



Government 2306-6304 (5556)

Instructor contact information

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| Instructor: | Bryan J Henry, M.Ed., M.A. Assistant Professor of Political Science | Office: 13.827 |
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Course information

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| Course Title: | Texas Government 2306 | Term/Year: Fall 2019 |
| Course Section: | 6304 (5556) | Credit Hours: 3 |
| Course Times: | Mon/Wed 1:30 – 2:50 PM August 26 – December 9 | Room Location: 13.405 |

Course overview

Catalog 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. (4510025125)

Textbook: *Governing Texas*. Champagne, Harpham, and Casellas. Norton. 4th Edition.

Course Expectations: Government 2306 will provide an introduction to the state politics of Texas. This course covers the history, governing institutions, political trends, and ideals of Texas, as well as the state government's relation to the federal government of the United States. Students will learn about Texas foundations and functions of the major institutions of our state government; about the political processes that involve the participation of political parties, interest groups, and voters; and about the major problems and challenges facing Texas at the state level of government. This course emphasizes the development of intellectual, academic, social, and civic skills. The specific course expectations include: 1) To nurture the student's ability to read critically, think rationally, and communicate effectively, 2) To provide problem-solving opportunities that will challenge students to think analytically, while encouraging intellectual risk-taking, 3) To encourage student responsibility for learning, 4) To foster civic participation, 5) To develop a commitment to civil dialogue and willingness to express ideas and consider opposing viewpoints.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Explain the origin and development of the Texas constitution
2. Describe 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. Identify the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
8. Analyze issues, policies and political culture of Texas.

Technology: Students will utilize D2L to access the course grade book. Students will utilize the instructor's website to access course readings, Power Point presentations, etc. Students will be expected to use Microsoft Word to type and submit Current Event Analyses. Students may be asked to view videos and/or documentaries on YouTube.

Instructor guidelines and policies

Assignments: There will be three Current Event Analyses, three Pop Quizzes, two tests, one Policy Presentation, and one final exam. The first two tests will be multiple-choice and short-answer. The multiple-choice questions will come from the textbook *Governing Texas*, class lecture notes, and other reading assignments. The short-answer prompts will pertain to primary and secondary sources. The third test will be a Policy Presentation that requires students to choose a research topic, summarize the topic, and provide policy recommendations. The final exam will be comprehensive and multiple-choice only. The Current Event Analyses will generate informal discussion that contributes to the participation grade in the course. Pop quizzes will also contribute to the participation grade in the course.

Grades: Assignments are worth the following:

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| Participation | 10% |
| Current Events Analysis | 15% |
| Test #1 | 15% |
| Test #2 | 20% |
| Policy Presentation | 20% |
| Final Exam | 20% |

Grades are distributed based on the following calculations: A 90-100, B 80-89, C 70-79, D 60-69, F 59-0

Missed and Late Assignments: Students wishing to re-schedule a missed test must do so within 48 hours of the assignment and have no more than 1 week to complete the assignment. If the student fails to schedule the make-up and/or fails to complete the assignment within 1 week, they may receive partial or no credit at the instructor's discretion. Assignments that are submitted late will have 10 points deducted per class day.

Attendance and Participation: Students are expected to attend class, arrive on time, and not leave early. Students with excessive attendance problems (as defined by the instructor) may lose points on their participation grade.

Classroom Etiquette: The instructor intends to begin class on time each day and students should be ready for class when it begins. If a student arrives late they should enter the classroom as quietly as possible. If a student needs to leave class early they should inform the instructor. Students should not be using computers or cell phones for non-academic reasons during class. Students should use academic language in written assignments and oral participation. Students should show respect, compassion, and patience toward their peers in class discussions. The instructor intends to facilitate civil dialogue and cultivate a commitment to free speech.

