected to perform satisfactorily in four FCAs

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.
 - a. 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 in 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, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making by:
 - a. Reading, understanding, and affirming agreement and acceptance of principles, guidelines, and requirement 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

Syllabus Agreement: By continuing to complete the course you agree to the terms of this Syllabus. If you do not agree to the terms of the Syllabus you must drop the course.

Special Note: The professor reserves the right to change the terms of the syllabus as circumstances require. Any changes to the syllabus will be posted in Blackboard and announced in class (if the course is face-to-face).