

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 (Federal Constitution and Topics)

Credit: 3 Lecture, 0 Lab

Satisfies a core curriculum requirement? Yes, 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excessive and in the instructor's opinion, minimum course objectives cannot be met due to absences, the student will be withdrawn from the course.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 and 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:
 1. Generating and communicating ideas by combining, changing, or reapplying existing information,
 2. Gathering and assessing information relevant to a question,
 3. 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 I regional, national, and global communities by:
 1. Demonstrating intercultural competence,
 2. Identifying civic responsibility,
 3. 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:
 1. Reading, understanding and affirming agreement and acceptance of principles, guidelines and requirements set forth in the "Statement of Personal Responsibility of Students" (Attached)
 2. Evaluating choices and actions and relating consequences to personal decision-making
 3. Accepting personal responsibility for decisions and actions taken or not taken.

Government 2306 Instructor Syllabus

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.

Instructor Information

- **Name:** Professor: Britt Bearden
- **Email:** bbearden@southplainscollege.edu
- **Office:** Lubbock Downtown Center 1016B
- **Office Hours:** M/W: 12:15PM – 1:45PM | T/TH: 12:15PM – 2: 15PM | F: 4:00PM – 5:00PM
- **Textbook:** Lopez, Stadelmann, and Sterken, "Uncovering Texas Politics in the 21st Century" (2020). *UT Tyler Press*. (Textbook is available on Blackboard)

Course Grade and Assignments

- **Syllabus Quiz | Practice Discussion | Attendance = 5%**
- **Exams = 40%**
- **Discussions = 30%**
- **Government Comparison = 5%**
- **Election Analysis = 5%**
- **Essay = 15%**

Syllabus Quiz

- **Time:** Unlimited
- **Attempts:** Unlimited
- **Questions:** 1 question
- **Purpose:** Ensure you read, understood, and agree to the syllabus

Practice Discussion

You will practice posting to the discussion board by introducing yourself. Note: this assignment is graded based on participation NOT using the Discussion rubric. It is also weighed along with your syllabus agreement and attendance NOT your other discussions.

Exams

- **Number of Assignments:** 3
- **Questions:** 50 multiple choice

Discussions Postings

- **Purpose:** develop your ability to write in Academic English and test knowledge of government material.
- **Number of Assignments:** 3 Discussions
- **Basic Instructions:**
 - Discussion Post Length: 400 words
- **A full rubric, instructions, and an example can be found in Blackboard.**

Government Comparison

- **Purpose:** compare another state government system to that of Texas.
- **A full rubric, instructions, and an example can be found in Blackboard.**

Election Analysis

- **Purpose:** analyze a statewide Texas election and in doing so critical assess party realignment and issue evolution.
- **A full rubric, instructions, and an example can be found in Blackboard.**

Essay

Purpose: display your knowledge and research skills by writing an academic essay about a topic of your choosing relating to Texas government. You can either choose to write an expository or argumentative essay. Common topics chosen include: abortion, marijuana legalization, and gun rights.

It is important to write in third person and try NOT to editorialize.

Basic Instructions:

- Double spaced
- 12 point font
- Times New Roman
- 1 inch margins

- at least 1000 words in length (that is NOT including headers, footers, citations, etc.)
- Uses citations (APA or MLA)
- **A full rubric and instructions can be found at the end on Blackboard.**

Note: Expect written assignments to be graded within a business week of the due date.

Course Requirements, Expectations, and Policies

Late Policy and Technology Problems

I do not accept late work.

If for some reason the professor or the Blackboard server has made a mistake, you will not be penalized.

Always start early and finish early to avoid problems.

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 problems your facilitator encounters with you AND hateful/disrespectful remarks made in the classroom, on discussion postings, email, or chat. I will drop you from the course for such violations.

Emailing Your Professor

I require students to send a professional email when contacting me. If you send an unprofessional email to me, I will respond asking you to retype your email.

When emailing, please include what course you are enrolled in (Example: GOVT 2305.156).

DO NOT attempt to communicate with me through Blackboard. I only communicate through email, preferably your SPC email.

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.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Resources

There are now websites that will actually 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.

Keep in mind some grammar software such as Grammarly is considered as AI. Using these programs will also result in a zero. **I want to see YOUR work not the work of software.**

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.

South Plains College 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: [Syllabus Statements \(southplainscollege.edu\)](https://southplainscollege.edu/syllabus-statements).