

WACO, TEXAS

COURSE SYLLABUS

AND

INSTRUCTOR PLAN

Texas Government Texas Govt 2306 F82

Professor Ramon

NOTE: This is an 8-week course.

.AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION

FALL 2020

Course Description:

This course will cover the 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.

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:

Prerequisite: Must have passed the reading portion of the TSI Assessment or have credit for INRW 0402. Semester Hours 3 (3 lecture).

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations: HOW TO CONTACT ME:

Please feel free to contact me for any questions or concerns via the Classlist (internal messaging center), office phone, or to schedule a meeting if students are unable to contact me during the above office hours.

Classlist is where students will find the Internal Messaging Center. Students MUST contact me from this area. To message me 1) Click the Classlist on the Navigation Bar. 2) Find me (Andria Ramon) within the class list. 3) Check the box next to my name 4) Click Instant Message at the top pf the classlist (DO NOT CLICK THE EMAIL) A pop up window will display with a text box within it. 5) Type your message into the text box 6) Hit send 7) to check my response Click the little envelope at the top of the page where the internal messages are located.

Trouble with Course Material:

• Contact your Instructor. Contact information can be found in the Staff Information section of the course.

Brightspace Issues:

• Click the Brightspace tab on the Navigation bar.

Technical Support:

For any technical issues, Brightspace issues, or computer concerns, students may contact MCC Technical Support Found at http://www.mclennan.edu/tech-support/

Phone number: 254-299-8077

E-mail: helpdesk@mclennan.edu

Hours of operation:

Monday - Thursday: 7:30 AM - 7:00 PM

Friday: 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM

After Hours Technical Support

Phone number: 254-717-6349 Or 254-299-8095

Hours of operation: Monday - Friday: 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM Saturday & Sunday: 9:00 AM - 11:00 PM

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: Professor Andria Ramon Office Phone Number: 254-299-8906 Office Location: MAC room 315

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: M/T/W/Th: 10:30 am – 11:00 am, 12:35 pm – 1:00 pm, and 2:25 pm – 3:00 pm.

Friday: 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm virtual and by appointment.

Other Instruction Information:

Although I am in my office during office hours to make certain of availability please contact me in advance to schedule your conference. This assures that your time will be exclusive and uninterrupted.

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Please feel free to contact me for any questions or concerns via the Classlist (internal messaging center), office phone, or to schedule a meeting if students are unable to contact me during the above office hours. Classlist is where students will find the Internal Messaging Center. Students MUST contact me from this area. To message me 1) Click the Classlist on the Navigation Bar. 2) Find me (Andria Ramon) within the class list. 3) Check the box next to my name 4) Click Instant Message at the top pf the classlist (DO NOT CLICK THE EMAIL) A pop up window will display with a text box within it. 5) Type your message into the text box 6) Hit send 7) to check my response Click the little envelope at the top of the page where the internal messages are located.

Other Instruction Information: If unable to meet at the above times, appointments can be made for alternative times.

Announcements:

All Brightspace announcements can be viewed via the student's mobile phone or email. Students should go to their course Brightspace and select their name. Under their name is an area entitled Notifications. Select the email and cell phone functions for announcements and content notifications.

Required Text & Materials:

Title: Lone Star Politics Author: Collier, Et al Edition: 6th Publisher: Sage Publishing ISBN: 9781544390802

MCC Bookstore Website: https://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/

Student Support/Resources:

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/.

College personnel recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources, we encourage you to contact a

success coach by calling (254) 299-8226. Students can visit the Completion Center Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. to meet with a success coach and receive additional resources and support to help reach academic and personal goals. Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) is open 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Monday-Friday, without an appointment. The Completion Center and pantry are located on the Second Floor of the Student Services Center (SSC).

MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund

Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-andresources/emergencygrant.html to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found at https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf. Minimum Technical Skills:

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

Backup Plan for Technology:

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be contacted/notified through your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

Click Here for the Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace

(https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-

learning/Faculty%20and%20Staff%20Commons/requirements.html)

Click on the link above for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

Email Policy

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy (http://www.mclennan.edu/emplo

yees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf) regarding college email. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails.