Department/Division Contact:

Department Chair : Matt W. Plank, M.A., 281-290-2741
Methias.W.Plank@lonestar.edu

Dean of Social Sciences: Dr. Lawrence D. Brandyburg, 281-290-3677
Lawrence.D.Brandyburg@lonestar.edu

Withdrawal Policy: The last day for students to withdraw from this class is **November 11**. Withdrawal from the course after the official day of record (ODR) and prior to "W" Day, (see current catalog for this date) will result in a final grade of "W" on your transcript. Instructor approval is necessary if you want to withdraw after official day. No credit will be awarded for a course earning a "W." If you stop attending class, you must withdraw at the registration office prior to "W" day. If you stop attending class and do not officially withdraw, you will receive an "F" for the course.

Six Drop Rule: Students who enrolled in Texas public institutions of higher education as first-time college students during the Fall 2007 term or later are subject to section 51.907 of the Texas Education Code, which states that an institution of higher education may not permit a student to drop (withdraw with a grade of "W") from more than six courses, including courses that a transfer student has previously dropped at other Texas public institutions of higher education that have already been counted against their six drop limit. Each student should fully understand this drop limit before you drop any course. Please see a Counselor or Advisor in our Student Services area for additional information and assistance. **This policy does not affect developmental or ESOL students.**

Course Schedule:

Week 1: *Governing Texas* Chapter 1

M 8/26 Class: Course Introduction, Texas vs. California
W 8/28 Class: Texas Political Culture, Demographic and Economic Change

Week 2: *Governing Texas* Chapter 2

M 9/2 **No Class**
W 9/4 Class: **Current Event #1 Due**; Texas Constitution

Week 3: *Governing Texas* Chapter 2

M 9/9 Class: Texas Constitution
W 9/11 Class: **Pop Quiz #1**; Texas Constitution

Week 4: *Governing Texas* Chapter 3

M 9/16 Class: Federalism
W 9/18 Class: Federalism

Week 5: *Governing Texas* Chapter 3

M 9/23 Class: Federalism
W 9/25 Class: **Pop Quiz #2**; Federalism

Week 6: *Governing Texas* Chapter 7

M 9/30 Class: **Test #1**
W 10/2 Class: Legislative Branch

Week 7: *Governing Texas* Chapter 7, 8

M 10/7 Class: Legislative Branch
W 10/9 Class: **Current Event #2**; Executive Branch

Week 8: *Governing Texas* Chapter 8, 9

M 10/14 Class: Executive Branch
W 10/16 Class: Judicial Branch

Week 9: *Governing Texas* Chapter 4, 6

M 10/21 Class: Political Parties
W 10/23 Class: **Pop Quiz #3**; Interest Groups and Lobbying

Week 10: *Governing Texas* Chapter 11

M 10/28 Class: **Test #2**
W 10/30 Class: Public Finance

Week 11: *Governing Texas* Chapter 12

M 11/4 Class: Public Policy
W 11/6 Class: Public Policy

Week 12: *Governing Texas* Chapter 12, 13

M 11/11 Class: Public Policy
W 11/13 Class: **Current Event #3**; Public Policy

Week 13: *Governing Texas* Chapter 5, 10

M 11/18 Class: Campaigns and Elections
W 11/20 Class: Local Government

Week 14:

M 11/25 Class: TBD
W 11/27 **No Class**

Week 15:

M 12/2 Class: **Policy Presentations**

W 12/4 Class: **Policy Presentations**

Final Exam

Wednesday, December 11th 1:00 PM

Lone Star College-University Park Student Resources

Student Success is our primary concern!

If you are experiencing challenges achieving your academic goals, please contact your instructor or an advisor. We can provide assistance with academic needs, ADA accommodations, classroom difficulties, financial concerns, and other issues.

Student Learning Resource Center/SLRC

Building 12, 8th Floor – Just a right turn off the elevator!

The Student Learning Resource Center, also known as the SLRC, serves as a centralized location for the library (digital), academic coaching, writing lab and the assistive technology lab. All of these services are available to registered students at no cost and as support for their academic success.

