

**CRN 24132 – POLS 2306.11:
Texas Government
Department of Political Science
3.0 Credit Hours – Spring 2018**

Location: Online
Class Time: Online
Instructor: Blake Tritico

Office: AB4 Room 472
Email: btritico@shsu.edu
Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description and Objectives:

This course is a study of the organization, functions, and administration of the several branches and bureaucracy of the Texas state and local government, including a study of the numerous Texas constitutions. The primary factors considered relate to the three branches of government – judicial, executive, legislative – current Texas Constitution, events that shaped the state, and current events. Emphasis is placed on the interaction of these subsystems.

Specific Course Objectives:

- Gaining skills in critical thinking
- Gaining skills in communication, both orally and in writing
- Explaining the origin and development of the Texas constitution
- Describing state and local political systems and their relationship to the federal government
- Describing separate powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice in Texas
- Demonstrating knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of Texas government
- Evaluating the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in Texas
- Analyzing the state and local election process
- Identifying the rights and responsibilities of citizens
- Analyzing issues, policies, and political culture of Texas

Course Materials:

The ***required*** textbook for this course is:
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.

From the Course Catalog:

POLS 2306 - Texas Government
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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.
3.000 Credit hours
3.000 Lecture hours

Course Assessment:

The following are used to assess knowledge and progress against the stated outcomes of the course:

Class Participation: 150 points

Final Exam: 100 points

You earn class participation points by answering multiple choice quiz questions related to each class topic. There are 150 quiz questions throughout the course and you earn one point for each correct answer.

The Final Exam is a 100-question multiple choice exam covering material from all class topics. This is a cumulative exam. There are NO opportunities to earn extra credit points on this exam.

Exam Review:

There is no review or study guide provided for the final exam. You have seen all the material before. The best way to prepare for the final exam is to review the course materials.

Make-Up Policy:

You are expected to take the quizzes and final exam at the scheduled times. There are no opportunities to make up work in this class.

Course Grades:

Are calculated according to the following scale

225 - 250 points	A
200 - 224 points	B
175 - 199 points	C
150 - 174 points	D
149 points or less	F

Grading Note:

There is no averaging, percentage, or rounding in the calculation of course grades. Grades are based on the number of points earned during the semester.

Extra Credit:

There is no extra credit available in this course

Attendance Policy:

You are expected to access the course website regularly, preferably every day. It is your responsibility to check course announcements, notifications, and discussion board on the course 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 contact Mr. Tritico.

Relevant University Policies:

Information concerning policies relevant to this course and syllabus can be found here: www.shsu.edu/syllabus

Academic Honesty:

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/faculty-handbook/academic_dishonesty.html

Americans with Disabilities Act:

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit the Counseling Center which is across from the Lee Drain Building (You can call them at 936-294-1720). If you have a disability that may adversely affect your work in this class, you should register with the SHSU Counseling Center and speak with the professor as soon as possible. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/>

Religious Holidays

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time

after the absence. "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/>

Instructor Evaluations:

You are asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form near the end of the semester. You may also speak directly with Mr. Tritico or the Chair of the Political Science Department (Dr. Tamara Waggener) if you have concerns about the quality of instruction you are receiving.

Changes in the Syllabus:

The Instructor reserves the right to change the course syllabus at any time.