Instructional Uses of Email

Faculty members can determine classroom use of email or electronic communications. Faculty should expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis. Faculty should inform students in the course syllabus if another communication method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

If a faculty member prefers not to communicate by email with her/his students, it should be reflected in the course syllabus and information should be provided for the preferred form of communication.

Email on Mobile Devices

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails.

Forwarding Emails

You may forward the emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may become lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

Methods of Teaching and Learning:

All course material is presented on-line. Students are expected to read all chapters, read chapter summaries, review chapter Power Points, watch videos, and complete all activities by the required due dates. The videos are merely an introduction to the section and have no influence on class required activities. Students should consult professor with ANY related questions.

Course Objectives and/or Competencies:

Courses in this category focus on consideration of the Constitution of the United States and the constitutions of the states, with special emphasis on that of Texas. Courses involve the analysis of governmental institutions, political behavior, civic engagement, and their political and philosophical foundations.

- **Critical Thinking Skills (CT):** "to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information."
- **Communication Skills (COMM):** "to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication."

- Social Responsibility (SR): "to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities."
- Personal Responsibility (PR): "to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making."

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.

Texas Govt 2306 F82 FALL 2020 Calendar Preparation/Items Due Week Lesson Unit 1 Unit 1 Contact Instructor via Classlist. Orientation Quiz (#1), Orientation Discussion Board (DB#1) and Welcome/Chapter 1 Mon, Oct 19th – Sun, Chapter 1 - Introduction Quiz Collier Oct 25th ALL DUE Sun, OCT 25TH BEFORE <u>11:55 pm</u> Sun, Oct 25th – Thurs, Chapter 2 Texas Chapter 2 - Texas Constitutions Quiz Oct 29th Constitutions ALL DUE Thurs, Oct 29th, BEFORE 11:55 pm

Unit 2

Course Outline or Schedule:

Unit 2

Nov 1st

Thurs, Oct 29th – Sun,

Chapter 8 – Campaigns

and Elections, Texas Style

Chapter 8 – Campaigns and Elections, Texas Style Quiz

DUE Sun, Nov 1st, BEFORE 11:55

pm

Sun, Nov 1 st – Thurs, Nov 5 th	Discussion Board Texas Elections	Discussion Board – Texas Elections Due Thurs, Nov 5 th , BEFORE 11:55 pm
Thurs, Nov 5 th – Sun, Nov 8 th	Chapter 9 Political Parties	Chapter 9 Political Parties Due Sun, Nov 8 th , Before 11:55 pm
Sun, Nov 8 th – Thurs, Nov 12 th	Chapter 10 Organized Interest	Chapter 10 Organized Interest Due Thurs, Nov 12 th , Before 11:55 pm
Unit 3 Thurs, Nov 12 th – Sun, Nov 15 th	Unit 3 The Texas Legislature	Chapter 3 – Texas Legislature Quiz Due Sun, Nov 15 th , BEFORE 11:55 PM.
Sun, Nov 15 th – Thurs, Nov 19 th	Chapter 4 - Texas Governors	Chapter 4- Texas Governors Quiz – Due Thurs, Nov 19 th , BEFORE 11:55 PM.
Thurs, Nov 19 th – Sun, Nov 22 nd	Chapter 5 - The Plural Executive & Bureaucracy in Texas	Chapter 5 - The Plural Executive & Bureaucracy in Texas Quiz Due Sun, Nov 22nd, BEFORE 11:55 PM.
Sun, Nov 22 nd – Sun, Nov 29 th	Texas Legislature and Executive Discussion Board	Texas Leg/Exec DB #2 Due, Sun, Nov 29 th , BEFORE 11:55 PM.
UNIT 4 Thurs, Nov 26 th – Sun, Nov 29 th	UNIT 4	Chapter 6 Texas Judicial System AND Chapter 7 – Texas-Sized Justice. BOTH

