

Summer I 2024
GOVT 2306-451: Texas Government
Department of Social Sciences
South Plains College

Professor: Dr. Timothy Holland
Course Time: Online Course n/a
Course & Section Number: GOVT 2306-451
Location: Blackboard (Online)
Professor's Office: AD134
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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 statutory requirements 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 the 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 set forth by the State of Texas.

Approval Number 45.1002.51.25

Course Requirements: To maximize a student's potential to complete this, 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.

Internet Access: This course is fully online and you must have reliable access to a computer and the internet. If you do not own a computer or do not have access to a reliable internet connection 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 a computer or the internet is not a valid excuse for missing assignments, quizzes, exams, or other course content. Please make sure you have a reliable internet connection when beginning exams and quizzes as you will only have one opportunity to complete those activities.

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

Course Calendar:

Week	Begin Date	End Date	Subject	Graded Items
1	June 3	June 7	Introduction to Texas Politics & American Federalism	Syllabus Quiz; Discussion Post 1; Quiz 1; Exam 1
2	June 10	June 14	Texas Constitution and the Texas Legislature	Discussion Post 2; Quiz 2; Exam 2
3	June 17	June 21	Plural Executive and the Judiciary	Discussion Post 3; Quiz 3; Exam 3
4	June 24	June 28	Public Opinion, Interest Groups, Parties, & Elections	Discussion Post 4; Quiz 4; Exam 4
5	July 1	July 5	Local Government and Public Policy	Discussion Post 5; Quiz 5; Exam 5

Class Schedule: All graded items must be completed **BEFORE 11:59PM** on their end date.

Office Hours: I will be available via email throughout the workday (9am to 5pm) Monday through Friday.

Textbook: There will be no textbook in this course. I will provide video and written lecture material and other readings in lieu of a textbook.

Graded 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	Points per Item
Exam 1	150
Exam 2	150
Exam 3	150
Exam 4	150
Exam 5	150
Quiz 1	20
Quiz 2	20
Quiz 3	20
Quiz 4	20
Quiz 5	20
Discussion Post 1	30

Discussion Post 2	30
Discussion Post 3	30
Discussion Post 4	30
Discussion Post 5	30
TOTAL	1000

Exams: There will be five exams in this course. Each exam will be worth 150 points (15% of your total grade). Each exam will be composed of primarily multiple-choice questions, but there will likely be true/false questions and fill-in-the-blank questions. You will be informed ahead of time if essay questions or short answer questions will be utilized.

Discussion Posts: You will complete 5 discussion assignments throughout this semester. Each discussion will cover a topic addressed within the weekly learning module where the discussion post is located. To complete the discussion you will need to post a discussion addressing the question I pose to you and the class. You will need to respond to the question in roughly 300 to 400 words (a word count function exists in the bottom left corner of Microsoft Word). However, you should write more than 400 words if you need to. It is always better to write more and fully answer the question than to write too little and leave important details out of your discussion. You will also need to respond to at least two discussions by other students. To make a response post hit the “reply” button on the bottom of their discussion post. Each response should be roughly 150 words, once again you should write more if you need to.

Quizzes: There will be 5 quizzes throughout this semester. Each quiz will cover the content addressed within the learning module.

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

Plagiarism and Cheating: Plagiarism and cheating in any form will not be tolerated in this course. Plagiarism and/or cheating will result in failure of the assignment, quiz, or exam. Repeated instances of plagiarism or cheating will result in failure of the course and a referral for Dean of Students.

A.I. Technology: The use of A.I. technology in this course is prohibited. Any use of A.I. or other technology to generate or assist in the production of written work is cheating and plagiarism. I will assign a grade of zero for any work suspected of using A.I. or similar technology and you will need to set up a meeting with me to discuss the assignment where we will discuss and evaluate the submitted work. The use of spell check or similar programs within a word processor to correct misspellings is permissible and encouraged.

Late Work: I will allow you to complete quizzes and exams after their due date for half credit if it is submitted within 7 days of the due date. Late work will not be accepted once Week 4 has ended (after June 28) without permission from the instructor.

Excused Late Work: If you are unable to complete assigned work before the due date as a result of illness or another reasonable circumstance then I will allow the completion of the late work for full points. You must email me to inform me of any issues completing work on time and I will determine if the excuse is reasonable and justifies the completing of late work for full points.

Extra Credit: There will be no opportunities for extra credit in this course.

Viewing Graded Material: You can view your grades in the “My Grades” tab at the top of the Blackboard course.

Attendance Policy: I will not take daily attendance since this is an online course. You are nevertheless expected to complete your work on time according to the course calendar.

Classroom Discussions: Given the nature of this course students may express political views contrary to your own. I do not require that you agree with anyone’s political views but I do require you are respectful of one another. I encourage you to express your views honestly but you must be respectful in both your tone and delivery and the views must be relevant to the assignment.

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 in-class exams or take-home essays.

Emails: Every email must include your name, course and section number so that I can promptly address your question. I will respond within 24 hours. However, emails sent after 5PM on any day, or at any time on Saturday, Sunday, or a public holiday will receive a response on 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 the 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 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, and 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 – 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 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 decision and actions taken or not taken.

Course Amendment Statement: The professor reserves the right to make changes to the course and this syllabus as may be necessary. You will be informed of any changes in the “Announcements” section of this course’s Blackboard page.

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