McLennan COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WACO, TEXAS

COURSE SYLLABUS
AND
INSTRUCTOR PLAN

Texas Government (Texas Constitution & Topics)

GOVT_2306_14

John Williams

NOTE: This is a 16-week course.

Course Description:

Origin and development of the Texas Constitution, structure and powers of the state government, including the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, federalism, political participation, the state and local election process, public policy, civil liberties and civil rights.

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:

Insert and course notes or recommendations

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: John Williams
MCC E-mail: jwwilliams@mclennan.edu
Office Phone Number: 317-681-9078
Office Location: MAC
Office/Teacher Conference Hours: T/TH 11am-12pm
Other Instruction Information:

Required Text & Materials:

Title: Texas Politics
Author: Collier, Galatas, Harrelson-Stephens
Edition: 6th Edition
Publisher: Sage | CQ Press
ISBN: 978-15443-1626-0

MCC Bookstore Website: http://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).

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** (**www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/teaching-commons/requirements**)
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.

Methods of Teaching and Learning:

This course will rely primarily on the assigned text. However, other related materials may be used to supplement the approved course material. Generally speaking, class time will be divided between class discussion and course lecture. The discussions will include not only prescribed readings, but outside current events happening at the local, state, and federal levels, and other appropriate professional published materials, as well. Exams, quizzes, and assigned projects will be used to assess learning and comprehension. Furthermore, participation in class discussions is a critical part of the classroom experience. Therefore, final grades will incorporate points for participation.

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. 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:

Class will meet twice per week and students are expected to complete the assigned reading before the topic is discussed in lecture. If there's a change in schedule, students will be notified through Brightspace and/or during a prior meeting time.

Session 1: (1/14/20) Introductions and Syllabus;

Session 2: (1/16/20) Chapter 1 – Introduction

Session 3: (1/21/20) Chapter 2 – Texas Constitution

Session 4: (1/23/20) Quiz 1

Session 5: (1/28/20) Chapter 3 – Texas Legislature

Session 6: (1/30/20) Chapter 4 – Texas Governors

Session 7: (2/04/20) In Class Group Discussion

Session 8: (2/06/20 Exam 1 Review

Session 9: (2/11/20) Exam 1

Session 10: (2/13/20 Chapter 5 – The Plural Executive and Bureaucracy in Texas

Session 11: (2/18/20) Chapter 6 – Texas Judicial System

Session 12: (2/20/20) Chapter 7 – Texas-Sized Justice, Quiz 2

Session 13: (2/25/20) Chapter 8 – Campaigns and Elections Texas Style

Session 14: (2/27/20) In Class Group Discussion

Session 15: (3/03/20) Exam 2 Review

Session 16: (3/05/20) Exam 2

Session 17: (3/10/20) Spring Break – No Class

Session 18: (3/12/20) Spring Break – No Class

Session 19: (3/17/20) Chapter 9 – Political Parties

Session 20: (3/19/20) Chapter 10 – Organized Interests

Session 21: (3/24/20) Chapter 11 – Local Government in Texas, Quiz 3

Session 22: (3/26/20) Chapter 12 – Fiscal Policy

Session 23: (3/3120) In Class Group Discussions

Session 24: (4/02/20) Exam 3 Review

Session 25: (4/07/20) Exam 3

Session 26: (4/09/20) Presentations

Session 27: (4/14/20) Presentations

Session 28: (4/16/20) presentations

Session 29: (4/21/20) presentations

Session 30: (4/23/20) Chapter 13 – Energy, Environment, Transportation, and Trade Policies: Transforming Texas

Session 31: (4/28/20) Chapter 14 – Social Policy: Education, Health, and Immigration

Session 32: (4/30/20) Exam 4 Review

Final Exam: (5/05/20) Exam 4

Course Grading Information:

Grades can be found on Brightspace grade book. Students are responsible for keeping track of their progress throughout the semester. Students are expected to do their own, original work. Cheating and plagiarism is entirely unacceptable. Should you get caught cheating or turn in plagiarized work, the appropriate MCC sanctions will be pursued.

Course grades will be divided into four areas worth a total of 690 points:

1. Class Participation – 100 points.

2. There will be **FOUR** exams consisting of both multiple-choice and short essay answers, one of which will be a comprehensive final – 400 points.
3. **ONE** presentation – 100 points.
4. **THREE** quizzes. – 90 points.

Grading Scale:

100 - 90%	A (621-690)
89 - 80%	B (552-620)
79 - 70%	C (483-551)
69 - 60%	D (414-482)
Below 60%	F (0-413)

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Students are expected to attend each class session. Failure to attend class will impact your ability to learn the subject matter, as the lecture and class discussion will provide students with the majority of the content matter for this course. To receive 100% of the class participation points available, students must attend no less than 80% of the lectures, unless otherwise approved. A reduction of 10% per session missed will be assessed should students attend fewer than 80% of the scheduled sessions.

Late Work and Make Up Policy:

In-class quizzes must be taken during the scheduled lecture session. If approved, make up for a missed quiz must be completed no later than the following class session. Students will receive zero points if the quiz isn't taken within this timeframe. Students will be required to take exams and complete their presentation as scheduled. If circumstances prevent you from completing an exam or the presentation on time, the situation must be properly documented and a request for an exception submitted immediately upon knowledge of the situation, but no later than one week after the exam. Students will have one week after approval to take the test without penalty. Should the student not be able to complete the test within one week of approval, the following penalty will apply:

Two weeks after approved exception – 20% reduction in score.
Three weeks after approved exception – 30% reduction in score.

Presentation make-up must be rescheduled before the end of semester.

Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:

Students are expected to respect the opinions of others and conduct themselves appropriately, as classroom discussions may oftentimes deal with sensitive matters. Students are expected to read the assigned materials **before class**, and come prepared to discuss the issues identified in the readings.

Students are also expected to attend and be on time for each class session, and be aware of current events, which will be a basis for additional classroom discussion.

* **Click Here for the MCC Academic Integrity Statement**
(www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity)
The link above will provide you with information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

* **Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy**
(www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies)
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

* **Click Here for more information about Title IX**
(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 titleix@mclennan.edu 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.

McLennan's Title IX webpage (http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix/) 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.*