

## Government 2306 Online Course Syllabus

Carefully read the entire syllabus below. When you have completed reading the syllabus send me an e-mail (**through the course Blackboard e-mail**) stating, "I have read the entire syllabus and agree to follow all of its requirements." Then state your name at the bottom of the e-mail. By sending me an e-mail, you will be held to all the requirements stated in the syllabus. The syllabus agreement is essential for me to know that you understand the rules of this course

Course: Government 2306, Texas Government

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Text: Jones, Mark & Crain, Ernest, *Texas Politics Today: 19<sup>th</sup> Enhanced Edition*, Cengage Publishing.

Purpose: The object of this course is to give students a better understanding of Texas government.

College Policies: 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](http://southplainscollege.edu))

### 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.

Methods to Attain Learning Outcomes: The following suggestions will help you better understand the material, and improve your knowledge of Texas government.

1. Review the learning outcomes (Focus Questions) at the beginning of each chapter.
2. Read the chapter carefully at least twice.
3. Outline the chapter to focus on the authors' organization of the chapter, and discover what he believes to be the most important points in the chapter.
4. Review all graphs and charts.
5. Review all the key terms.

Study Guide: A course study guide is provided for you under the Course Content icon, located in the top left hand corner of the home page. The study guide will provide study questions for each chapter, to help you better understand the major points in each chapter. While the study guide will not cover every question on the test, it will assist you in answering most of the questions.

Discussion Board: A discussion board is required by all South Plains College online classes. In the discussion board you will have the opportunity to introduce yourself to the class, and discuss topics related to that week's reading material. There will be 4 Discussion Board posts this semester. Each Discussion Board post will be worth 50 points. All Discussion Boards are open on the first day of class. You may make a post any time before the due date, but no post will be accepted after the due date. A discussion post must be long enough to cover the topic presented for discussion that week. It should include facts and an analysis of the material; not just your opinion on a topic. Simply quoting, copying or paraphrasing the textbook is not acceptable. I want your post to show how well you understand the material. The more you show how well you understand the material, the more points you will receive. Just remember, if you are trying to give me the least amount possible, it's your grade! The Discussion Board posts will not be timed like chapter tests, so please take the time to proof read your essay to make sure it can be easily understood by the reader, using proper grammar. Just remember, paragraphs, capitalization, punctuation and sentence structure make it easier for the reader to understand the points you are trying to make.

### Exams and Grading (Read this section carefully)

1. Exams: You will have 11 chapter tests. The 10 best scores will be counted towards your grade (your lowest test score will be dropped). Each test will have 25 multiple choice and true/false questions worth 4 points each, for a total of 100 points. You must take the test by 11:59 PM on the assigned date. Otherwise, you will receive a **zero** for the test. All tests will be timed, just as if you were in class, so make sure you know the material before you take the test. You will not have time to look for the correct answers in the book. Tests will last 30 minutes.

Note carefully: once you click on "Begin" you must complete the test in its entirety. Please be sure to click on the save button after you answer each question. Otherwise, your answer will not be saved, and you will receive no credit for that question. If the test is not completed within the allotted time, you will receive a zero for that grade. Please do not wait until the last second to click "Save and Submit" for the test. Students, who have tried this, have found that the computer will not accept their test.

**Computer malfunctions happen. If you have a computer malfunction during a test, it is considered an incomplete test, and I will use your one drop for that test. There are no make-up tests.**

All tests are available on the first day of class. Any test may be taken before the scheduled test date, but no test may be taken after the scheduled test date.

### 2. Grading:

- a. You will take 11 chapter tests each worth 100 points and have 4 Discussion Board posts each worth 50 points.
- b. Your grade will be calculated by adding your 10 best chapter tests (I will drop your lowest chapter test grade), and your 4 Discussion Board posts and dividing by 12.
- c. Grading scale: A = 100-90, B = 89-80, C = 79-70, D = 69-60 & F = below 60
- d. There is no extra credit for this class.

**Chapters for Reading Tests:** You will take the following tests. See your Test Schedule for test dates.  
**Test may be taken before the assigned test date, but not after.** Anyone failing to take a test by the assigned date will receive a **zero** for that test score.

Chapter 1 – Texas Political Culture and Diversity  
Chapter 2 – Texas in the Federal System  
Chapter 3 – The Texas Constitution in Perspective  
Chapter 4 – Voting and Elections  
Chapter 5 – Political Parties  
Chapter 7 – The Legislature  
Chapter 8 – The Executive  
Chapter 9 – The Judiciary  
Chapter 10 – Law and Due Process  
Chapter 11 – Local Government  
Chapter 12 – Public Policy in Texas

**For All Technical Support -** [blackboard@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:blackboard@southplainscollege.edu) or call 806-716-2180.  
(They are much better than I am at solving computer problems.)

### **Student Responsibility**

It is the responsibility of the student to make sure all tests have been completed by their due date. Any test not completed by the due date automatically receives a zero. Computer problems or mechanical failures are not considered acceptable for late tests or assignments. You are highly encouraged not to wait until the last minute to complete tests. Technical and personal problems are not considered acceptable excuses for late tests, since you are able to take your tests well in advance of the test date.