



Instructor contact information

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Office:		Office Hours:	By Appointment (or hours of availability)
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Chair: Rob Coyle, CASA 220-T, 281-290-3567, Robert.a.coyle@lonestar.edu

Division Coordinator: Nechelle Moody, TECH 123, 281-290-5278, Nechelle.moody@lonestar.edu

Welcome to

Course Title:	Texas Government	Term and Year:	Fall 2016
Course Subject:	GOVT		
Course Number:	2306 5013	Class Days & Times:	TTH 7:30-8:50
Credit Hours:	3		
Lecture Hours:	3	Class Room Location:	CASA Rm 218
Total Contact Hours: (All hrs. x 16)	48		

Course overview

Catalog 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.

Student Learning Outcomes:

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

In our efforts to prepare students for a changing world, students may be expected to utilize computer technology while enrolled in classes, certificate, and/or degree programs within LSCS. The specific requirements are listed below:

Online quizzes, online assignment submissions, Microsoft Word document submissions, Powerpoint or prezi presentation creation.

IMPORTANT:

Be aware we will be discussing real world issues and policies. Some of these may be offensive or disturbing. Please be willing to be open to such issues that may come up.

Getting ready

Prerequisites: Prerequisite: ENGL 0305 or ENGL 0365 AND ENGL 0307 or ENGL 0375 OR higher level course (ENGL 1301) OR placement by testing

Co-requisites: None

Required Material: Brown, et al, Practicing Texas Politics, 2015 Edition, Cengage Learning

**Optional Materials
or Reference Texts:**

Instructor guidelines and policies

Attendance: Attendance to all classes is expected. Should you anticipate an absence, please notify the instructor in advance. An excessive number of absences will prohibit the successful completion of this course. If you should miss a class, it is the student's responsibility to obtain lecture notes and assignments from a classmate.

Assignments: There will be a variety of assessments in this class including but not limited to; Exams, reading and vocabulary quizzes, writing assignments and presentations. All assignments are to be completed and submitted to the instructor on the scheduled due date. No late assignments will be accepted.

Make-up Exams: Students should contact the instructor prior to missing a scheduled examination by phone, in-person, by e-mail, or by voice mail. An opportunity to take an alternative examination will be offered to those who make **prior** contact with the instructor. All make-up exams will be administered in the Cy-Fair Assessment Center. The Final Exam may not be made up.

Electronic devices: Please turn off all personal electronic devices prior to entering the classroom, It is appreciated that you give your full attention to the lectures and discussions during class. If the instructor has a purpose for you to use such devices he will ask you to use your device.

Department/Division Contact:

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GRADE DETERMINATION:

Your grade will be determined by the following	Details	Points (if applicable)	Percent of Final Average
Exam Grades	There will be 4 major Exams during the Semester		35
Presentations/Classwork/Quizzes	There will be at least two presentations during the semester. Quizzes will cover chapter reading, vocabulary, etc.		15
Short topic papers	There will be at least two 500 word papers due during the semester		10
Semester policy paper	This is a research paper		20
Final Exam	This will be a comprehensive exam.		20
Total:			100%

LETTER GRADE ASSIGNMENT:

Letter Grade	Final Average in Percent
A	100-89.5
B	89.4-79.5
C	79.4-69.5
D	69.4-59.5
F	>59.5

Withdrawal Policy

Withdrawal from the course after the official day of record and prior to "W" Day, (see current catalog for this date) will result in a final grade of "W" on your transcript. Instructor approval is necessary if you want to withdraw after official day. No credit will be awarded for a course earning a "W." If you stop attending class, you must withdraw at the registration office prior to "W" day. If you stop attending class and do not officially withdraw, you will receive an "F" for the course. **Last Day to Drop the course and receive a "W" is November 11, 2016**

Six Drop Rule

Students who enrolled in Texas public institutions of higher education as first-time college students during the Fall 2007 term or later are subject to section 51.907 of the Texas Education Code, which states that an institution of higher education may not permit a student to drop (withdraw with a grade of "W") from more than six courses, including courses that a transfer student has previously dropped at other Texas public institutions of higher education that have already been counted against their six drop limit. Each student should fully understand this drop limit before you drop any course. Please see a Counselor or Advisor in our Student Services area for additional information and assistance. This policy does not affect transitional or ESOL students.