	Chapter 6 - Texas Judicial System Chapter 7 – Texas-Sized Justice	Quizzes Due, Sun, Nov 29 th BEFORE 11:55 PM.
Sun, Nov 29 th – Thurs, Dec 3 rd	Chapter 13 Energy/ Environment/Trans/Trade Policy - Texas Policy Chapter 14 – Social Policy	Chapter 13 Energy/ Environment/Trans/Trade Policy - Texas Policy Chapter 14 – Social Policy Quiz BOTH Quizzes Due Thurs, Dec 3rd, BEFORE 11:55 PM.
Thurs, Dec 3 rd – Sun, Dec 6 th	Chapter 11 Local Government in Texas	Chapter 11 Local Government Quiz Due Sun, Dec 6 th , BEFORE 11:55 PM.
Sun, Dec 6 th – Wed, Dec 9 th	Chapter 12 Fiscal Policy FINAL EXAM	Chapter 12 Fiscal Policy AND Final Exam BOTH Due Wed, Dec 9 th , BEFORE 11:55 PM .

*Chapter readings stem from *Lone Star Politics*, the main textbook for the class. Please see THE course Brightspace for a full schedule and readings. The instructor reserves the right to change the course schedule. Students will be notified in case of a change via announcements on Brightspace.

**Each course activity covers the course objectives and competencies assessed in this course.

Course Grading Information:

Every instructor will design various assessments, but all GOVT classes will use a standardized assessment which will measure the four specified CORE Student Learning Objectives of Critical Thinking, Communication, Social Responsibility and Personal Responsibility and the ACGM listed student learning outcomes. ALL ACTIVITIES ARE DUE ON THE CALENDAR DATES.

Quizzes (Test) – Each section will have an end of the chapter/section quiz that is required to take by a specific due date. The quizzes (tests) will cover the entire chapter, power points, and reading. They are multiple choice, timed tests. Students may not work ahead on quizzes and must meet specific deadlines. For each chapter quiz, students may take the item up to three times. However, any resets are considered the student's one late item and no other late items will be allowed. Quiz resets for technical reasons DO count as a quiz reset. Having three opportunities to take the quiz does not mean that students are guaranteed that all three of those attempts will be completed. The HIGHEST QUIZ GRADE is the recorded grade. Each quiz is 25 questions worth 1 point each.

Guidelines for taking an online quiz:

- 1. On the navbar, click 2 Quizzes.
- 2. On the Quiz List page, click on the quiz you want to take.
- 3. Read the instructions and details for the quiz, and when you're ready, click Start Quiz!.
- Answer each question. As a best practice, save each answer after you have entered it. You can see which questions you have saved answers to in the Questions section of the quiz's left panel. You can also click the question number in the quiz's left panel to go back to the question.
- 5. To navigate between pages, click Next Page or Previous Page.
- 6. Click Go to Submit Quiz after you answer all quiz questions.
- 7. If you are ready to submit the quiz, THEN click Submit Quiz.
- 8. Only the textbook can be used for the quizzes. No outside assistance, including other students, is allowed. A zero will result, and the student will be reported to the Academic Integrity Committee. A second cheating incident will result in failing the course.
- 9. All quiz times are based upon Central Standard Time (CST)

Note: Your organization may require you to use the Respondus LockDown Browser® to take quizzes. You can click the Respondus LockDown Browser link in the Quiz Requirements section

to download and install it for free. You can then launch your quiz. If you have installed the Respondus LockDown Browser already, the Start Quiz page will open automatically within it.

Discussion Boards– Three Discussion Boards are required each covering differing topics. The Orientation Discussion Board (#1) and two other discussion boards are required. The initial Orientation Discussion Board is worth 10 points. The remaining 2 discussion boards are worth 45 points each. Within a Discussion Board, the professor only allows the students to REPLY to the professor's original post and other student's replies. Students are not allow to create new threads. Each new reply must indicate what the student is doing in the subject line.

Discussion Board (DB) Activities:

DB #1: Orientation Discussion Board (10 points)

More Instructions and readings for DB #1 are found on the course Brightspace.

