Professor Information
Professor: Mrs. Rebecca J. McElyea
Department of Government
Office: Liberal Arts North #112
Office Hours: T/Th 11AM-12PM (in person); Mondays 10AM-1PM (ZOOM)
Email: Rebecca.McElyea@sfasu.edu
SI Leader: Ms. Victoria Fortman
SI Meeting Times: TBD
SI Location: TBD

Course Description:
“This course introduces students to 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.” General Bulletin, 2020-2021.

This three-credit hour face-to-face course requires approximate 150 minutes of classroom time/direct instruction as well as at least six hours of out-of-class reading and studying each week in preparation for exams and completion of writing assignments.

General Education Core Curriculum Objectives:
In any given semester, one or more of the following Core Curriculum Objectives for the political science / government Foundational Component Area may be assessed.

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

This course is a general education core curriculum course and no specific program learning outcomes for a political science major are addressed in this course.

Student Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, you should be able to

- Critically evaluate political science theories and approaches to institutional arrangements of Texas political system and to Texas public policy
- Communicate your understanding and interpretation of institutional arrangements of the Texas political system, and well as key domestic and foreign policy issues
- Understand social responsibility by examining Texas government policy choices as they effect various regional, national, and global communities
- Understand, connect, and evaluate individual choices associated with Texas state public policy options and / or theories and approaches to institutional design of the Texas political system

Purpose:

This course is the first of two required political science courses designed to be an introduction to politics. The focus of this course is the inputs into the political process, and to some extent the political process itself. Although many of you are not majoring in political science, all of you will be affected by the political process. Hopefully by the end of this course you will not only be more informed about the political process, but also more interested and involved in it.

Required Reading:


Assessment:

You are expected to read the assigned material before class in order to participate actively and constructively in class. Your grade will depend on frequency and quality of your contribution to class discussions.

Also, it is important that we keep up with contemporary events. Doing so will provide relevant examples for our in-class discussion and enhance your awareness of important issues. The following list are some of the news sources you may use BBC News, The Economist, The New York Times, The Guardian, The Texas Tribune, Houston Chronicle, Dallas Morning News, Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Austin American-Statesman, and Reuters.
Grades for Texas Government 2306 will be based on the completion of the following assignments:

There will be **four exams** given during the semester. Tests will cover material from the lecture and the reading. Your exams can include True/False, short answer, short essay, and multiple-choice questions. The exam time limits correspond to our class length and will be taken online. Another 15% of your grade will come from your quiz grade. The quizzes are designed to help test your basic understanding of the module’s content. As such, you may take each quiz as many times as you want to help study the material. The highest grade will be recorded. Whereas the quizzes are designed to test basic knowledge, the assignments are geared towards integrating the material in the lectures and reading. These weekly assignments will account for another 15% of your course grade. There are 11 total weekly assignments, and you must complete 8 of them. *The weekly assignments are due at just before midnight each Sunday.* Once the dropbox closes, the assignment can no longer be submitted. If you miss the due date, you will have to complete a different assignment. I do not need to know which weeks you are skipping and which weeks you are completing.

**Assessment Weighting Information**

The following are the weights given to your participation and discussions, exams, weekly assignments, and the date each assignment is due:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Grade Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly assignments</td>
<td>Semester-Long due every Sunday at 11:59 PM</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam One</td>
<td>Sept. 16</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam Two (Midterm)</td>
<td>Oct. 14</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam Three</td>
<td>Nov. 11</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam Four (Final)</td>
<td>Dec. 6-10 (Finals Week)</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quiz Grade</td>
<td>Semester-Long due Dec. 5\textsuperscript{th}, 2021, 11:59 PM</td>
<td>10%</td>
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Final grades will be granted on the following scale:
- A=100%-90%
- B=89%-80%
- C=79%-70%
- D=69%-60%
- F=59% and below

**Late Assignment Information**

A detailed description of student expectations has been provided to you above. It is the student’s responsibility to turn in and complete fully all assignments by the deadlines listed above. Because dates have been provided to you in advance no late assignments will be accepted. This includes weekly assignments.
Technical Support Statements

Technical Support Center

The Technical Support Center on campus provides technical support to the students, faculty, and staff of Stephen F. Austin State University. TSC provide telephone help desk support to most of the campus as well as provide free computer repair for computers belonging to students of the university. TSC hours are 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Friday during the spring and fall semesters. TSC hours are the same during Maymester and summer sessions except we close at 5:00 p.m. on Fridays. TSC can be reached at (936) 468-HELP (4357) or at tsc@sfasu.edu. TSC is located at 514 East Austin, north of the main SFA campus.

Student E-mail

SFA Student e-mail is hosted by Microsoft Office 365. For help with e-mail passwords, please contact the Help Desk at (936) 468-HELP (4357). If students forget their mySFA password and have not set up their myPassword profile, they must contact the Office of the Registrar at (936) 468-2501.

University Policies and Additional Information

Mental Health On-campus Supports Available to Students

SFASU values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support student’s mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:
SFASU Counseling Services
www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices
3rd Floor Rusk Building
936-468-2401

SFASU Human Services Counseling Clinic
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
Human Services Room 202
936-468-1041

Crisis Resources:
Burke 24-hour crisis line 1(800) 392-8343
Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1(800) 273-TALK (8255)
Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741
Academic Integrity (A-9.1)

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.
### Important Dates

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Begins</td>
<td>August 23, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday</td>
<td>November 20-28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last Day to withdraw from University</td>
<td>November 30, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exams</td>
<td>December 6-10, 2021</td>
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