

GRAYSON COLLEGE

Course Syllabus

Please Note: Due to extenuating circumstances, including public health issues, course and testing delivery methods, instructional schedules, housing contracts, campus procedures and/or operating hours may be altered, interrupted and/or ceased for a limited or extended period of time. Such changes will be posted on the College website.

Course Information: GOVT 2306, Texas Government, Spring 2021 "A" term, Internet class (GOVT2306C03NT).

Professor Contact Information: Ron Velten. You can reach me conveniently via Canvas mail. I no longer have an office on campus. However, I am available to visit via chat, phone, or Zoom on an appointment basis.

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions: No pre-requisites. RW (Reading and writing intensive)

Course Description – from college catalog: 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.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. *Explain the origin and development of the Texas constitution.*
2. *Describe state and local political systems and their relationship with the federal government.*
3. *Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice in Texas.*
4. *Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of Texas government.*
5. *Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in Texas.*
6. *Analyze the state and local election process.*
7. *Identify the rights and responsibilities of citizens.*
8. *Analyze issues, policies and political culture of Texas.*

Required Textbooks and Materials: Mora, Sherri and William Ruger. The State of Texas: Government, Politics, and Policy (4th edition); 2020; McGraw Hill Education. ISBN ISBN10: 1259912418, ISBN13: 978125991 2412.

Required Assignments & Academic Calendar

The course calendar (See icon on toolbar to the left of your screen) is the final authority of what assignments are due and when. Canvas has reminders of upcoming assignments on the course homepage. However, you should not consider them as the final authority because there may be an occasional missing assignment on the upcoming assignment list. You should rely exclusively on the calendar the links to the icon on the screen to your left.

Note: The College maintains a COVID-19 information page [here](#). Please refer to it daily if restrictions continue. In case of inclement weather, emergency closings, or other unforeseen disruptions to scheduled classes, student must log onto their Canvas accounts for directions on where or how to continue their coursework.

Table 1: Course Schedule

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</i>
January 11 (M)	Semester begins Pre-test available
January 12 (T)	Pre-test available
January 13 (W)	Chapter One: Introduction to Texas Pre-test available
January 14 (R)	Pre-test available
January 15 (F)	Pre-test available
January 16 (S)	Pre-test available
January 17 (S)	Chapter Two: Texas Constitution & Federalism
January 21 (R)	Chapter Three: Texas Legislature

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</i>
January 25 (M)	Chapter Four: Texas Executive
January 29 (F)	Chapter Five: The Court System in Texas
January 31 (S)	Exam 1 (Chapters 1-4)
February 1 (M)	Exam 1 (Chapters 1-4)
February 2 (T)	Exam 1 (Chapters 1-4) Chapter Six: The Criminal Justice System
February 3 (W)	Exam 1 (Chapters 1-4)
February 4 (R)	Exam 1 (Chapters 1-4)
February 5 (F)	Exam 1 (Chapters 1-4)
February 6 (S)	Exam 1 (Chapters 1-4) Chapter Seven: Local Governments in Texas
February 10 (W)	Chapter Eight
February 14 (S)	Exam 2 (Chapters 5, 6, 7, & 9) Chapter Nine: Voting & Political Participation
February 15 (M)	Exam 2 (Chapters 5, 6, 7, & 9)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</i>
February 16 (T)	Exam 2 (Chapters 5, 6, 7, & 9)
February 17 (W)	Exam 2 (Chapters 5, 6, 7, & 9)
February 18 (R)	Exam 2 (Chapters 5, 6, 7, & 9) Chapter Ten: Campaigns & Elections
February 19 (F)	Exam 2 (Chapters 5, 6, 7, & 9)
February 20 (S)	Exam 2 (Chapters 5, 6, 7, & 9)
February 22 (M)	Chapter Eleven: Political Parties in Texas
February 26 (F)	Chapter Twelve: Interest Groups & Lobbying Assessment due
February 27 (S)	Post-test open
March 1 (M)	Post-test open
March 2 (T)	Post-test open Chapter Thirteen: Public Policy in Texas
March 3 (W)	Exam 3 (Chapters 10-13) Post-test open
March 4 (R)	Exam 3 (Chapters 10-13) Post-test available

Methods of Evaluation

Grading

Table 2: Grading

<i>Exercise</i>	<i>Percent of grade</i>
Exams	40%
Chapter questions	40%
Discussion boards	10%
Assessment	10%

Table 3: Grading scheme

<i>Grade percent</i>	<i>Letter grade</i>
≥ 89.5	A
79.5-89.4	B
69.5-79.4	C
59.5-69.4	D
≤ 59.4	F

Grades will be reported to you in your grade book. There are rubrics for the discussion board posts and the chapter questions in each of the modules.

