GOVERNMENT 2306 (ONLINE)
TEXAS GOVERNMENT
Stephen F. Austin State University
Department of Government
Summer 2021 (5.17.21 – 6.25.21)

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Office Hours: Wednesday 1 - 2 PM
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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.

Requirements of the Course

You are expected to read each module and the assigned textbook chapters. You should also stay informed of current political events by reading the paper, watching the news, browsing political websites, etc. Doing so will help you understand how Texas government works in a practical way.

Grading Policy

Grades for this course will come from four exams (25% each).

Examinations: Examinations (except makeup exams) will consist of 50 multiple-choice and/or true/false questions. There will be four exams. The exams will only cover the information in each segment. The day of the exam, it will open at 8 AM and close at 8 PM. You will have 60 minutes to take each exam. Exams will cover reading and lecture material. You are responsible for each of these. Exam dates can be found in D2L.

Make-up exams will be given only in the case of documented illness, documented emergencies, or University related absences. Make-up exams may be more difficult than scheduled exams (e.g., essay). If you miss an exam, it is your responsibility to inform me as to the nature of your absence. If the absence is excused, we will schedule a time to take the make-up exam. No exams will be given early.

Attendance: Attendance will not be taken.

Required Book

Policy on Academic Dishonesty

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

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.

General Education Core Curriculum Objectives/Outcomes

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

- 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
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 affect 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

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy: 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/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).