

Angelina College  
Liberal Arts Division  
Government 2306: Texas Government  
Instructional Syllabus

**I. BASIC COURSE INFORMATION:**

**A. 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.

**B. INTENDED AUDIENCE:** This course will meet the certification requirement for prospective teachers, as required by Texas law. Required of all students seeking an Associate in Arts or Science degree or who plan to transfer to a four year school.

**C. INSTRUCTOR:**

**Kevin Wooten**

**Office Location:** AC Polk County Center

**Office Hours:** As necessary via Collaborate (Blackboard “skype”)

**Phone:** 936-633-4570

**Email:** kwooten@angelina.edu

**II. CORE OBJECTIVES:**

**A. Core Objectives (*Pending approval of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board*)**

- 1. Critical Thinking Skills (CT):** to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- 2. Communication Skills (COM):** to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.
- 3. Personal Responsibility (PR):** to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.
- 4. Social Responsibility (SR):** to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage in regional, national, and global activities.

**B. Course Learning Objectives for all Sections**

1. Explain the origin and development of the Texas Constitution
2. Describe 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

**III. ASSESSMENTS:**

**A. Assessments for Core Objectives**

- 1. Critical Thinking Skills**—Students will answer four (4) questions regarding Critical Thinking skills. Each question has an appropriate answer.
- 2. Communication Skills**— Students will answer four (4) questions regarding Communication skills. Each question has an appropriate answer.
- 3. Social Responsibility**— Students will answer four (4) questions regarding Social Responsibility. Each question has an appropriate answer.
- 4. Personal Responsibility**— Students will answer four (4) questions regarding Personal Responsibility. Each question has an appropriate answer.

**B. Assessments for Course Learning Objectives**

1. Explain the origin and development of the Texas Constitution: Texas Constitution will be covered in a series of lectures and class discussions. There will be assigned reading, a text-based quiz, and information will be covered on a major exam.
2. Describe state and local political systems and their relationship with the federal government: covered in a series of lectures and class discussions and there will be a text-based quiz over the material; the material will be covered on a major exam.
3. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice in Texas: covered as part of a series of lectures on the legislative, executive and judicial branches in Texas.

There will be text-based quizzes on the material and the material will be covered on a major exam.

4. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of Texas government: covered in Section II as part of a series of lectures on the legislative, executive and judicial branches in Texas. There will be text-based quizzes on the material and the material will be covered on a major exam.

5. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in Texas: Section III covers this information through assigned reading and text-based quizzes. Material will be covered through quizzes, and on a major exam.

6. Analyze the state and local election process: Section III covers this information through assigned reading and a text-based quiz. Material will be covered on a major exam.

7. Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens: There will be a text-based quiz to cover the material. Material will be covered on a major exam.

8. Analyze issues, policies, and political culture of Texas: Current events including issues and policies are covered throughout each section of the and assessed in text-based quizzes and major exams.

#### **IV. INSTRUCTIONAL PROCEDURES:**

##### **A. Methodologies common to all section.**

Methodologies that are utilized in presenting course content may include (but are not limited to) lectures, class discussion, audio-visual presentation, and critical thinking projects.

##### **B. Methodologies determined by Instructor – N/A**

#### **V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES:**

**A. Required Textbooks, Materials, and Equipment – Required Textbook and Recommended Readings, Materials, and Equipment      Text: Government and Politics in the Lone Star State. Gibson, Robison, and Green. Ninth Edition--2016 Elections and Updates Edition**

##### **B. Assignments – (Appropriate due dates, schedules, deadlines)**

\*Syllabus Quiz

\*Written papers (3)

\*Four exams – due dates forthcoming

\*Online chapter quizzes

##### **C. Course policies – (This course conforms to the policies of Angelina College as stated in the Angelina College Handbook)**

Academic Assistance – If you have a disability (as cited in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990) that may affect your participation in this class, you should see Maria Lopez or Steve Hudman in room 200 of the Student Center. At a postsecondary institution, you must self-identify as a person with a disability; Ms. Lopez and Mr. Hudman will assist you with the necessary information to do so. To report any complaints of discrimination related to disability, you should contact Mr. Steve Hudman, Dean of Student Affairs, in Room 101 of the Student Center. You may also contact Dean Hudman by phone at [\(936\) 633-5292](tel:9366335292) or by email [shudman@angelina.edu](mailto:shudman@angelina.edu).

##### **Additional Policies Established by the Individual Instructor**

**Attendance** – Regular access to Blackboard Learn is required to complete this class. The instructor has the ability to identify when, and for how long, a person accesses Blackboard. The instructor will regularly check on access. Assignments will have due dates that will be strictly adhered to.

**CLASS CONDUCT** – This is a college class. As an adult assuming the responsibility of higher education, you should act appropriately. This means treating fellow students and the instructor with respect. In return, you will be treated with respect. Respect means maintaining civil interactions online with fellow students and the instructor. Abusive language, intimidation, bullying, or any other similar actions will not be tolerated. Violation of these policies may result in removal from the class.

**Academic Dishonesty** – Academic dishonesty is defined as the student’s use of unauthorized assistance and any formal academic endeavor with the intent to deceive the instructor. This includes plagiarism, collusion, and/or cheating. Complicity, or knowingly contributing to another student’s academic dishonesty, is considered academic dishonesty. Any student caught being academically dishonest will immediately receive an “F” (0) on the assignment. Further action may be taken against the student depending on the severity of the offense. If the instructor chooses to drop a grade when determining final grades, a zero received because of academic dishonesty may not be dropped.

Exams – There will be 4 exams. Since you are given a range of dates to take exams, no makeup exams will be allowed.

**VI. COURSE OUTLINE: Description of Course Activities including due dates, schedules, and deadlines.**

1. Class Schedule (Note: While every attempt will be made to follow the schedule, circumstances may dictate that changes may be necessary. Therefore, all dates are tentative.)

Class schedule will be available in the content area of Blackboard. Please refer to instructor directions.

**VII. EVALUATION AND GRADING:**

- A. Grades will be determined by scores on exams and other assignments. The instructor reserves the right to offer extra credit opportunities, but do not ask for extra credit. **DO THE WORK ASSIGNED THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER IN A TIMELY MANNER! I HAVE NO TOLERANCE FOR THOSE WHO DO NOTHING DURING THE SEMESTER AND IN THE LAST WEEKS PLEAD WITH ME TO ALLOW THEM TO MAKE UP WORK OR OFFER THEM EXTRA CREDIT. DON’T EVEN ASK.**

- B. **Determination of the final grade** – Your final grade will be calculated in the following way:

Exam #1 = 100 pts. (10% of total grade)	890-1000=A
Exam #2 = 100 pts. (10%)	790-889=B
Exam #3 = 100 pts. (10%)	690-789=C
Exam #4 = 100 pts. (10%)	590-689=D
Syll. Quiz = 20 pts. (2%)	000-589=F
Ch. Quiz = 280 pts. (28%)	
<u>Papers = 300 pts. (30%)</u>	
Total = 1000 pts.	

**SYLLABUS MODIFICATION:**

**The instructor may modify the provisions of the syllabus to meet individual class needs by informing the class in advance as to the changes being made.**