

Administrative Master Syllabus
Course Information

Course Title	Texas Government
Course Prefix, Num. and Title	GOVT 2306: Texas Government
Division	Social and Behavioral Sciences
Department	Government and Economics
Course Type	Academic WCJC Core Course
Course 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.
Pre-Requisites	TSI ELAR (Reading and Writing) requirements met; GOVT 2305 recommended
Co-Requisites	None

Semester Credit Hours

Total Semester Credit Hours (SCH): Lecture Hours: Lab/Other Hours	3:3:0
Equated Pay Hours	3
Lab/Other Hours Breakdown: Lab Hours	0
Lab/Other Hours Breakdown: Clinical Hours	0
Lab/Other Hours Breakdown: Practicum Hours	0
Other Hours Breakdown	0

Approval Signatures

Title	Signature	Date
Department Head:		
Division Chair:		
VPI:		

Additional Course Information

Topical Outline: Each offering of this course must include the following topics (be sure to include information regarding lab, practicum, and clinical or other non-lecture instruction).

- Area One - Constitutional Foundations:
 - o Identify and describe the impact of the economic, social, ethnic, and geographical diversity of the state on the development of the Texas political system.
 - o Describe the evolution of the Texas Constitution.
 - o Identify and evaluate the key characteristics of the 1876 Constitution with an emphasis on separation of powers and how the document promotes limited government in Texas.
 - o Identify and evaluate the nature of the relationship between the U.S. and Texas constitutions and the concept of federalism.
- Area Two - Linkage Institutions: Interest Groups:
 - o Define and explain functions of the interest groups.
 - o Identify and describe the various tools and techniques of lobbying and the impact of lobbying on all three branches of Texas government.
 - o Analyze the impact of interest groups on the public policy process in Texas.
- Political Parties:
 - o Identify and describe the functions of the temporary and permanent organizations of the political party.
 - o Identify significant third parties in Texas, the impact of these parties on the two major parties, and the operation of the Texas political system.
- Elections
 - o Describe the electoral process in Texas and evaluate the impact of this process on campaigns in Texas.
 - o Identify the unique factors of Texas elections and voting. Media
 - o Identify and evaluate the impact of the media on Texas campaigns and elections.
 - o Identify and evaluate the impact of the media on Texas public policy.
- Area Three - Political Learning/Socialization:
 - o Identify and evaluate the importance of political subcultures (including Texas Creed) within the state particularly with regard to the structure of Texas Government and participation.
 - o Evaluate how political ideologies are learned.
- Area Four - Political Institutions: Judicial
 - o Identify the structure and function of the various components of the Texas judiciary.
 - o Identify and explain the methods of judicial selection and replacement in Texas
- Executive
 - o Identify and explain the strengths and weaknesses of the governor of Texas.
 - o Identify and explain the components of the Texas Plural Executive.
- Legislative
 - o Identify/outline the Texas Executive branch (type of agency, function, and relationship to people)
 - o Identify and analyze the functions of the Texas State Legislature.
 - o Identify and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the Texas legislative structure.
 - o Evaluate the influence of Texas House and Senate leaders upon operation and policy choices made by the state legislature.
 - o Discuss the impact/influence of the executive branch and interest groups on the state legislature.
- Area Five – Local Government:
 - o Identify and describe the structure of city and county governments.
 - o Identify and describe financing for city, county and special districts.
 - o Describe the functions/powers of major policy makers and administrators of the city/county.
 - o Describe and evaluate the role of special districts in Texas.
- Area Six-Public Policy: Budget/Finances
 - o Evaluate the biennial budget process in Texas.
 - o Identify and evaluate the key sources of revenue in Texas.
 - o Identify and evaluate the budget priorities for the state of Texas.
 - o Identify and analyze the demographic, ideological, and political influences on the Texas budget.

o Policy Areas

- o Identify the key administrative agencies and challenges/policy issues those agencies will have to respond to for the following areas: Education, Health and Human Services, Transportation and Energy Policy, Environment, Criminal Justice, Economic Development.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Learning Outcomes – Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Explain the origin and development of the Texas constitution.
2. Describe the 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.

