

Common Course Syllabus
Government 2306
Revised March 26, 2024

Department: Social Sciences

Discipline: Government

Course Number: GOVT 2306

Course Title: Texas Government

Credit: 3 Lecture, 0 Lab

This course partially satisfies a core curriculum requirement: Government/Political Science Foundational Component Area (070)

Available Formats: Conventional (Fully Face to Face), Fully Online, Hybrid, ITV

Campus: Levelland, Downtown Center, Plainview, Dual Credit

Textbook: Varies according to instructor. (Refer to each instructor's instructions for textbook requirements.)

Course Specific Instructions: Each instructor will attach his/her course with specific instructions.

Course 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.

Course Objectives addressed:

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

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students who have completed this course will:

- Explain the origin and development of the Texas constitution.
- Describe state and local political systems and their relationship with the federal government.
- Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice in Texas.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of Texas government.
- Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in Texas.
- Analyze the state and local election process.
- Identify the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
- Analyze issues, policies and political culture of Texas.

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment: A writing assignment rubric will be used to determine the extent of improvement that the students have gained during the semester.

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

Attendance Policy: Students must make every effort to attend face-to-face courses. Whenever absences become excessive and in the instructor's opinion, minimum course objectives cannot be met due to absences, the instructor may recommend that the student withdraw from the course. Each instructor will have additional information about attendance on his/her course information sheet.

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>.

Syllabus Statements: For information about Artificial Intelligence, Disabilities, Non-Discrimination, Intellectual Exchange, Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations, CARE (Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation) Team, Campus Concealed Carry, and COVID-19, please use this link: <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>.

Instructor Information

- **Name:** Professor: Britt Bearden
- **Email:** bbearden@southplainscollege.edu
- **Office:** Lubbock Downtown Center 1016B
- **Office Hours:** M/W: 12:15PM - 2:15PM | T/Th: 12:15PM - 2:15PM
- **Textbook:** available on Blackboard
- **Technology Requirements:** laptop, internet access, and Google Docs.

Course Grade and Assignments

- **Exams = 45%**
- **Discussions = 25%**
- **In-Class Activities and Quizzes = 30%**

Exams

- Number of Exams: 3
- Questions: 50 multiple choice
- **Make-up Exam: if you miss an exam without documentation you may take it for half credit.**
- You can always take an exam early if you alert me in time.

Discussions

- Number of Discussions: 3
- **Discussions must be written in a Google Doc.** Afterward you will upload as a Word Document to Turnitin on Blackboard.
- **A full rubric and example can be found in Blackboard.**

In-Class Activities and Quizzes

- Pre-Test (1): will be taken on Blackboard for a participation grade. This will gauge your preexisting knowledge about government and politics.
- Post- Test (1): During finals week, you will receive the Pre-test again only in person on the day of your final exam.
- In-class activities (4): **In-class activities will be graded based on your attendance in class and participation in the activity.**
- Lecture Quizzes (4): **Quizzes: these will be timed and consist of 10 questions based on class lectures.**
- **Make-up Assignments: if you have documentation, an alternative assignment will be available for in-class activities.**

Pre-test and Post-test CANNOT be made up. Quizzes require documentation for make ups.

Course Requirements, Expectations, and Policies

Late Work

For each day an assignment is turned in late, 25 points will be taken off your assignment grade. If for some reason the professor or the Blackboard server has made a mistake, you will not be penalized.

Extra Credit

I do not offer extra credit.

Drop Policy

Students who enroll in a course but have "Never Attended" by the official census date, as reported by the faculty member, will be administratively dropped by the Office of Admissions and Records. Other than that, it is your responsibility to drop the course.

Disruption of Classroom Environment

Your professor will not tolerate any disruption of the classroom environment. This includes any hateful/disrespectful remarks made in the classroom, on discussion postings, or email. **If you talk while I am talking or are constantly on your phone, you will be asked to leave.**

Emailing Your Professor

DO NOT attempt to communicate with me through Blackboard. I only communicate through email, preferably your SPC email. I require students to send a **professional email** when contacting me.

When emailing, please include what course you are enrolled in (Example: GOVT 2305.156). **Unless there are unforeseen circumstances, you can expect me to reply to emails within 24 hours. If I do not, don't be afraid to email me again or forward your message to me.**

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is the taking of credit for something that is not the work of the owner. It is cheating and will not be tolerated. See the General Catalog for more information on plagiarism. Cheating or dishonesty of any type in this course will result in the student being dropped from this course with an "F."

Academic English

South Plains College requires all students to become proficient in "academic English," a form of English 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.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Resources

There are now websites and applications that will generate semi-unique material that somewhat resembles original material. Since the technology is available to create this content, technology is also available to detect this content. Make no mistake, this is plagiarism. I am not asking AI to write a paper, I am asking you, the student, to create this content.

If you submit work that is not your own, original material, it will be considered plagiarism and receive a grade of zero. The incident will also be detailed to the Dean of Students for disciplinary actions. This includes grammar software such as Grammarly.

If you feel wrongly accused of AI usage you may appeal to me in email. You will then be asked to come in my office and defend your knowledge on the subject or do so over phone/Zoom. I will then determine if you know the subject enough to justify your work.

South Plains College policies concerning Disabilities, Non-discrimination, Title IX Pregnancy and Parenting Accommodations, CARE (Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation), Intellectual Exchange, Campus Concealed Carry, COVID-19, and AI (Artificial Intelligence) can be found here: [Syllabus Statements](#).