

**Government 2304**  
**Introduction to Political Science**

**Western Texas College**  
**Department of Social Sciences**

I. **Basic Course Information**

- A. Course description – Introductory survey of the discipline of political science focusing on the scope, and methods of the field, and the substantive topics in the discipline including the theoretical foundations of politics, political interaction, political institutions, and how political systems function.
- B. Prerequisites – Student have a proficiency in reading and writing.

II. **Student Learning Outcomes**

- A. Define and apply political terms and concepts.
- B. Define political science and identify the subfields.
- C. Compare and contrast different political systems and institutions.
- D. Apply the methods used to study politics.
- E. Critically interpret and analyze contemporary political issues and problems.

III. **Major Course Requirements**

- A. **Exams:** There will be **three to four** exams throughout the semester. Exam questions may include any combination of the following: True/False, Multiple Choice, Fill in the blank, short answer, and essay.
- B. **Writing Assignments:** There will be **multiple** writing assignments 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 regarding toward the study of American government.

IV. **Information on Books and Other Course Materials**

- A. Parsons, C. (2021) *Introduction to Political Science: How to Speak for Yourself About Politics*. Second Edition. Pearson Publishing. ISBN-13: 9780135703083.

V. **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

## VI. Course Topics

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Chapter</b>
Introduction to Political Science	Parsons, Chapter 1
Political Philosophy	Parsons, Chapter 2
Ideology	Parsons, Chapter 3
States	Parsons, Chapter 4
Governments	Parsons, Chapter 5
Individual Participation & Collective Action	Parsons, Chapter 6
Representation in Liberal Democracies	Parsons, Chapter 7
Power & Policymaking in Liberal Democracies	Parsons, Chapter 8
Political Economies	Parsons, Chapter 9
Economic Growth & Development	Parsons, Chapter 10
Authoritarianism & Democratization	Parsons, Chapter 11
Political Violence: War & Terrorism	Parsons, Chapter 12
Globalization	Parsons, Chapter 13

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

Last modified: April 25, 2022