Methods of Assessment:

1. Instructor generated tests on text chapters covering Texas history and Texas Constitution. Tests may include multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer or essay questions.
2. Instructor generated tests on text chapters covering federalism and local government structures and functions. Tests may include multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer or essay questions.
3. Instructor generated tests on text chapters covering U.S. Constitution, Texas Constitution and the three branches of Texas government. Tests may include multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer or essay questions.
4. Instructor generated tests on text chapters covering the three branches of government. Tests may include multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer or essay questions.
5. Instructor generated tests on text chapters covering political participation (media, public opinion, interest groups and political parties). Tests may include multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer or essay questions.
6. Instructor generated tests on text chapters covering political participation, electoral systems and campaigns. Tests may include multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer or essay questions.
7. Instructor generated tests on text chapters covering political participation, campaigns and elections, and civil rights and liberties. Tests may include multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer or essay questions.
8. Instructor generated tests on text chapters covering Texas public policy, civil rights and civil liberties and ideology and political culture. Tests may include multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer or essay questions.

Additionally, all objectives are evaluated by instructor generated out of class writing assignments, and/or oral presentations. All outcomes are tested by comprehensive, mandatory final exams.

Required text(s), optional text(s) and/or materials to be supplied by the student:

Texas Government.

[https://socialsci.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Political Science and Civics/Texas Government \(Teas Jefferies Shomaker Watson and Gilmour\)](https://socialsci.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Political_Science_and_Civics/Texas_Government_(Teas_Jefferies_Shomaker_Watson_and_Gilmour)).

Suggested Course Maximum:

35

List any specific or physical requirements beyond a typical classroom required to teach the course.

None

Course Requirements/Grading System: Describe any course specific requirements such as research papers or reading assignments and the generalized grading format for the course.

Instructors may use the narrative/lecture method of instruction to impart course content. The narrative method is also useful for setting the stage for class discussions. Class discussion between students and instructors is encouraged for the purpose of developing in students the ability to speak before others about course content. Class discussions should arise from the readings that students complete and from points of interest and the interpretation of facts that emerge in class, especially those relevant to students.

Students will be required to complete written work or to prepare oral presentations to further elaborate or explain what has been presented and discussed by the instructor. These requirements are designed to challenge the student to analyze and critique the material presented. The written work may be in the form of essay test topics, book reviews, reports on articles in scholarly journals, or other written assignments as assigned by the instructor. Oral presentations may be designed as debates, informative overviews, or persuasive monologues. Minimum requirements include the following:

1. Attend class in accordance with college policy and as stipulated by the instructor.
2. Complete appropriate reading assignments made by the instructor
3. Complete appropriate writing assignments based on the readings, classroom presentations and discussion
4. Complete oral presentations (if assigned by instructor)
5. Complete appropriate tests (quizzes, major examinations, and a final examination)

Grades will be computed based on the following:

Tests/Exams-40-70 % of grade, Final exam to count at least 15%

Projects (written assignments or oral presentations) 30-60% Specific assignments weights specified in course syllabus.

The grading scale used for all tests, papers, and projects will be as follows:

90% to 100% = A 80% to 89% = B 70% to 79% =C 60%-69% =D Any score below a 60% is an F.

Curriculum Checklist:

☐ **Administrative General Education Course** (from ACGM, but not in WCJC Core) – No additional documents needed.

☒ **Administrative WCJC Core Course** – Attach the Core Curriculum Review Forms

☒ Critical Thinking

☒ Communication

☐ Empirical & Quantitative Skills

☐ Teamwork



***Wharton County
Junior College***

☒ Social Responsibility

☒ Personal Responsibility

☐ **WECM Course** – If needed, revise the Program SCANS Matrix and Competencies Checklist

Core Curriculum Review Form

Foundational Component Area: Core 070: Government/Political Science

Course Prefix & Suffix: GOVT 2306

Core Objective:

Critical Thinking Skills—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information

Student Learning Outcome Supporting Core Objective:

For each core objective, there must be at least two different methods of assessment.

SLO Status	Student Learning Outcome (SLO)	Learning Activity	Assessment
State Mandated	Explain the origin and development of the Texas Constitution.	Students will complete at least one activity from the departmentally approved list. Activities include oral and written in and out of class assignments, multiple choice tests, article or movie critiques, and essay questions.	Exam, Essays, Tests, Oral presentations (debates, informative overviews, or persuasive monologues) graded by CT department rubric
State Mandated	Describe the state and local political systems and their relationship with the federal government.	Students will complete at least one activity from the departmentally approved list. Activities include oral and written in and out of class assignments, multiple choice tests, article or movie critiques, and essay questions.	Exam, Essays, Tests, Oral presentations (debates, informative overviews, or persuasive monologues) graded by CT department rubric
State Mandated	Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice in Texas.	Students will complete at least one activity from the departmentally approved list. Activities include oral and written in and out of class assignments, multiple choice tests, article or movie critiques, and essay questions.	Exam, Essays, Tests, Oral presentations (debates, informative overviews, or persuasive monologues) graded by CT department rubric
State Mandated	Analyze the state and local election process.	Students will complete at least one activity from the departmentally approved list. Activities include oral and written in and out of class assignments, multiple choice tests, article or movie critiques, and essay questions.	Exam, Essays, Tests, Oral presentations (debates, informative overviews, or persuasive monologues) graded by CT department rubric



