

Fall 2018
GOVT 2306: Texas Government
Department of Social Sciences
South Plains College

Instructor: Timothy Holland

Course Time:

GOVT 2306.008 --- MW 1:00pm-2:15pm

GOVT 2306.009 --- MW 2:30pm-3:45pm

GOVT 2306.011 --- TR 1:00pm-2:15pm

GOVT 2306.012 --- TR 2:30pm-3:45pm

GOVT 2306.018 --- TR 7:00pm-8:15pm

Location:

Levelland; Room AD140

GOVT 2306.008; 2306.009; 2306.011; 2306.012

Reese campus; Room 323

Reese Campus: GOVT 2306.018

Instructor's Office: AD140

Office Phone (806) 716-2972

Email: tholland@southplainscollege.edu

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 requirement 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 intergovernmental 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: 45.1002.5125

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 Evaluation: See the instructor's course information sheet for specific items used in evaluation student performance.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students who have complete this course will:

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 Government
5. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups and political parties in Texas
6. Analyze state and local elections processes
7. Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens
8. Analyze issues, policies and political culture in 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:
 - 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 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 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, action, 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 decisions and actions taken or not taken

Office Hours: If you need to discuss your grade or the course content, please feel free to attend any of my scheduled office hours. My office is located in the Administration Building, in room 119. If you cannot attend my office hours please email me at tholland@southplainscollege.edu to setup an appointment to meet at another time.

<i>Office</i>	<i>AD119</i>
Monday	11am-12pm
Tuesday	9:30am-11:30am
Wednesday	11:00am-12:00pm
Thursday	9:30am-11:30am
Friday	10:00am-12:00pm

Textbook: Lone Star Politics: Tradition and Transformation in Texas by Ken Collier, Steven Galatas, and Julie Harrelson-Stephens. 4th Edition. ISBN: 9781506346298

Grades			
Assessment	Points	Grade	Points
Exam 1	200	A	900 or more
Exam 2	200	B	800 to 899.9
Exam 3	200	C	700 to 799.9
Quiz 1	50	D	600 to 699.9
Quiz 2	50	F	599.9 or fewer
Quiz 3	50		
Quiz 4	50		
Quiz 5	50		
Essay	50		
Attendance and Participation	100		
TOTAL	1000		1000

Exams: There will be three exams in this course. Exams will consist of multiple choice questions and possibly a few true/false or short answer questions.

Quizzes: There will be five quizzes. Each quiz will be worth 50 points (5% of your total grade). Quizzes will be completed at the beginning of class the day after we have completed the relevant subject has been covered. The quizzes will cover address the following topics:

Quiz 1: Federalism and Texas Constitution

Quiz 2: Plural Executive

Quiz 3: Judiciary

Quiz 4: Public Opinion and Interest Groups

Quiz 5: Elections and Parties

Essay: You will complete one essay over a topic assigned by the instructor.

Plagiarism and Cheating: Plagiarism and cheating in any form will not be tolerated in this course. South Plains College policies allow a wide range of punishment for cheating including failing the assignment, quiz, exam or the course. I will be vigilant against cheating and we will discuss how to avoid plagiarism in class.

Late Work: Late work will not be accepted.

Makeup Exams: If you miss Exam 1 or Exam 2 you will be permitted to take a make-up exam on the last class day. The make-up exam may be multiple-choice or in essay format at the instructor's discretion. The makeup exam will be cumulative. No student may make-up more than one exam. Missing more than one exam will result in being dropped for the course. No student may make-up the final exam.

Extra Credit: There will likely be no extra credit opportunities in this course. At the discretion of the instructor extra credit may be offered on exams. Extra credit opportunities are not guaranteed.

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to regularly attend classes and I will keep record of your attendance. Attendance will account for 10 percent of your grade. Your attendance grade will be

calculated by dividing the number of days you have attended class by the number of class days we meet during this semester. I will typically record attendance at the beginning of class, if you arrive after the attendance was recorded then you will not be considered present.

You will not be counted absent if you are attending a South Plains College-sponsored event, if you are sick and have a doctor's note or another reason approved by the instructor. If you miss four or more classes during the semester you may be dropped by the instructor, subject to his discretion.

Classroom Discussions: Although this class is primarily lecture-based, you will be encouraged to contribute to class discussion on the topic of the day or other relevant political topics. Given the nature of this course students may express political views contrary to your own and while you are not required to agree with those views you are required to be respectful. I encourage you to express your own views but you must be respectful in both tone and the delivery of your viewpoint.

Classroom Expectations: The following activities are prohibited during class:

- Text messaging, emailing, meme-ing or other electronic correspondence
- Social media activity
- Answering (or initiating) a phone call
- Watching movies or other videos

Failure to adhere to these expectations will result in the loss of electronic use in this classroom for an individual or the class as a whole.