Descriptions of:

- * Tests: Three Online exams of multiple-choice questions.
- * Discussion boards (one per chapter surveyed.)
- * Chapter questions (one per chapter surveyed.)

* Assessment

Methods of Instruction: Online course

Course & Instructor Policies:

Exams are generally available Online for four or more days, so you have a choice about which day to test. Therefore, I do not offer make-up opportunities.

I accept late work on the chapter questions only. Late penalties on chapter questions are five points a day after the twenty-four-hour grace period. Discussion boards and exams must be submitted on time, however.

Class Attendance: Academic success is closely associated with regular classroom attendance and course participation. All successful students, whether on campus or Online, are expected to be highly self-motivated. All students are required to participate in courses regularly and are obliged to participate in class activities and complete and submit assignments following their professors' instructions. The College expects you to complete the weekly assignments on time, and this is also likely a stipulation to those receiving financial aid. While attendance is not part of your grade, the College does track your absences on a weekly basis. Responsibility for work missed because of illness or school business is placed upon the student. More than two (2) weeks of absences are considered to be excessive. In addition, students' eligibility to receive financial aid or live in a College dormitory can be affected by withdrawal from courses. When withdrawal occurs, any tuition refund would be made in accordance with state regulations.

Student Conduct & Discipline: When commenting on the posts of other students to a discussion board, be sure to be professional and respectful if you disagree with what they say. Students who are disruptive or disrespectful to others may be encouraged to drop the course.

Procedures: Success in this course requires that you have basic computer skills including the use of a word processing program; the ability to properly save your assessment in a .doc, a .docx, or a .rtf file format; an understanding on how to attach your research paper to a message, and how to navigate a web site (specifically Canvas.)

You must have the approved textbook. This College-wide required textbook policy is one of the main reasons college and universities accept this course when you transfer and they expect GC to enforce the requirement for a textbook. It is very important to have the correct text when the semester begins and I cannot waive this requirement regardless of your personal circumstances.

Grades for assignments will be posted in Canvas (See the button "My grades.")

Academic Integrity: The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the

absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrates a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable. GC uses Turnitin® to detect incidents of cheating and plagiarism.

Student Responsibility: You have already made the decision to go to college; now the follow-up decisions on whether to commit to doing the work could very well determine whether you end up working at a good paying job in a field you enjoy or working at minimum wage for the rest of your life. Education involves a partnership that requires both students and instructors to do their parts. By entering into this partnership, you have a responsibility to show up for class, do the assignments and reading, be engaged and pay attention in class, follow directions, and put your best effort into it. You will get out of your experience here exactly what you put into it – nothing more and nothing less.

Drop date: If you need to drop for some reason, be sure to e-mail me before that date.

Title IX: GC policy prohibits discrimination on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, retaliation, serious medical condition, sex, sexual orientation, spousal affiliation and protected veterans' status.

Furthermore, Title IX prohibits sex discrimination to include sexual misconduct: sexual violence (sexual assault, rape), sexual harassment and retaliation.

For more information on Title IX, please contact:

Dr. Molly Harris, Title IX Coordinator (903-463-8714)

Ms. Logan Maxwell, Title IX Deputy Coordinator- South Campus (903) 415-2646

Mr. Mike McBrayer, Title IX Deputy Coordinator (903) 463-8753

[Website](#)

GC Police Department: (903) 463-8777- Main Campus) (903) 415-2501 - South Campus)

GC Counseling Center: (903) 463-8730

For Any On-campus Emergencies: 911

Grayson College campus-wide student policies may be found on our [Current Student Page](#) on our website.

**Grayson College is not responsible for illness/injury that occurs during the normal course of classroom/lab/clinical experiences.

**These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.