

Spring 2025
GOVT 2306-004: Texas Government
Department of Social Sciences
South Plains College

Instructor: Dr. Timothy Holland
Course Time: N/A Online
Course and Section Number: GOVT 2306-004
Location: AD140
Time: Tuesday and Thursday at 11:00 A.M.
Professor's Office: AD134
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.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):

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
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

Core Objectives addressed:

- 1. Critical Thinking:** to include critical thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.
- 2. Communication:** to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication
- 3. Social responsibility:** to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
- 4. Personal responsibility:** to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

Course Evaluations: You will have the opportunity to evaluate this course and the instructor toward the end of the semester. A link to complete course evaluations will be provided in Blackboard when it becomes available.

Office Hours: Please email me if you need to discuss your grade or the course content. Since this is an online course most of our communication will likely occur through email but feel free to attend my schedule office hours in person if you prefer.

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

Textbook: No textbook for this course.

Lecture Schedule

Week	Day	Date	Topic
1	Tuesday	14-Jan	Syllabus and Introduction Activities
	Thursday	16-Jan	Introduction to Texas Politics
2	Tuesday	21-Jan	Origins and Development of the Texas Constitution
	Thursday	23-Jan	Origins and Development of the Texas Constitution
3	Tuesday	28-Jan	Federalism and the States
	Thursday	30-Jan	Federalism and the States
4	Tuesday	4-Feb	Civil Liberties, Civil Rights, and the Duties of Citizenship
	Thursday	6-Feb	Civil Liberties, Civil Rights, and the Duties of Citizenship
5	Tuesday	11-Feb	Civil Liberties, Civil Rights, and the Duties of Citizenship
	Thursday	13-Feb	Exam 1
6	Tuesday	18-Feb	Legislative Power
	Thursday	20-Feb	Legislative Power
7	Tuesday	25-Feb	Legislative Power
	Thursday	27-Feb	Executive Power
8	Tuesday	4-Mar	Executive Power
	Thursday	6-Mar	Judicial Power
9	Tuesday	11-Mar	Judicial Power

	Thursday	13-Mar	Judicial Power
10	Tuesday	18-Mar	Spring Break - No Class
	Thursday	20-Mar	Spring Break - No Class
11	Tuesday	25-Mar	Local Government
	Thursday	27-Mar	Local Government
12	Tuesday	1-Apr	Exam 2
	Thursday	3-Apr	Interest Groups and Public Opinion
13	Tuesday	8-Apr	Political Parties
	Thursday	10-Apr	Political Parties
14	Tuesday	15-Apr	Campaigns, Elections, and Voting
	Thursday	17-Apr	Campaigns, Elections, and Voting
15	Tuesday	22-Apr	Campaigns, Elections, and Voting
	Thursday	24-Apr	Public Policy
16	Tuesday	29-Apr	Public Policy
	Tuesday	1-May	Public Policy

FINAL EXAM: TUESDAY, MAY 6 AT 10:15AM

Lecture Schedule Note: I will make every effort to follow this schedule but please note that it is likely that we will deviate slightly from this schedule. However, the final exam will take place at the day and time listed as this is a requirement of the college.

SPC Holidays – No Class	
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	20 Jan
Spring Break	17-21 Mar
Easter Break	18 Apr

Grading Scale:

Grade	Percent
A	900 or more
B	800 to 899
C	700 to 799
D	600 to 699
F	Less than 600

Grade Distribution:

Graded Item	Percent of Grade
Exam 1	200
Exam 2	200
Exam 3	200
Quiz 1	30
Quiz 2	30
Quiz 3	30
Quiz 4	30
Quiz 5	30
Quiz 6	30
Quiz 7	30

Quiz 8	30
Quiz 9	30
Quiz 10	30
Attendance	100
TOTAL	1000

Exams: You will complete three exams in this course. Each exam will be worth 200 points and will be completed in class. Each exam will be composed of 50 or more questions. The exam questions will be primarily multiple-choice questions with some fill-in-the-blank questions and true/false questions. I may include short answer and essay questions but you will be informed in advance if this is the case.

Quizzes: You will complete ten quizzes. Each quiz will be worth 30 points and will cover one lecture topic. Each quiz will be composed of 5 to 10 questions and will be completed in class. The questions on the quiz will be primarily multiple-choice questions with some fill-in-the-blank questions and true/false questions.

Attendance Policy: You are required to regularly attend class and I will take roll at the beginning of each class. Attendance will be worth 100 points (10% 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, if you are attending an official SPC event, or if you have another reasonable excuse then I will excuse your absence so that your grade is not harmed. Excused absences will be determined at the discretion of the instructor and you must notify me of your absence in advance. It is your responsibility to obtain notes from another student so that you can study the content you have missed.

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/>

Dropping a Course: Students may drop courses through Texan Connect, the Admissions and Records Office, or Advising and Testing Center through the late registration period.

After late registration has closed, a student must complete the online [Student Initiated Drop Request](#) to drop a course.

Students may also drop courses in person at any campus location by completing a Student Initiated Drop Form. Complete a [Student Initiated Drop Form](#) and return the signed form to the Levelland Admissions and Records Office, the Student Support Center at the Lubbock Downtown Center, the Lubbock Career and Technical Center, or Plainview Center. You must have a picture ID to complete the drop.

A mark of "W" will be given for student-initiated drops that occur prior to and through the last day to drop as indicated in the online Academic Calendar found here:
<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/academiccalendar/index.php>.

Plagiarism and Cheating: Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, examinations, and papers. Failure to comply with this policy may result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F or X for the course, if circumstances warrant.

Plagiarism violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Submitting work that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another student or an online term paper site.
2. Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation;
3. Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them; or
4. Missing in-text citations.
5. Violating the Artificial Intelligence policy, as outlined in the syllabus. For more information on AI, please reference this in the syllabus statements:
<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>

Cheating violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion;
2. Discovering the content of an examination before it is given;
3. Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, text messaging, internet, apps) during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment;
4. Entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage;
5. Taking an examination for another;
6. Altering grade records;
7. Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment;
8. Rewriting another student's work in Peer Editing so that the writing is no longer the original student's;
9. Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper.

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.

Honorlock: If we need to complete work in Blackboard instead of completing work in class then I will use the proctoring software Honorlock. Honorlock monitors online activity while you are completing work to ensure academic integrity while completing exams, quizzes, and assignments.

No Late Work Without Authorization: No late work will be accepted without approval from the instructor.

Extra Credit: I do not intend to provide any extra credit opportunities in this course. If I provide extra credit it will be announced and made available to the entire class.

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

Classroom Discussions: 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, when it is appropriate and relevant, but you must be respectful in both your tone and delivery.

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.

Emails: Every email must include your name, course and section number so that the instructor can promptly address your question or concern. The instructor will respond to your email within 24 hours. However, the instructor 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 during normal business hours. 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 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 the course you agree to the terms of this Syllabus. If you do not agree to the terms of the Syllabus you must drop this course.