SLO Status	Student Learning Outcome (SLO)	Learning Activity	Assessment
State Mandated	Analyze issues, policies, and political culture of Texas.	Students will complete at least one activity from the departmentally approved list. Activities include oral and written in and out of class assignments, multiple choice tests, article or movie critiques, and essay questions.	Exam, Essays, Tests, Oral presentations (debates, informative overviews, or persuasive monologues) graded by CT department rubric

Core Curriculum Review Form

Foundational Component Area: Core 070: Government/Political Science

Course Prefix & Suffix: GOVT 2306

Core Objective:

Communication Skills—to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication

Student Learning Outcome Supporting Core Objective:

For each core objective, there must be at least two different methods of assessment.

SLO Status	Student Learning Outcome (SLO)	Learning Activity	Assessment
State Mandated	Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice in Texas.	Students will complete at least one activity from the departmentally approved list. Activities include oral and written in and out of class assignments, multiple choice tests, article or movie critiques, and essay questions.	Exam, Essays, Tests, Oral presentations (debates, informative overviews, or persuasive monologues) graded by Com department rubric
State Mandated	Analyze issues, policies, and political culture in Texas.	Students will complete at least one activity from the departmentally approved list. Activities include oral and written in and out of class assignments, multiple choice tests, article or movie critiques, and essay questions.	Exam, Essays, Tests, Oral presentations (debates, informative overviews, or persuasive monologues) graded by Com department rubric

Core Curriculum Review Form

Foundational Component Area: Core 070: Government/Political Science

Course Prefix & Suffix: GOVT 2306

Core Objective:

Personal Responsibility—to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making

Student Learning Outcome Supporting Core Objective:

For each core objective, there must be at least two different methods of assessment.

SLO Status	Student Learning Outcome (SLO)	Learning Activity	Assessment
State Mandated	Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of Texas government.	Students will complete at least one activity from the departmentally approved list. Activities include oral and written in and out of class assignments, multiple choice tests, article or movie critiques, and essay questions.	Exam, Essays, Tests, Oral presentations (debates, informative overviews, or persuasive monologues) graded by PR department rubric
State Mandated	Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups and political parties in Texas.	Students will complete at least one activity from the departmentally approved list. Activities include oral and written in and out of class assignments, multiple choice tests, article or movie critiques, and essay questions.	Exam, Essays, Tests, Oral presentations (debates, informative overviews, or persuasive monologues) graded by PR department rubric

Core Curriculum Review Form

Foundational Component Area: Core 070: Government/Political Science

Course Prefix & Suffix: GOVT 2306

Core Objective:

Social Responsibility—to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Student Learning Outcome Supporting Core Objective:

For each core objective, there must be at least two different methods of assessment.

SLO Status	Student Learning Outcome (SLO)	Learning Activity	Assessment
State Mandated	Describe the state and local political systems and their relationship with the federal government.	Students will complete at least one activity from the departmentally approved list. Activities include oral and written in and out of class assignments, multiple choice tests, article or movie critiques, and essay questions.	Exam, Essays, Tests, Oral presentations (debates, informative overviews, or persuasive monologues) graded by Soc Resp department rubric
State Mandated	Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive and judicial branches of Texas government.	Students will complete at least one activity from the departmentally approved list. Activities include oral and written in and out of class assignments, multiple choice tests, article or movie critiques, and essay questions.	Exam, Essays, Tests, Oral presentations (debates, informative overviews, or persuasive monologues) graded by Soc Resp department rubric
State Mandated	Evaluate the roles of public opinion, interest groups and political parties in Texas.	Students will complete at least one activity from the departmentally approved list. Activities include oral and written in and out of class assignments, multiple choice tests, article or movie critiques, and essay questions.	Exam, Essays, Tests, Oral presentations (debates, informative overviews, or persuasive monologues) graded by Soc Resp department rubric
State Mandated	Identify the rights and responsibilities of citizens.	Students will complete at least one activity from the departmentally approved list. Activities include oral and written in and out of class assignments, multiple choice tests, article or movie critiques, and essay questions.	Exam, Essays, Tests, Oral presentations (debates, informative overviews, or persuasive monologues) graded by Soc Resp department rubric