

**Government 2306  
Texas Government**

**Western Texas College  
Department of Social Sciences**

- I. **Basic Course Information**
  - A. Course description - 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. Prerequisites - Student should have a proficiency in reading and writing.
- II. **Student Learning Outcomes.** Upon successful completion of this course, students will:
  - A. Explain the origin and development of the Texas constitution.
  - B. Describe state and local political systems and their relationship with the federal government.
  - C. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice in Texas.
  - D. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of Texas government.
  - E. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in Texas.
  - F. Analyze the state and local election process.
  - G. Identify the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
  - H. Analyze issues, policies and political culture of Texas.
- III. **Student Learning Outcomes**
  - A. Students will evaluate different sides of a controversial political issue. We expect that at least 70% of the students will meet or exceed expectations for this outcome. Achievement will be measured using embedded question(s) on a departmental evaluation instrument.
  - B. Students will analyze government related sources (articles, documents, speeches, campaign material, etc.) for purpose, point of view, and reasoning. We expect that at least 70% of the students will meet or exceed expectations for this outcome. Achievement will be measured using embedded question(s) on a departmental evaluation instrument.
  - C. Students will differentiate between fact and opinion. We expect that at least 70% of the students will meet or exceed expectations for this outcome. Achievement will be measured using embedded question(s) on a departmental evaluation instrument.
- IV. **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.
- V. **Information on Books and Other Course Materials**
- A. Holder, F. (2020) A Trek through American and Texas Government. First Edition. San Diego: Cognella Academic Publishing. ISBN-13: 978-1-5165-3897-3.
- VI. **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
- VII. **Course Organization & Tentative Schedule\***

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Reading Assignments</b>
WEEK 1	Course Introduction	
WEEK 2	Texas Political History	Holder, Chapter 7
WEEK 3-4	The Texas Constitution & Political Culture	Holder, Chapters 3 & 5
WEEK 5-6	Political Parties & Interest Groups	Holder, Chapters 11 & 12
WEEK 7	Political Participation and Obtaining Political Office	Holder, Chapters 8, 9 & 10
WEEK 8	Legislative Functions in Texas	Holder, Chapter 17
WEEK 9	Executive Functions in Texas	Holder, Chapters 18 & 19
WEEK 10-11	Judicial Functions in Texas	Holder, Chapter 20
WEEK 12-14	Local Government and Federalism	Holder, Chapters 6 & 13 to 16

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

Last Modified: May 12, 2020