

Course: Government 2306, Texas Government  
Instructor: Bob Bilodeau  
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**Statement of the SPC Social Science Department's  
Government/Political Science Division for  
GOVT 2306 Common Course Syllabus**

*(As required by the Texas Legislature and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
and approved by Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and SPC)*

Department: Social Sciences

Discipline: Government

Course Number: GOVERNMENT 2306

Course Title: Texas Government (Texas Constitution and Topics)

Credit: 3 Lecture, 0 Lab

**Foundational Component Area of Core Curriculum:** Social Science and ALL Undergraduate Degrees

Prerequisites: TSI compliance in Reading

Available Formats: Conventional, INET, ITV

Campus: Levelland, Reese, ATC, Plainview

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: 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 requirements 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 inter-governmental 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: 45.1002.51 25

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 evaluating student performance.

Attendance Policy: Whenever absences become excessive and in the instructor's opinion, minimum course objectives cannot be met due to absences, the student will be withdrawn from the course. Each instructor will have additional information about attendance on his/her course information sheet.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students who have completed this course will be expected to:

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 the state and local election process.
7. Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
8. Analyze issues, policies, and political culture of 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

Text: Cal Jillson, *Texas Politics: Governing the Lone Star State*, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition (optional)

Purpose: The object of this course is to give students a better understanding of Texas government. This course will focus on Texas geography and demographics, the Texas Constitution, federalism, local government, political parties, elections, the legislature, the governor, the courts, crime and judicial procedure, and Texas public policy.

Nondiscrimination Policy: It is the policy of South Plains College and this instructor not to discriminate on the basis of age, race, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation.

Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities, whether learning or physical, who wish to request accommodations should notify the Disability Services Office as early as possible. 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 through the Guidance and Counseling Center at the Reese Center (Building 8), 716-4606 or the Student Services Building in Levelland, 716-2577.

Campus Concealed Carry: authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in South Plains College buildings only by persons who have been issued a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Licensed holder may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations (see SPC policy). Open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all South Plains College campuses.

### Course Policies

1. Attendance: Regular class attendance is required. Class attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Anyone not present at that time will be considered absent. **You may miss 4 classes; on the 5<sup>th</sup> absence, you will be withdrawn from the course. If you miss class, the instructor is not responsible for providing you with the material you missed.**
2. Tardiness: Late attendance is not acceptable behavior. Please respect your fellow classmates and arrive on time.
3. Academic Integrity: Cheating will not be tolerated. Anyone caught cheating will receive a **zero** for the exam and face possible suspension (See General Catalog).

4. Code of Conduct: No disruptive behavior will be tolerated. Anyone who is disruptive in class will be requested to leave. If this behavior occurs again, the student will be withdrawn from the course. **Disruptive behavior includes: making disrespectful comments to the instructor or fellow students, talking to your neighbor, having a cell phone go off in class, sleeping, or doing work for another class.**

### Exams and Grading

1. Exams: During the semester there will be four major examinations and a final exam. The final exam will not be cumulative. **No make-up exam will be given unless notified in advance with a valid reason. If a student fails to take an exam without proper notification, the student will receive an automatic zero.** (The same policy applies to make-up exams.)
2. Material for Tests:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> test – Texas geography, demographics & economy, and the Texas Constitution
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> test – federalism, local government and interest groups
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> test – Texas political parties, voting, elections and the Texas legislature
  - 4<sup>th</sup> test – Texas governor, courts, crime and judicial procedure
  - 5<sup>th</sup> test – Texas public policy
3. Test Dates:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> test – MW – February 8  
T-TH – February 9
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> test – MW – March 1  
T-TH – March 2
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> test – MW – March 29  
T-TH – March 30
  - 4<sup>th</sup> test – MW – April 19  
T-TH – April 20Final Exam – see final exam schedule
4. Grading:
  - a. There will be 5 exams worth 100 points each.
  - b. The final grade will be an average of the 5 best tests.
  - c. Grading scale: A = 100-90, B = 89-80, C = 79-70, D = 69-60, F = below 60
  - d. Exam grades will not be curved.
  - e. There will be no extra credit points to improve an exam score or the final grade.