Academic Coaching: Writing Lab, Math and Science Lab, Science Hotspot and Math Hotspot

Academic coaching includes elements of traditional tutoring, the goals and process of academic coaching reach further and deeper to teach students to become more effective learners, not simply to survive the crisis of the day.

Academic Coaching provides academic support for subjects in the Math & Science Lab (12.801), the Writing Lab (12.825), The Math Hotspot (13.331), and the Science Hotspot (CSI Building Lobby),

More information, including hours, guidelines, and locations, can be found online at <http://upresearch.lonestar.edu/academiccoaching>. Please contact 281.401.5388 for more information.

Assistive Technology Lab

The Assistive Technology Lab provides services for students who have accommodations that have been approved by Disabilities Services. Students should begin in the Disability Services Office located in 12.231H, behind Minuti Café.

Assistive technology is any item, piece of equipment, software program, or product system that is used to increase, maintain or improve the functional capabilities of persons with disabilities. Some examples of services include reader/scribes, digital recorders, smart pens and text to speech software.

The Assistive Technology Lab is located on the 8th floor of building 12, room 804. More information can be found online at <http://www.lonestar.edu/UP-AssistiveTech.htm>. For general information regarding assistive technology services call 281-401-5301.

Library: Digital Research Resources and Research Help

The University Park Library offers many resources to help students succeed in their coursework. The SLRC also has many public use computers, a copier, a printer and study space. This is also where students get their student ID and can check out reserve textbooks for 2 hours at a time.

Online databases for scholarly resources include everything from articles to eBooks to videos and can be accessed from anywhere with the library barcode on the back of your student ID. Librarians are available during SLRC hours and can also be contacted by email (uplibrary-ref@lonestar.edu), text (281-946-9879), phone (281-401-5290) or through the Chat with the Librarian button on the library webpage. Librarians are available to assist with finding, evaluating, and citing information.

More information, including library hours, services available, contact information, and research guides, can be found online at <http://www.lonestar.edu/up-library>. For general questions, please call 281-401-5316.

The Lone Star College-University Park Digital Library is physically located in building 12, 8th floor – a right turn off the elevators on the 8th floor.

Lone Star College-University Park Campus and System Policies

Use the following link to find all LSC policies, procedures, and student success information. It is your personal, academic, and legal responsibility to know and adhere to the information provided.

<http://www.lonestar.edu/syllabus-policies>

Academic Integrity

The Lone Star College System upholds the core values of learning: honesty, respect, fairness, and accountability. The system promotes the importance of personal and academic honesty. The system embraces the belief that all learners – students, faculty, staff and administrators – will act with integrity and honesty and must produce their own work and give appropriate credit to the work of others. Fabrication of sources, cheating, or unauthorized collaboration is not permitted on any work submitted within the system.

The consequences for academic dishonesty are determined by the professor, or the professor and academic dean, or the professor and chief academic officer and can include but are not limited to:

1. Having additional class requirements imposed,
2. Receiving a grade of zero or “F” for an exam or assignment,
3. Receiving a grade of “F” for the course,
4. Being withdrawn from the course or program,
5. Being expelled from the college system.

Academic Appeals

Follow the guidelines and directions in this link for grade appeals when unable to resolve this with your instructor: <http://www.lonestar.edu/student-responsibilities.htm>

Title IX

Title IX is legislation that helps protect individuals from Sexual Harassment, Assault, Violence, and Discrimination.

Student Code of Conduct

Students are expected to conduct themselves appropriately while on College property or in an online environment. Students may receive disciplinary action up to and including suspension, if they violate System or College rules, disrupt classes, or interfere with the opportunity of others to obtain an education. Students who pose a threat to the safety of others will be subject to immediate withdrawal from the classroom, campus environment, and/or online environment, as well as face subsequent criminal charges, as appropriate. Please refer to the Student Code of Conduct located online at <http://www.lonestar.edu/student-responsibilities.htm> for additional information.