Tentative Instructional Outline:

Week Number	Activities and Assignment	Objectives and Details
1	Read Chapter 1, Quiz	Understand Texas' Political Culture and understand that it is still changing.
	Texas Political Culture, Where are you?	Changing Demographics, Economics and Population
	Introductory Paper	
2	Read chapter 2, Quiz	What are Texas' responsibility to the Nation
	ACA and Texas	What is the nation's responsibility to Texas, Immigration?
		Appled Federalism
3	Read Chapter 3, Quiz	
	Finish Federalism	
	What type of local government do you have here in Texas?	Understand the different types and functions of local government.
4	Read Chapter 13, Quiz	Different Constitutions for different times Current Constitution 1876 only amended 662 times
	Rewrite the Texas Constitution?	Time for a new Constitution?
	Exam Unit 1 Chpts.1,2,3,13	
5	Read Chapters 4, Quiz	Texas has more than just one party?
	Political Parties in Texas Which reflects our Political Culture?	How will the changing demographics change the political parties?
6	Read Chapter 7, Quiz	Political Party/Interest group what is the difference
	Create a Political Party or Interest Group	
7	Read Chapter 5, Quiz	What types of elections are there in Texas?
8	Read Chapter 6, Quiz	How does the Media Affect Elections and Government
	Policy paper introduced	Why choose this topic.

Week Number	Activities and Assignment	Objectives and Details
9	Finish Political Unit	
	Exam Unit 2 chpts. 4-7	
10	Read Chapter 8, Quiz	Texas Legislature
	Write a bill	Part time Why?
		What is the responsibility of of the Legislature?
11	Read Chapter 9, Quiz	Texas Governors
	Election Day! 11-8-16	Elected but only has bully pulpit and the veto
	Why is TX Governor weak?	Why no appointment power that matters?
12	Read Chapter 10, Quiz	
13	Exam Unit 3 Institutions	Thanks giving holiday
	Chpt 8-10	
14	Read Chapter 11	Texas Court Setup
	Quiz	Civil and Criminal Courts
		What are Crimes
15	Read chapter 12	Criminal Justice I Texas
	Quiz	What is the corrections system?
		<i>Policy paper due!</i>
16	Final Exam Dec 15, 2016 7:30-9:20pm	

Lone Star College-CyFair is committed to your success

Your success is our primary concern! If you are experiencing challenges achieving your academic goals, please contact your instructor or an advisor. We can provide assistance with academic needs, ADA accommodations, classroom difficulties, financial concerns, and other issues.

Academic Success Center (Barker Cypress Campus - Learning Commons - 2nd Floor)

The Academic Success Center offers:

Tutoring: For all disciplines <http://www.lonestar.edu/tutoring-cyfair.htm> or 281.290.3279, The Science Center (LRNC 203), Math Center (LRNC 205) and the Writing Center (LRNC 206). Student success seminars are also offered throughout the semester.

Academic Success Center Open Labs (TECH 104 & CASA 223)

The Academic Success Center Open Labs are quiet work and study areas available to all students. Students access the labs with their LSCS ID card. The ASC Open Labs are available during extended hours during all semesters. Basic software assistance, access to Mac and PC computers loaded with courseware, printing, copying, and scanning are available in TECH 104 and CASA 223. For more information, please visit [http:// www.lonestar.edu/13669.htm](http://www.lonestar.edu/13669.htm) or contact 281.290.5980 or cfasclabs@lonestar.edu.

Counseling Services

Counseling services are available to students who are experiencing difficulty with academic issues, selection of college major, career planning, disability accommodations, or personal issues. Students may contact Counseling, Career, and Disability Services at 281.290.3260, cyfair.counseling@lonestar.edu, or CASA 109.

Students may contact counseling services at the Fairbanks Center at 832.782.5110, Fairbanks.counselor@lonestar.edu, or FBC120.

