

GOVERNMENT 2302
American Government II

Western Texas College
Department of Social Sciences

- I. Basic Course Information
 - A. Course description - Introductory course in the theory and practice of government and politics in America at the national, state, and local levels, with special emphasis on Texas. Topic include: Legislative, executive, and judicial functions at national and state levels; bureaucracies; local governments; domestic policy; foreign policy. Note: GOVT 2302 will complete one-half of the legislative requirements in American government.
 - B. Prerequisites - Student should have a proficiency in reading and writing.
- II. Student Learning Outcomes
 - A. The student will evaluate political essays for argument, purpose, point of view, reasoning, and reliability by completing a minimum score of 70 on a departmental issued article evaluation exercise.
 - B. The student will analyze contemporary political events by completing a minimum score of 70 in a written essay of 300 words or more.
- III. Major Course Requirements
 - A. Exams: There will be three to four major exams spaced throughout the semester. Exam questions may include any combination of the following: True/false, multiple choice, fill in the blanks, short answer, and essay.
 - B. Writing Assignments: There will be multiple writing assignments spaced throughout the semester.
 - C. Collaborative Exercises: There will be multiple collaborative exercises spaced throughout the semester. Each of these assignments will require you to work with your peers analyzing documents, articles, and other information relating to the study of government.
 - D. Forum/Discussion Participation: There will be several discussion forums spaced throughout the semester. Each discussion will take place on-line, making use of the College's on-line platform—*Moodle*.
- IV. Information on Books and Other Course Materials

TITLE	FIRST AUHOR LISTED	ISBN	EDITION
American Government and Politics Today 2011-2012 Edition	Steffen W. Schmidt	9780495910664	15th Edition
Texas Politics Today, 2011-2012 Edition,	William Earl Maxwell	9780495909484	15th Edition
Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Political Issues	George McKenna, Stanley Feingold	9780078050329	18th Edition

- I. Other Policies: Please refer to the WTC Course [Catalog](#) for the following:
 - A. Campus Calendar
 - B. Final Exam schedule

- C. How to drop a class
 - D. Withdrawal information
 - E. Student Conduct/Academic Integrity
 - F. Students with disabilities.
- II. Course Organization & Tentative Schedule*

Date	Topic	Reading Assignments
Week 1	Course Introduction What is Critical Thinking?	<i>Taking Sides</i> Handouts
Week 2-3	Legislative Functions	<i>Schmidt</i> , Chapters 12 & 24 <i>Taking Sides</i> , Issue 6: Is Congress a “Broken Branch”?
Week 4-5	Executive Functions	<i>Schmidt</i> , Chapters 13 & 25 <i>Taking Sides</i> , Issue 4: Does the President Have Unilateral War Powers?
Week 6-7	Judicial Functions	<i>Schmidt</i> , Chapters 15 & 26 <i>Taking Sides</i> , Issue 5: Should the Courts Seek the “Original Meaning” of the Constitution?
Week 8-9	Domestic Policy	<i>Schmidt</i> , Chapters 16 & 27 <i>Taking Sides</i> , Issue 14: Stopping Illegal Immigration: Should Border Security Come First?
Week 10	Economic Policy	<i>Schmidt</i> , Chapter 17 Issue 22: Should Federal Taxes be Increased?
Week 11-12	Foreign Policy	<i>Schmidt</i> , Chapter 18 <i>Taking Sides</i> , Issue 2: Is Democracy the Answer to Global Terrorism?
Week 13	Bureaucracies	<i>Schmidt</i> , Chapters 14
Week 14	Local Government	<i>Schmidt</i> , Chapter 28
Week 15	Dead Week/Review	
Week 16	Final Exam	

*The above schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change.

Last Modified: August 18, 2015