DB # 2: Texas Elections (45 POINTS)

More Instructions and reading for DB#3 are found on the course Brightspace.

DB #3: Legislative Politics (45 POINTS)

More Instructions and reading for DB#2 are found on the course Brightspace.

Discussion Board Requirements:

- Students are required at a minimum to make 3 posts for each discussion board. The Orientation Discussion Board is worth 10 points and the two remaining discussion boards are worth 45 points.
- The initial post (for all discussions except the Orientation) counts 25 points and must relate to the readings and questions posted with the discussion. <u>Students</u> <u>MUST ANSWER ALL OF THE QUESTIONS USING THE POSTED MATERIAL.</u>
- An additional 10 points will be allotted for a student's new reply asking a thoughtprovoking question covering the material read for the discussion board. This question must directly relate to the material, MAY NOT be a simple yes or no answer, must promote discussion, and may not be a repeated question or a

question that is similar to another student's question or my questions.

- A thoughtful reply to some else's question using information discovered AND presented in the material is mandated for the final 10 points. Students must use the articles in order to answer a student's question. <u>The answer to another</u> <u>student's question must be at a minimum 4 sentences long</u>!
- All postings must be completed by the individual student. Any outside assistance is not allowed. Due to the nature of Discussion Boards, students may not submit discussion boards late.
- Any missed discussion, no matter the reason, will not be allowed to be submitted late.
- Any sign of plagiarism will be an automatic zero for the paper. Any non-citation of words, ideas, or concepts is considered plagiarism. These incidences will receive a zero. Students will be reported to the Academic Integrity Committee. The second offense will result in failing the course.
- Do not copy other student's material. This action falls under the plagiarism definition and the entire assignment will receive a zero. Students will be reported to the Academic Integrity Committee. The second offense will result in failing the course.
- > <u>No wikis such as Ballotpedia, Wikipedia or Congresspedia are allowed.</u>
- Do not quote entire paper or large sections. A zero will be recorded if students provide too many quotes. Students should put the answers in their own words.
- Any sign of using alternative sources to answer the questions or cutting & pasting answers from any other person is grounds for a zero on the assignment. Students will be reported to the Academic Integrity Committee. The second offense will result in failing the course.
- Follow all discussion directions. Within a Discussion Board, the professor only allows the students to REPLY to the professor's original post and other student's replies. Students are not allow to create new threads.
- No copying and pasting from previous assignments/activities is allowed for Discussion Boards.
- Make certain that the discussion answers and posts are saved on a personal computer in case any issues develop with the Brightspace.
- ADDITIONAL DIRECTIONS ARE ADDED ONTO THE COURSE BRIGHTSPACE AND MUST BE FOLLOWED OR A ZERO WILL APPLY.

Final Exam – A final exam will be posted at the end of the semester. It will consist of two essay questions and will not contain a time limit (but does have a due date). It will be a comprehensive final comprising of what students have learned throughout the semester and also a portion heavily focused on chapters 12, 13, and 14. It is worth <u>40 points</u> and <u>required</u> for all students. All other activity directions and requirements apply to this assignment, including, but not limited to, plagiarism, excessive quoting, and no use of

outside sources unless allowed. No copying and pasting from previous assignments/activities is allowed for the Final Exam. The questions must address Texas Politics only and not national politics. Final Exams cannot be submitted late. More directions will be forthcoming when the final exam due date arrives. Make certain that the final exam answers are saved on a personal computer in case any issues develop with the Brightspace. Technical issues are not an appropriate reason for a late final exam. Late final exams are not allowed no matter the reason.