The Assistive Technology Lab

The Assistive Technology Lab is available for students who benefit from its various technologies to convert text to speech, magnify items, convert text to Braille, etc. To contact the Assistive Technology Lab directly, please call 281.290.3207 or e-mail the lab at cfassistentechlab@lonestar.edu. The AT Lab is located on the 1st floor of the CASA building. Students may contact the IT dept at the Fairbanks Center at 832.782.5072 or FBC 210 for assistance.

Library

The Lone Star College-CyFair Library is located in the Learning Commons building and contains information resources for both college students and community members. Librarians are available to assist with research. The Library contains over 125,000 books, online information databases, 185 computers, free wireless internet, and many more information/research related amenities to ensure student success.

For Library hours and contact information, please visit <http://www.lonestar.edu/library> or call 281.290.3214.

Evaluation of Instruction

Lone Star College-CyFair is committed to student success. As part of its' institutional effectiveness efforts, our instructors are assessed in several ways. For the continuous improvement of our instruction, all students are required to provide input for each course they take each semester using the Course Evaluations Questionnaire, which can be accessed through your myLonestar account. This occurs approximately half way through your course, and you will be notified when surveys are available for completion. Instructions on how to access and complete the Course Evaluations Questionnaire are located in the Student Help Center in myLonestar. Once you evaluate your course(s), print and maintain a copy of the receipt for your records. The college deans review these evaluations each semester. Additionally, the deans and/or department chairs may visit each instructor's class at some time during the semester to observe the instructional environment being provided and complete an assessment of the instructor.

Lone Star College-CyFair Campus and System Policies

Academic Integrity

Lone Star College-CyFair is committed to a high standard of academic integrity in the academic community. In becoming a part of the academic community, students are responsible for honesty and independent effort. Failure to uphold these standards includes, but is not limited to, the following: plagiarizing written work or projects, cheating on exams or assignments, collusion on an exam or project, and misrepresentation of credentials or prerequisites when registering for a course. Cheating includes looking at or copying from another student's exam, orally communicating or receiving answers during an exam, having another person take an exam or complete a project or assignment, using unauthorized notes, texts, or other materials for an exam, and obtaining or distributing an unauthorized copy of an exam or any part of an exam. Plagiarism means passing off as his/her own the ideas or writings of another (that is, without giving proper credit by documenting sources). Plagiarism includes submitting a paper, report, or project that someone else has prepared, in whole or in part. Collusion is inappropriately collaborating on assignments designed to be completed independently. These definitions are not exhaustive. When there is clear evidence of cheating, plagiarism, collusion, or misrepresentation, disciplinary action may include but is not limited to requiring you to retake or resubmit an exam or assignment, assigning a grade of zero or "F" for an exam or assignment; or assigning a grade of "F" for the course. Additional sanctions including being withdrawn from the course, program or expelled from school may be imposed on a students who violate the standards of academic integrity.

Student Behavior Expectations

Students are expected to conduct themselves appropriately while on College property or in an online environment. Students may receive disciplinary action up to and including suspension, if they violate System or College rules, disrupt classes, or interfere with the opportunity of others to obtain an education. Students who pose a threat to the safety of others will be subject to immediate withdrawal from the classroom, campus environment, and/or online environment, as well as face subsequent criminal charges, as appropriate. Please refer to the Student Code of Conduct located online at <http://www.lonestar.edu/student-responsibilities.htm> for additional information.

Americans with Disabilities Act Statement

Lone Star College-CyFair is dedicated to providing the least restrictive environment for all students. We promote equity in academic access through the implementation of reasonable accommodations as required by the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title V, Sections 504 and 508, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and the Americans with Disabilities Amendment Act (ADAAA) which will enable students with disabilities to participate in and benefit from all post-secondary educational activities.

A student requesting accommodations for a disability is required to provide documentation of the disability to the College's designated office for disability services. The documentation is required for the following three purposes:

- a. to establish that someone is a person with a disability and, thus, is a member of the protected class;
- b. to establish the need for accommodations in order to have equal access;
- c. and to be prescriptive in assigning reasonable accommodations.

