Course Information and Student Tips:

**Course Questions:** If you have ANY questions about this course, please read the syllabus first, the answer can most likely be found in this document.

**Late Work:** The acceptance of late work is determined at the professor’s discretion. Your best bet is to email me the late assignment and hope for the best.

**Email Policy:** I will respond to your emails within 24 hours, unless they are sent over the weekend, then I will respond on Monday morning. Please include your full name, course, AND section number, along with detailed information about your situation so I can respond as promptly as possible.

**Due Dates:** The material in each Unit is self-paced, meaning all Unit assignments are due at the same time. It is easy to push everything to the last minute and then forget about the assignments, or just run out of time. Please make sure to stay on top of the assignments and readings. Time management is key!

**Behavior:** This is a college class which means that we will talk about mature topics, at these times students should remain courteous and sensitive to the views of others. Demeaning or crude talk will not be tolerated, if a student is continually inappropriate, I maintain the right to refer them to the department chair.

**Readings:** This class will be reading intensive, to achieve all the goals and standards for this class reading assignments need to be completed before class. Without the outside reading the student will not grasp the intricacies of the topics we cover in the classroom.

**Missed Exams:** You may NOT take an Exam after it has been given however you can take an exam early. If you are going to miss an exam for any reason but would like to take an early Exam, contact me as soon as possible. If you contact me after the exam has already been given, then you must take the final to replace the grade.

**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.

**Course Readings:** This course does not have a required textbook, instead all the readings from this course are open-source Journal Articles, News Paper articles or Primary Text documents, and they have been provided for you. The course readings are listed and cited in the course outline. If a link on D2L is broken, you will still be able to find the articles by searching the citation information online.

If you think that you may like a textbook to refer to then I would suggest finding a used copy of the following textbook:


**Assignments:**

**Exams-** 45% (Worth 11.25 points each)
There will be five exams in the class. The first four exams are required, if you are satisfied with your course grade after the first four exams then you may choose not to take the final exam. The final exam will be cumulative. If you take all five exams, then your lowest exam grade will be dropped.

**Quizzes-** 20% (Worth 2.5 points each)
There will also be 8 quizzes, some will cover the lecture, and some will cover Topic Readings.
Packback Discussions- 30% (Worth 5 points each)
Participation on Packback is a requirement for this course. There will be 6 discussions in this class that will take place in Packback. These discussions you will ask open-ended questions about a course reading to build on top of what we are covering in class and relate topics to real-world applications.

Current Event- 5% (Worth 5 points)
You will turn in 1 current event paper on the indicated days. Instructions and due date for this assignment can be found in the Course Information Module.

Extra Credit- (Worth 5 points total)
Before every exam a review will be posted to D2L. These reviews will be worth 1 point on your final average, and they are completely optional.
Because there are multiple opportunities for extra credit no other extra credit will be offered.

Notes:
Actively taking notes and listening to the class lectures helps you better retain the information. The Power Points will be provided for each module, these should be used to help you take notes they should not replace them all together. I have also created Note taking worksheets that will match up with the PowerPoints and the lecture videos. You do not have to use these, but they may help you organize the material as you are listening to the lectures.

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

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

Academic Integrity:
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.

Plagiarism:
If you are caught plagiarizing in this course, the first time you will receive a zero for the assignment. You may not makeup that grade. The second time you are caught you will fail this course and I will turn your name into the Dean and whoever it concerns at your High School.
**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 If you are caught cheating or plagiarizing you will receive a zero on the assignment. Further action may be taken depending on the assignment. It is completely within my rights to refer you to the Dean of the college if deemed appropriate.

**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/.

**Acceptable Student Behavior:**
Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the iCare program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

**CoVID-19 Mask Policy:**
You must wear a mask (cloth face coverings) must be worn over the nose and mouth at all times in this class and appropriate physical distancing must be observed. If you do not wear a mask and/or do not observe appropriate physical distancing, you will be asked to leave class. All incidents of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Students who are reported for multiple infractions of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing may be subject to disciplinary actions. Information regarding face masks and other physical distancing may be found at:
Course Syllabus Appendix

General Education Core Curriculum
The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has identified six core learning objectives: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, Teamwork, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility. SFA is committed to the improvement of its general education core curriculum by regular assessment of student performance on these six objectives.

By enrolling in GOVT 2306: Texas Government you are also enrolling in a Core Curriculum Course that fulfills the Core Curriculum / General Education Objectives of Communication Skills (Visual and Written), Critical Thinking, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility.

During the semester, you will receive assignments that fulfills both the requirements of this course and the needs of Stephen F. Austin State University’s Core Curriculum Assessment Plan with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. If you have any questions, please see your Instructor or the Office of Student Learning and Institutional Assessment at (936) 468-1130.

The chart below indicates the core objectives addressed by this course, the assignment(s) that will be used to assess the objectives associated with this course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Course Assignment Titles</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas though written, oral, and visual communication.</td>
<td>1) Current Event</td>
<td>1) 8/4/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
<td>To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information</td>
<td>1) Discussion 6: Judicial Elections</td>
<td>1) 8/4/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Responsibility</td>
<td>To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to effectively engage in regional, national, and global communities</td>
<td>1) Discussion 3: Voting and Elections</td>
<td>1) 7/14/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Responsibility</td>
<td>To include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making</td>
<td>1) Discussion 5: The Bureaucracy</td>
<td>1) 7/26/2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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