

Angelina College
School of Arts and Education
Government 2306: Texas Government
Instructional Syllabus

I. BASIC COURSE INFORMATION:

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION: Three hours credit. 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: Larry Wade
Office Location: Online
Office Hours: By appointment
Email: lwade@angelina.edu

II. CORE OBJECTIVES:

A. Core Objectives Required for this Course

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

B. Course Learning Outcomes

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. ASSESSMENT MEASURES:

A. Assessments for the Core Objectives

1. **Critical Thinking:** Through online assignments, students will write essays in which they use historical data to analyze major historical events and interpret current events.
2. **Communication:** Through online discussion forums, students will learn to respectfully communicate with their classmates on topics relevant to the themes stated in the course description.
3. **Social Responsibility:** Students will learn social responsibility through discussion forums, online study groups, and e-mail correspondence with their classmates according to online etiquette policy.
4. **Personal Responsibility:** Students will learn personal responsibility by following syllabus guidelines and observing posted deadlines for quizzes, exams, and Internet assignments.

B. Assessments for the Exemplary Objectives Specific to the Course

1. Students will explain the origin and development of the Texas Constitution using a variety of primary and secondary sources as the basis for writing assignments.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of state and local political systems and their relationship with the federal government through current events-related writing assignments.
3. Students will describe the separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice in Texas through discussion posts, Internet assignments, and quizzes.
4. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of Texas government through discussion posts, Internet assignments, quizzes, and exams.
5. Students will evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in Texas through a series of discussion posts, Internet assignments, quizzes, and exams.
6. Students will analyze the state and local election process through a series of current events-related discussion posts, Internet assignments, quizzes, and exams.
7. Students will describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a series of writing assignments.
8. Students will analyze issues, policies, and political culture of Texas through a variety of discussion posts, Internet assignments, quizzes, and exams.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES:

Required Textbook: *Government and Politics in the Lone Star State. 2016 Presidential Election Edition.* Gibson, Robison, and Green. Pearson Publishing.

- A. Assignments** – This course is based on a series of exams, map quizzes, Internet activities, and class discussions. To be successful in the course, it will be necessary for you to complete the exams, map quizzes, Internet activities, and discussions before the posted deadlines and keep up with assigned readings. Makeup exams will be given at a designated time **only** for students who missed exams when they were first offered. There are **NO** makeup quizzes.
- B. Course policies** – Concerning attendance, it is your responsibility to log in to Blackboard **at least five days per week** to check for e-mail, announcements, and other course-related information. The instructor **WILL NOT** drop students from the course. Students who choose to drop the course are responsible for completing the process.

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 Sellestine Hunt, Associate Dean of Student Services, Student Center, Room 200. At a post-secondary institution, you must self-identify as a person with a disability; Ms. Hunt 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 Student Center, Room 101, (936) 633-5292 or by email shudman@angelina.edu.

Additional Policies Established by the Individual Instructor

If you have a question, please type the word “Question” in the subject box in Blackboard, the course management system. Questions will always receive priority over other e-mail.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

As stated in the Angelina College Distance Learning Policies and Procedures Manual, “The college and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism and collusion. Cheating or plagiarism in any degree will not be tolerated by the college and will result in no less than a failing grade on the assignment in question. Further proceedings to have

the violator suspended from class and/or from the college may be initiated through the current policy of the college on grievances.

Cheating includes:

- a. Copying from another student's test paper, laboratory report, other report, or computer files, data listings, and/or programs.
- b. Using materials during a test that are not authorized by the test administrator.
- c. Collaborating with another person or persons during an examination or in preparing academic work without authorization.
- d. Knowingly, and without authorization, using, buying, selling, stealing, soliciting, copying, or possessing, in whole or part, the contents of an unadministered test.
- e. Substituting for another student, permitting any person, or otherwise assisting any other person to substitute for oneself or for another student in the taking of an examination or the preparation of academic work to be submitted for academic credit.
- f. Purchasing or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one's work any research paper or writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm. Plagiarism means the appropriation of another's work or idea and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work or idea in one's own written work offered for credit. Collusion means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit."

In addition to this syllabus, please read the Angelina College Distance Learning Policies and Procedures Manual in its entirety.

V. COURSE CONTENT/TOPICS:

- A. Content**– A survey of the social, political, economic, cultural, and intellectual history of the United States from the Civil War/Reconstruction era to the present.
- B. Topics** -- U.S. History II topics include the study of American culture, religion, civil and human rights, technological change, economic change, immigration and migration, urbanization and suburbanization, the expansion of the federal government, and the study of U.S. foreign policy.

VI. EVALUATION AND GRADING:

To determine your semester grade, add your exam, quiz, and discussion scores to the total number of points you received from the mandatory Internet Activities.

Grading System

Determining Your Semester Grade

To determine your semester grade, add your exam grades, plus the total number of points you received from the Internet activities, quizzes, and discussions. Your grade should be available immediately after you've taken an exam or quiz. If it's not, please contact me immediately.

Grading Scale

GRADE	TOTAL POINTS
A	900-1000
B	800-899
C	700-799
D	600-699
F	0-599