

# McLennan C O M M U N I T Y C O L L E G E

WACO, TEXAS

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## COURSE SYLLABUS AND INSTRUCTOR PLAN

Texas Government (Texas Constitution & Topics)

GOVT 2306\_03

Dr. David Oualaalou

**NOTE: This is a Blended/Hybrid 16-week course.**

### **COVID 19 Notice:**

McLennan Community College is committed to providing you with every resource you need to reach your academic goals including your safety. We will continue to monitor the evolving situation with COVID 19 and adjust our safety guidelines to make sure we offer a safe environment for you and our faculty. Please make sure to consult your faculty and the MCC website on any changes to these guidelines.

**AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION**

**FALL SEMESTER/2021**

# TEXAS GOVERNMENT

## GOVT 2306\_03

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### **Course Description:**

This course will cover 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. Sophomore standing or completion of HIST 1301 and 1302 recommended, but not required. This course may be taken before or after GOVT 2305.

### **Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:**

Prerequisite: Must have passed the reading section of the THEA or approved alternative test or credit for READ 0302. Semester Hours 3 (3 lecture).

### **Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:**

Simply reading the assigned material will not guarantee you a good grade; you must be able to integrate your notes with the reading assignments. If you miss a class lecture, it is your responsibility to obtain the notes from one of your classmates. I suggest you read the material to be covered by notes before the lecture and reread the material if it is giving you trouble. Please do not hesitate to contact me if your reading does not clarify the point. I will be glad to assist.

### **Instructor Information:**

Instructor Name: Dr. David Oualaalou

MCC E-mail: [doualaalou@mclennan.edu](mailto:doualaalou@mclennan.edu)

Office Phone Number: 254-299-8471

Office Location: MAC 340

Office/Instructor Conference Hours:

Mondays/Wednesdays 1000-1100 and/or 1300-1400

### **Text & Materials:**

Title: Lone Star Politics: Tradition and Transformation in Texas (SEVENTH EDITION)

Author(s): Ken Collier, Steven Galatas, Julie Harrelson-Stephens

Publisher: Sage Publishing

ISBN: 9781071808900

**MCC Bookstore Website:** <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

### **Methods of Teaching and Learning:**

The course is structured in a lecture format; however, there is a heavy emphasis on class and group discussions in addition to readings, videos, power points and charts to deliver content. Vocabulary enhancement with concept construction and recognition are highly emphasized. This

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course uses multiple choice tests and essays to assess students' content mastery, critical thinking skills, and reading comprehension and communications skills.

### **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.”

### **Course Outline or Schedule:**

(Please Note: This schedule is subject to change-Students will be notified about any changes via blackboard/e-mail/announcements)

Ch. #	Title	Test date	Assignment Due Date
	Meet Your Instructor Aug/23/21		
1	The political Culture Aug/25/21		
2	The Texas Constitution Sep/1/21		
3	Texas in Federal system Sep/13/21		Feb/28
4	Political Parties Sep/22/21	Feb/21 Ch. 1,2,3	
5	Campaigns and Elections Feb/4/21		
6	The Politics of Interest Groups Feb/13/21		
7	The Legislature		

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	Feb/25/21		
8	The Executive March/3/21	March/21 Ch. 4,5,6	
9	The Judiciary March/15/21		April/18
10	Crimes and Corrections Policy March/29/21		
11	Public Policy April/8/21	April/21 Ch. 7,8,9	
12	Local Government April/22/21		
	Final Exam	Dec/6/21	

### **Course Grading Information:**

The final grade will be based on the following: **Four exams** (including the **final**: 100 points each) and **One write-ups** (Short Paper) assignment (100 point) for a total of 500 points (Tests: 400; Short Write-up Assignments: 100). The exams and the writing assignment will cover the material addressed in class as well as required readings. To pass the course, all exams and assignments must be completed. If you are absent from an exam you will be given the opportunity to take a make-up exam if (a) provide a legitimate reason for your absence, and (b) you notify the instructor ahead of time of your intention of not taking the exam. You are allowed only **one** make up exam. It is your responsibility to take the appropriate steps to avoid receiving a failing grade. Grades are based on the following: **A** 89-100; **B** 79-89; **C** 69-79; **D** 59-69; **F** 59 and lower.

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

All major exam make-ups are scheduled for the last week of the semester. Missing 25% of the classes will result in dismissal from the class.

### **Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:**

Students are expected to be mindful of what a constructive education experience is and respectful of those participating in a learning environment. Said differently, you respect your classmates' point of views even you might disagree with them. In addition, the instructor will expect a mature behavior and adherence to rules and discipline guidelines in order to have a productive and rewarding educational experience. Failing to adhere to these rules will result in disciplinary action including expulsion. Of note: the classroom is not a cafeteria; thus, the instructor expects students to show respect for classroom setting by not bringing food into the classroom. The instructor also encourages students to bring more than one writing utensil. Sharpening a pencil

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during a lecture is borderline rudeness. Further, if you routinely take classroom breaks, we need to talk. Finally, the instructor will not tolerate the usage of cell phone during class periods. That being said, all cell phones must be turned off when in class and removed during test days! **No exception.**

\* [Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html)

(<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 additional guidelines specific to this course.

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

# McLennan

C O M M U N I T Y

# COLLEGE

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## ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

### **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 or want to explore strategies for balancing life and school, we encourage you to contact a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing [SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu](mailto:SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu). Students may visit the Completion Center Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. to schedule a meeting with a Success Coach and receive additional resources and support to help reach academic and personal goals. Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff based on household size. Text (254) 870-7573 to schedule a pantry 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-and-resources/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](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 notified via 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.

### **Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace:**

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty%20and%20Staff%20Commons/requirements.html> 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/employees/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 their 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. If you need assistance with set-up, you may email [Helpdesk@mclennan.edu](mailto:Helpdesk@mclennan.edu) for help.

**Forwarding Emails:**

You may forward 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 be lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

**MCC Academic Integrity Statement:**

Go to [www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity](http://www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity) for information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

**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. For additional information, please visit [www.mclennan.edu/disability](http://www.mclennan.edu/disability).

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

[disabilities@mclennan.edu](mailto:disabilities@mclennan.edu)

254-299-8122

Room 319, Student Services Center

**Title IX:**

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 [titleix@mclennan.edu](mailto:titleix@mclennan.edu) or by calling Dr. Drew Canham (Chief of Staff for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion/Title IX) at (254) 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at MCC at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>.

Go to McLennan's Title IX webpage at [www.mclennan.edu/titleix/](http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix/). It 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.

**Disclaimer:**

The resources and policies listed above are merely for informational purposes and are subject to change without notice or obligation. The College reserves the right to change policies and other requirements in compliance with State and Federal laws. The provisions of this document do not constitute a contract.