Diversity Statement: In this class, I will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world, and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland Student Health & Wellness Center 806-716-2577, Reese Center (also covers ATC) Building 8: 806-716-4675, Plainview Center Main Office: 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611, or the Health and Wellness main number at 806-716-2529.

URL: <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/health/disabilityservices.php>

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 informal 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 but for no other activities. Do not use your phone during class. No video or audio recording devices will be allowed in class unless part of a disability accommodation.

Tobacco Use: The use of tobacco products is prohibited in this class. Electronic cigarettes are also prohibited.

Emails: All emails should include your name, course and section number. I am teaching multiple courses and most of your other professors are also teaching multiple courses therefore it is imperative that you include this basic information so that I can (and your other professors can) address your question or concern.

Do not use the blackboard email function. If you need to contact me please use my SPC email address tholland@southplainscollege.edu.

If you do not receive a response within 48 hours please re-send the email.

Class Schedule: Please remember that this class schedule is tentative and subject to changes.

Monday/Wednesday Class Schedule

Week	Day	Date	Topic
1	Monday	27-Aug	Syllabus and Introduction Activity
	Wednesday	29-Aug	Introduction to Politics
2	Monday	3-Sep	Labor Day - No Class
	Wednesday	5-Sep	Federalism
3	Monday	10-Sep	Federalism
	Wednesday	12-Sep	Texas Constitution
4	Monday	17-Sep	Texas Constitution
	Wednesday	19-Sep	Legislature
5	Monday	24-Sep	Legislature
	Wednesday	26-Sep	Legislature
6	Monday	1-Oct	Exam 1
	Wednesday	3-Oct	Plural Executive
7	Monday	8-Oct	Plural Executive
	Wednesday	10-Oct	Plural Executive
8	Monday	15-Oct	Judiciary
	Wednesday	17-Oct	Judiciary
9	Monday	22-Oct	Local Government
	Wednesday	24-Oct	Local Government
10	Monday	29-Oct	Exam 2
	Wednesday	31-Oct	Public Opinion
11	Monday	5-Nov	Interest Groups
	Wednesday	7-Nov	Parties

12	Monday	12-Nov	Parties
	Wednesday	14-Nov	Elections
13	Monday	19-Nov	Elections
	Wednesday	21-Nov	Thanksgiving Break - No Class
14	Monday	26-Nov	Elections
	Wednesday	28-Nov	Policy
15	Monday	3-Dec	Final Exam Review
	Wednesday	5-Dec	Make Up Exam
16	Monday	10-Dec	Final Exam

Final Exam GOVT 2306.008 (MW 1:00) – Wednesday, December 12th at 10:15am

Final Exam GOVT 2306.009 (MW 2:30) – Monday, December 10th at 1:00pm

Tuesday/Thursday Class Schedule

Week	Day	Date	Topic
1	Tuesday	28-Aug	Syllabus and Introduction Activity
	Thursday	30-Aug	Introduction to Politics
2	Tuesday	4-Sep	Federalism
	Thursday	6-Sep	Federalism
3	Tuesday	11-Sep	Constitution
	Thursday	13-Sep	Constitution
4	Tuesday	18-Sep	Legislature
	Thursday	20-Sep	Legislature
5	Tuesday	25-Sep	Legislature
	Thursday	27-Sep	Exam 1
6	Tuesday	2-Oct	Plural Executive
	Thursday	4-Oct	Plural Executive
7	Tuesday	9-Oct	Plural Executive
	Thursday	11-Oct	Judiciary
8	Tuesday	16-Oct	Judiciary
	Thursday	18-Oct	Local Government
9	Tuesday	23-Oct	Local Government
	Thursday	25-Oct	Exam 2
10	Tuesday	30-Oct	Parties
	Thursday	1-Nov	Parties
11	Tuesday	6-Nov	Elections
	Thursday	8-Nov	Elections
12	Tuesday	13-Nov	Elections
	Thursday	15-Nov	Interest Groups
13	Tuesday	20-Nov	Interest Groups
	Thursday	22-Nov	Thanksgiving Break - No Class
14	Tuesday	27-Nov	Public Opinion

	Thursday	29-Nov	Policy
15	Tuesday	4-Dec	Final Exam Review
	Thursday	6-Dec	Make Up Exam Day
16	Tuesday	11-Dec	Final Exam

GOVT 2306.011 (TR 1:00): Final Exam – Thursday, December 15th at 10:15am

GOVT 2306.012 (TR 2:30): Final Exam – Tuesday, December 11th at 1:00pm

GOVT 2306.018 (TR 7:00): Final Exam – Tuesday, December 11th at 7:45pm