

McLennan

C O M M U N I T Y

COLLEGE

WACO, TEXAS

COURSE SYLLABUS

AND

INSTRUCTOR PLAN

TEXAS GOVERNMENT

GOVT - 2306 – C06

ANDREW CLAYTON

NOTE: This is a 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 at <https://www.mclennan.edu/crisis-management/coronavirus-updates/index.html> on any changes to these guidelines.

TEXAS GOVERNMENT

GOVT_2306_C06

Course 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.

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).

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: Andrew Clayton
MCC email:
aclayton@mclennan.edu Office
Phone Number: 299-8227 Office
Location: MAC 310
Office Hours: Online by appointment

Required Text & Materials:

Title: *Texas Politics Today*
Author: Jones
Edition: 19th
Publisher: Cengage
ISBN: 9780357894927

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

Methods of Teaching and Learning:

The method of instruction and teaching for this course will be a combination of both lecture and discussion. Students will be expected to prepare for pop quizzes before each class to ensure that the material is read before each class. There will be a total of three proctored exams.

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.

TEXAS GOVERNMENT

GOVT_2306_C06

- **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.

Course Outline or Schedule:

Week	Topic	Reading	Assignment
Wk. 1 January 10 – January 17	Texas Constitutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jones Chapter 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quiz 1 (Email Professor)• Quiz 2 (Chapter 3)
Wk. 2 January 17 – January 24	Federalism and Texas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jones Chapter 2, beginning to page 39• Federalist 39, Federalist 45	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quiz 3 (Chapter 2)• Supplemental Quiz on Federalist Papers
Wk. 3 January 24 – January 31	Federalism and Texas Continued	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jones Chapter 2, 40 to end• “The Forgotten Doctrine of the	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quiz 4 (Chapter 2)• Supplemental Quiz on secondary

TEXAS GOVERNMENT

GOVT_2306_C06

		Enumerated Powers,” Epstein and Loyola on Federalism	readings on federalism
Wk. 4 January 31 – February 7	Texas Legislature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jones Chapter 7, beginning to page 188 • “How Much Should State Legislators Get Paid,” from <i>Five Thirty-Eight</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 5 (Chapter 7) • Supplemental Quiz on “How Much Should State Legislators Get Paid,” from <i>Five Thirty-Eight</i>
Wk. 5 February 7 – February 14	Texas Legislature Continued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jones Chapter 7, 189 to end • “Broken by Design,” from <i>City Journal</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 6 (Chapter 7) • Supplemental Quiz on “Broken by Design,” from <i>City Journal</i>
Wk. 6 February 14 – February 21	Exam I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam I 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam I
Wk. 7 February 21 – February 28	Texas Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jones Chapter 8, beginning to 220 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 7 (Chapter 8)
Wk. 8 February 28 – March 7	Texas Executive Continued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jones Chapter 8, 221 to end • “The Power of the Texas Governor” “The Power Behind the Throne,” <i>Texas Monthly</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 8 (Chapter 8) • Supplemental Quiz on Executive Readings
Wk. 9 March 14 – March 21	Texas Judiciary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jones Chapter 9 • <i>Caperton v. Massey Coal</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 9 (Chapter 9) • Supplemental Quiz on <i>Caperton v. Massey Coal</i>
Wk. 10 March 21 – March 28	Political Parties in Texas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jones Chapter 5 • “Yes, Texas Could Turn Blue,” “Cowboy Conservatism” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 10 (Chapter 5) • Supplemental Quiz on “Yes, Texas Could Turn Blue,” “Cowboy Conservatism”

TEXAS GOVERNMENT

GOVT_2306_C06

Wk. 11 March 28 – April 4	Exam II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exam II 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exam II
Wks. 12-13 April 4 – April 18	Election in Texas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jones Chapter 4 <i>Shelby County v. Holder</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 10 (Chapter 4) Supplemental Quiz: <i>Shelby County</i>
Wk. 14 April 18 – April 25		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jones Chapter 12 “Red State, Blue Cities,” <i>City Journal</i>, “Who’s Going to Pay for All of This?” <i>County</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 11 (Chapter 12) Supplemental Quiz on secondary readings
Wk. 15 April 25 – May 2	Exam III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exam III 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exam III

Course Grading Information:

The grade in this course will be based on the following:

Attendance/Participation: 10%

Reading Quizzes: 15%

Examination I: 20%

Examination II: 20%

Examination III: 20%

Final Examination: 15%

The grades are simply weighted by the above percentages. The total weighted grade will be provided at every point in the course. To be clear, the points are insignificant in this class. The weight of the grade is what matters.

90%-100%=A 80%-89.99%=B 70%-79.99%=C 60%-69.99%=D

Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:

Students must abide by the MCC’s attendance policy. Tardiness will generally result in an absence for that day of class. By MCC’s policy, all students must attend seventy-five percent of

class sessions to receive credit for the course (meaning that if the student misses more than 25% of the class, he or she will fail the course).

There are no make-up quizzes, assignments or exams lacking a legitimate reason for an absence. A legitimate reason includes a serious personal illness (e.g. the flu or an injury) or a death in the family. In each case, the student must contact the instructor at the time of occurrence *by phone*. Upon his or her return the student must provide a handwritten and signed note by his or her doctor. A phone number must be included. Short of this, the instructor will not grant students the chance to make up work.

Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:

In general students, are not to leave class once it has started. Please take care of your business before coming to class. Failure to do so on a regular basis will result in a participation grade deduction. All students are expected to abide by the “General Conduct Policy” outlined in the MCC student handbook. Academic dishonesty in any form (e.g. plagiarism or cheating) is a serious offense and it constitutes grounds for *failure* in this course according to the instructor’s discretion. *Do not cut and paste. Do not look at other resources during quizzes and exams unless given permission.* The first infraction, however large or small, will result in an immediate failure of the assignment or exam. The second infraction, however large or small, will result in a failure in the course.

All the following acts are considered plagiarism or cheating:

- Turning in someone's work as your own or modifying another's work and representing it as one's own work
- Copying words or ideas or visuals from someone else (like the internet) without giving credit
- Failure to cite sources for written or visual work
- Giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
 - Submitting as your own any written assignments prepared totally or in part by another (this includes “cutting and pasting” from websites for assignments and essays).
- Providing, accepting, or copying answers to an exam
- Permitting someone else to take a test for you or completing a test for another
- Looking at a cellular phone (or other resources) during a quiz or examination

*** [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.

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C O M M U N I T Y

COLLEGE

ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

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.

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

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 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/. 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.

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. 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.

MCC Academic Integrity Statement:

Go to www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity for information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

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

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty-and-Staff-Commons/requirements.html> for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

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.

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 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.

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.