Emergency Procedures

Lone Star College System is committed to maintaining the safety of the students, faculty, staff, and guests while visiting one of our campuses. See <http://www.lonestar.edu/11953.htm> for details. Register at <http://www.lonestar.edu/12803.htm> to receive emergency notifications. In the event of an emergency, contact the police at 5911.

Disability Rights - ADA 504/508

Disability Services is located on the LSC University Park campus in building 13, Room 260. You may contact Disability Services at the following number: 281.401.5370. Additional information may be accessed online at the following URL: <http://www.lonestar.edu/disability-services.htm>

Computer Virus Protection

Computer viruses are, unfortunately, a fact of life. Using flash drives on more than one computer creates the possibility of infecting additional computers and flash drives with computer viruses. This exposes college computers, personal computers, and any other computers to potentially damaging viruses. The college has aggressive anti-virus procedures in place to protect its computers, but cannot guarantee that a virus might not temporarily infect one of its machines. It is your responsibility to protect all computers under your control and use and ensure that each flash drive you use, wherever you use it, has been scanned with anti-virus software.

Equal Opportunity Statement

It is the policy of the Lone Star College System to provide equal employment, admission and educational opportunities without regard to race, color, creed, national origin, gender, age, veteran's status, sexual orientation, or disability.

Lone Star Colleges strive to provide an excellent learning environment free from harassment or intimidation directed at any person's race, color, creed, national origin, gender, age, veteran's status, sexual orientation, or disability. Any form of harassment will not be tolerated.

FERPA

The academic, financial, and non-directory information on your student account is confidential and protected by the Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA). LSCS cannot release certain information to another person without your written authorization. The Authorization to Release Student Information Form can be found at http://www.lonestar.edu/departments/admissions/ARC-011_FERPA_Privacy_Request.pdf.

Internet and E-mail

LSCS provides computing and network resources. You are encouraged to use the computers, software packages, and electronic mail (e-mail) for educational or System-related activities and to facilitate the efficient exchange of useful information. The equipment, software, and network capacities provided through the district computer services are the property of the System. Use of the equipment and networks is to comport with the policies and procedures of the System and access may be denied to any student who fails to comply with the System's policies and procedures regarding its use.

Access to the System's e-mail and similar electronic communications systems are a privilege and certain responsibilities accompany that privilege. All users are expected to demonstrate the same level of ethical and professional manner, as is required in face-to-face or written communications. Threatening, anonymous, or forged messages will be treated as a violation of this policy.

Software Piracy

Law strictly prohibits unauthorized copying of software purchased by Lone Star College-University Park for use in laboratories. Lone Star College-University Park administration will take appropriate disciplinary action against anyone violating copyright laws.

Evaluation of Instruction

Lone Star College-University Park is committed to student success. As part of its' institutional effectiveness efforts, our instructors are assessed in several ways. For the continuous improvement of our instruction, all students are required to provide input for each course they take each semester using the Course Evaluations Questionnaire, which can be accessed online for each course. This occurs approximately half way through your course and your instructor will provide you more information on this process. Once you evaluate your course, print and turn in the receipt of completion to your instructor. The college deans review these evaluations each semester. The deans and/or department

chairs may visit each instructor's class at some time during the semester to observe the instructional environment being provided and complete an assessment of the instructor.

Campus Carry

The Texas Legislature enacted campus carry by passing Senate Bill 11, effective at LSC on August 1, 2017. Senate Bill 11, known as the "Campus Carry" law, amends Texas law to allow license holders to carry concealed handguns on college campuses. To carry a concealed handgun on LSC campuses, an individual must have a valid License to Carry issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety.

LSC has established rules and regulations regarding enforcement of Campus Carry. Lone Star College prohibits concealed carry in some areas of LSC campuses. For more information about Campus Carry, visit the LSC Campus Carry website at <http://www.lonestar.edu/campuscarry>