Grades: The point system is utilized for the Course. The benefit of the point system is that every point helps! Each section, students will have points for quizzes with additional points from assignments, discussion boards, and other required activities Specifically, students will have 1 Orientation Quiz WORTH 10 points, 14 chapter quizzes WORTH 25 points each, 1 Orientation Discussion Board worth 10 points, 2 Discussion Boards WORTH 45 points each, and 1 Final Exam worth 40 points. The delineation of the points is as follows:

Orientation Quiz	10 points
Orientation Discussion Board	10 points
Quizzes (14 quizzes x 25 points each)	350 points
Discussion Boards (2)	90 points
+ Final Exam	40 points
Total Points	= <u>500 points</u>

At the end of the semester the point range will break down as follows:

90% of 500 points = 500 - 450 points = A

80% of 500 points = 449 - 400 points = B

70% of 500 points = 399 – 350 points = C

60% of 500 points = 349 - 300 points

299 points and below = F

Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies: Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:

In very rare cases, death of a family member, extreme illness, or official college function, will I allow a student to complete missed assignments. <u>In order for that to occur, students must</u> <u>contact me via Classlist (internal messaging center) within 24 hours of the missed task with a valid explanation, otherwise it is a zero. ONLY ONE activity will be allowed to be submitted late with a valid excuse. A quiz reset does count as a late activity. All other missed activities <u>after the one late item or reset will receive a zero. Due to the nature of discussion boards, discussion boards cannot ever be submitted late!</u> The final exam cannot be submitted late either.</u>

Attendance is kept through participation rates. Missing more than 3 sections of activities will lead a student to be dropped. If it is after the drop date, then the student will receive an F if they are failing the class.

Make Up Quizzes:

The following guidelines will prevail if a student fails to complete a quiz before the completion date, and requests to make up the quiz.

- 1. The student must send me a message within **24** hours after the completion date and time requesting to make up the quiz.
- 2. The message must detail why the student failed to complete the quiz on time.
- 3. After receiving the request, I will consider giving extra time based on each request.
- 4. If the make-up request is granted, the student will be given a password to enter the quiz and have one day to complete the missed quiz. The quiz may only be taken once.
- 5. If the student has had a quiz unlocked prior to the request, he or she **WILL NOT** be allowed to take the make-up quiz.
- 6. If a student has not had a quiz unlocked prior to the request, the make-up quiz

will count as their lock-out for the semester.

7. The three quiz attempts does not guarantee that students will be able to take the quiz three times every section. If students have technical difficulties with their computer or issues that negate a quiz, then they have 2 other attempts to make-up for that lost quiz attempt. Thus, the reason for the three attempts.

Discussion Boards: cannot be submitted late.

Final Exam: cannot be submitted late.

Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:

"Students are expected to maintain classroom decorum that includes respect for other students and the instructor, prompt and regular attendance, and an attitude that seeks to take full advantage of the education opportunity." Students are not allowed to plagiarize, cheat on quizzes, copy from other students or outside sources, and to maintain course integrity throughout the semester.

- If a student violates the student handbook, it is at the instructor's discretion to dismiss that student from the class.
- Remember that politics is being discussed in this course. Many are impassioned about their beliefs. A civil discussion provides for discovery of the information and allows a student to explore their own beliefs. However, I reserve the right to request a disruptive student to leave the course.
- > All student plagiarism is reported to the Student Discipline Committee.

<u>* Click Here for the MCC Academic Integrity Statement</u>

(www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity)

The link above will provide you with information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

<u>* Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy</u>

(https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html)

Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have guidelines specific to this course.

Accommodations/ADA Statement

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students

should contact the Accommodations Coordinator as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. Instructors should not provide accommodations unless approved by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit mclennan.edu/disability.

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

disabilities@mclennan.edu 254-299-8122 Room 319, Student Services Center

<u>* Click Here for more information about Title IX</u>

(www.mclennan.edu/titleix)

We care about your safety, and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report an incident of sexual misconduct are encouraged to immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator at <u>titleix@mclennan.edu</u> or by calling Dr. Drew Canham (Vice President for Student Success) at 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at MCC by calling 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting the following website: <u>http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/</u>.

McLennan's Title IX webpage (<u>http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix/</u>) contains more information about definitions, reporting, confidentiality, resources, and what to do if you or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence or the crimes of rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence or domestic violence.

* You will need to access each link separately through your Web browser (for example: Internet Explorer, Mozilla, Chrome, or Safari) to print each link's information.