In order for a student with a disability to receive accommodations, that student is required to register for services through the College's designated office for disability services. If possible, the student requesting services should make an initial contact with the College's designated office the semester prior to enrollment – at least 4 weeks prior to the first class. Disability Services is located on the LSC CyFair Barker Cypress campus in the CASA 109. You may contact Disability Services at the following number: 281.290.3260. Additional information may be accessed online at the following URL address: <http://www.lonestar.edu/disability-services.htm>

Student Absence on Religious Holy Days

The student must notify the faculty member in writing within the first 12 days of the semester of the intent to be absent due to a religious holy day. Under Texas Education Code 51.911, a student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time as established by the faculty member.

Campus Safety and Security

Lone Star College System is committed to maintaining the safety of the students, faculty, staff, and guests while visiting one of our campuses. All students should register to receive emergency notifications through the Lone Star College emergency notification system. To register visit <https://lscsalert.lonestar.edu/index.php?CCheck=1>. In addition, all emergency drills (fire, lockdown, severe weather, etc.) should be taken seriously and responded to with a sense of urgency. To help ensure your safety during an emergency, please follow the instructions of college officials. Safety information and resources may be found at <http://www.lonestar.edu/oem.htm>. In the event of an emergency, contact the police at 5911.

Computer Virus Protection

Computer viruses are, unfortunately, a fact of life. Using removable devices on more than one computer creates the possibility of infecting computers and diskettes with a computer virus. This exposes the computers of the college, your personal computer, and any others you may be using to potentially damaging viruses. The college has aggressive anti-virus procedures in place to protect its computers, but cannot guarantee that a virus might not temporarily infect one of its machines. It is your responsibility to protect all computers under your control and use and ensure that each diskette you use, whenever or wherever you use it, has been scanned with anti-virus software. Since new viruses arise continually, your anti-virus software must be kept current. Moreover, since no anti-virus software will find every virus, keeping backup copies is extremely important.

Equal Opportunity Statement

It is the policy of the Lone Star College System to provide equal employment, admission and educational opportunities without regard to race, color, creed, national origin, gender, age, veteran's status, sexual orientation, or disability.

Lone Star Colleges strive to provide an excellent learning environment free from harassment or intimidation directed at any person's race, color, creed, national origin, gender, age, veteran's status, sexual orientation, or disability. Any form of harassment will not be tolerated.

FERPA

The academic, financial, and non-directory information on your student account is confidential and protected by the Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA). We cannot release certain information to another person without your written authorization. The Authorization to Release Student Information Form can be found at <http://www.lonestar.edu/departments/generalcounsel/OGC-S-2009-03 - Authorization To Release Educational Records.pdf>

Internet and E-mail

The System provides computing and network resources to students. You are encouraged to use the computers, software packages, and electronic mail (e-mail) for educational or System-related activities and to facilitate the efficient exchange of useful information. Instructors often use System e-mail to communicate important course-related information. This account is also used by campus personnel to share details about upcoming events and other important college information (e.g., financial aid status, announcements from the college president, etc.). Stay informed by setting up your System email account as soon as possible and checking your e-mail often.

The equipment, software, and network capacities provided through the district computer services are and remain the property of the System. Use of the equipment and networks is to comport with the policies and procedures of the System and access may be denied to any student who fails to comply with the System's policies and procedures regarding its use.

Access to the System's e-mail and similar electronic communications systems are a privilege and certain responsibilities accompany that privilege. All users are expected to demonstrate the same level of ethical and professional manner, as is required in face-to-face or written communications. Threatening, anonymous, or forged messages will be treated as a violation of this policy.

Software Piracy

Law strictly prohibits unauthorized copying of software purchased by Lone Star College-CyFair for use in laboratories. Lone Star College-CyFair administration will take appropriate disciplinary action against anyone violating copyright laws.

Final Examinations

A final evaluation activity will occur during the published final evaluation period. The appropriate dean must approve any variation to this schedule.