

TEXAS GOVERNMENT

Department of Political Science
POLS2306, Section 13 (CRN 83204)

Online

Dr. Ulbig

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OFFICE HOURS

ONLINE DAILY AND IN-PERSON MW 10:00AM-12:00 PM
OR BY APPOINTMENT

Course Description. This course examines Texas government and politics, including political culture; the Texas Constitution; Texas' role in the federal system; individuals' political values and participation; interest groups, parties, elections and campaigns; the legislative, executive, and judicial branches; and fiscal, social, and economic policies. Credit 3.

Course Objectives. Specific course objectives include...

1. Explaining the origin and development of the Texas constitution.
2. Describing state and local political systems and their relationship with the federal government.
3. Describing separate of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice in Texas.
4. Demonstrating knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of Texas government.
5. Evaluating the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in Texas.
6. Analyzing the state and local election process.
7. Identifying the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
8. Analyzing issues, policies, and political culture of Texas.

Class Materials. You will need the following book for this class...

Jillson, Cal. 2016. *Texas Politics: Governing the Lone Star State 5th Edition*. Routledge Press. ISBN: 978-1-138-84200-7. Available in the campus bookstore or online (see Blackboard for details)

Exams and Grading. Your grade for this course will be determined by your participation in class and performance on a comprehensive final exam...

Class Participation	150 points
Final Exam	100 points

In addition to these points, there will be 10 bonus points available, which you can earn through the class participation quizzes. See below and Course FAQs for details.

COURSE GRADES will be calculated according to the following scale...

- A = 225 points or more
- B = 200 to 224 points
- C = 175 to 199 points
- D = 150 to 174 points
- F = less than 150 points

IMPORTANT NOTE. There is no averaging, percentage calculations, or rounding involved in course grade calculation. Grades are based on the raw number of points earned over the course of the semester. Students asking Dr. Ulbig to calculate their grade for them will be penalized 100 points. See Course FAQs posted on the course website for more details about course grade calculation.

You will earn **CLASS PARTICIPATION** points by answering multiple choice quiz questions related to each class topic. There will be more than 150 quiz questions available throughout the course, and you will earn one point for each correct answer. You may earn a maximum of 160 of these points over the course of the semester, 10 of which will be considered "bonus points." See Course FAQs posted on the course website for more details about participation and bonus points.

The **FINAL EXAM**, will be will include 100 multiple-choice questions covering material from all class topics (yes, it is cumulative). There are no bonus points available on this exam.

Make-Up Work Policy. You are expected to complete the participation quizzes and take the final exam at the scheduled times. There are **no opportunities to make up any work** in this class.

Grade Report Forms. Students requesting that grade report forms (for athletics or other campus organizations) be filled out immediately before or after class will need to provide a **printed copy of their grade sheet from the course website** along with the form so that Dr. Ulbig can verify grades quickly. Otherwise, students will have to speak with Dr. Ulbig during office hours or leave the form with Dr. Ulbig and pick it up from her the following class meeting. See Course FAQs on course website for more information about grade report forms.

Attendance Policy. You are expected to access the course website regularly, preferably every day. It is your responsibility to check the announcements and notifications on the website, as well as your SHSU email regularly, and to meet all course deadlines. If you cannot access the course website for more than seven days due to a serious problem, please keep Dr. Ulbig informed.

Other Policies: All students should also be aware of the policies regarding academic dishonesty, absences due to holy days, students with disabilities, and visitors in the classroom explained here: <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>.

Class Schedule and Assignments.

Note: This schedule is tentative. Changes will be announced online.

	Suggested Completion Date	Topic	Readings	Assignment
UNIT 0	Thursday, August 24	Class Introduction	Course Syllabus and FAQs (see Blackboard)	Topic 00
UNIT 1	Tuesday, August 29	State Culture	None	Topic 01A
	Thursday, August 31	State Culture	Jillson Textbook, Chapter 1, pp. 8-10	Topic 01B
	Tuesday, September 5	Texas Constitution	Jillson Textbook: Ch. 2, pp. 34-47	Topics 02A, 02B
	Thursday, September 7	Federalism, Part I	Jillson Textbook: Chapter 2, pp. 26-34,	Topic 03A
	Tuesday, September 12	Federalism, Part II	Jillson Textbook: Chapter 9, pp. 220-240	Topics 03B, 03C
	Thursday, September 14	ALL UNIT 1 TOPICS DUE (topic quizzes in this unit cannot be completed after 11:59 PM tonight)		
UNIT 2	Tuesday, September 19	Legislative Branch, Part I	Jillson Textbook: Chapter 6, pp. 137-162	Topics 04A, 04B
	Thursday, September 21	Legislative Branch, Part II	None	Topic 04C
	Tuesday, September 26	Executive Branch, Part I	Jillson Textbook: Chapter 7, pp. 168-190	Topics 05A, 05B
	Thursday, September 28	Executive Branch, Part II	None	Topic 05C
	Tuesday, October 3	Financing State Government	Jillson Textbook, Chapter 10, pp. 246-271	Topics 06A, 06B
	Thursday, October 5	ALL UNIT 2 TOPICS DUE (topic quizzes in this unit cannot be completed after 11:59 PM tonight)		

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Class Schedule and Assignments, Continued.

Note: This schedule is tentative. Changes will be announced online

	Suggested Completion Date	Topic		
UNIT 3	Tuesday, October 10	Texas Judicial System, Part I	Jillson Textbook, Chapter 8, pp. 194-206	Topics 07A
	Thursday, October 12	Texas Judicial System, Part II	Jillson Textbook, Chapter 8, pp. 206-209	Topics 07B
	Tuesday, October 17	Texas Judicial System, Part III	Jillson Textbook, Chapter 8, pp. 210-212	Topic 07C
	Thursday, October 19	Texas Criminal Justice, Part I	Champagne & Harpham, Chapter 10, pp. 279-298 (available on Blackboard)	Topics 08A, 08B
	Tuesday, October 24	Texas Criminal Justice, Part II	None	Topic 08C
	Thursday, October 26	ALL UNIT 3 TOPICS DUE (topic quizzes in this unit cannot be completed after 11:59 PM tonight)		
UNIT 4	Tuesday, October 31	Voting in Texas, Part I	Jillson Textbook, Chapter 3, pp. 51-68	Topics 09A, 09B
	Thursday, November 2	Voting in Texas, Part II	None	Topic 09C
	Tuesday, November 7	Elections	Jillson Textbook, Chapter 3, 76-79	Topics 10A
	Thursday, November 9	Campaigns	Jillson Textbook, Chapter 3, pp. 68-76	Topic 10B
	Tuesday, November 14	Political Parties, Part I	Jillson Textbook, Chapter 5, 106-123	Topics 11A
	Thursday, November 16	Political Parties, Part II	None	Topic 11C
	Tuesday, November 28	Political Parties, Part III	Jillson Textbook, Chapter 5, 123-132	Topics 11B
	Thursday, November 30	ALL UNIT 4 TOPICS DUE (topic quizzes in this unit cannot be completed after 11:59 PM tonight)		
FINAL EXAM DUE DUE: Wednesday, December 6 th by 11:59PM (Available Monday, December 4 th , 12:01 AM until Wednesday, December 6 th , 11:59 PM)				