

**GOVT 2301
Syllabus
Dr. Sandra Creech**

Instructor: Dr. Sandra Creech

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Course Description GOVT 2301

This course surveys a variety of topics including the role of government in the American economy, American political culture and the ideological framework for American government, the U.S. and Texas constitutions, federalism and intergovernmental relations, and participatory institutions and processes.

Text GOVT 2301: Text - Required:

Politics in America, Texas Edition, 8/E Thomas R. Dye, Bartholomew H. Sparrow, *The University of Texas at Austin* L. Tucker Gibson, Jr., *Trinity University*, Clay Robison, *Houston Chronicle*

ISBN-10: 0136027245 ISBN-13: 9780136027249

Text - OPTIONAL:

The Political Science Student Writer's Manual, 6/E Greg M. Scott, *University of Central Oklahoma*, Steve M. Garrison, *University of Central Oklahoma*

ISBN-10: 0136029450 ISBN-13: 9780136029458 Publisher: Longman Copyright: 2008

Other Materials - Required: Blue ScanTrons – at least 5

Web Enhanced

This class is web enhanced. This means that part of the class information is available and delivered by D2L online. Students may participate in online discussions, have access to the test bank prior to in-class exams and have their individual grades available via the online system.

Temple College Purpose Statement

“Temple College is a public community college, founded in 1926 through the joint efforts of civic, business, and educational leaders. The mission of Temple College is to serve the founders’ vision by meeting the needs of individual students, area communities, and businesses through quality educational programs and services that reflect our commitment to quality and integrity while preparing our diverse population as they enter an ever-changing global society.”

“Temple College is committed to excellence in helping students reach their full potential by developing their academic competencies, critical thinking skills, communication proficiency, civic responsibility, and global awareness. As a leader in education, the College is proud of its mission of challenging the human mind to explore new ideas and seek new opportunities.”

Goals of the Government Curriculum

The goals of the Government courses support the Temple College Mission Statement. The courses are intended to contribute to the growth and development of students by providing a solid foundation for further academic education and preparing them to become more productive members of our national, state, and local communities.

To achieve these ends, the Government courses are designed to maximize students’ capacity to analyze, interpret, and evaluate political events and governmental processes. Students are expected to learn the basic facts, concepts, and themes of the discipline, as they relate to American Government.

Students are introduced to the elementary methods of political inquiry as a means to analyze and understand political problems, governmental institutions, participatory processes, and public policy issues. Students will learn to do elementary political science analysis themselves and to apply what they have learned.

Although the substance of the courses provides a general, but challenging political education for students, it is primarily intended to provide the basis for their continued academic educations, whatever their major fields of study may be. The courses also provide especially good preparation for academic transfer students who may choose Political Science as their major field for their Bachelor’s degree, as well as those who pursue careers in teaching, government service, practical politics, and law.

Course Requirements GOVT 2301

At least 4 Exams including the final exam worth 100 points each.

This class is web enhanced and as such will have online discussions worth 10 points each.

In addition, there will be at least 1 report using APSA format worth 100 points.

Students are required to **take and pass** the final test. **Failure to comply will result in an 'F' in the course. No Exceptions will be made!!!**

Report Assignment:

Research Essay (20%)

This semester you will have an assignment aimed at helping you form a unique perspective about a controversial issue. This project will help you learn how to inform yourself about issues, and allow for you to discuss these issues with others outside of a classroom setting.

In your paper, I expect for you to use the following format:

Frame the Issue: Tell what your question is, and why it is important

Thesis Sentence: In one sentence, tell me what you believe

Why What You Believe is Right: Tell me what you have learned from the sources that support your belief

Why the Other Side May Be Right: What does the opposite view hold to be correct and why.

Is the Other Side Right: Do you believe the opposite view's arguments?

Conclusion: Tell me what you've said.

The essays will have 1 inch margins, 12 point Times New Roman or Courier New font. It will use the APSA citation style. The book The Political Science Student Writer's Manual can be used. The document will be 2 pages long and double spaced. Finally, the Final Essay will be graded on a 20 point scale, where students will receive a grade based on the following criterion:

20 -18 -Excellent essay, A quality work (90-100). Arguments have logical consistency. Conclusion follows logically from supported arguments. Student uses sources to defend his or her arguments in a manner consistent with the information. Student takes into consideration arguments from the opposing stance, and explains why these arguments are wrong using sources.

17 -16 -Good essay, B quality work (80-89). Arguments have logical consistency. Conclusion follows logically from supported arguments. Student uses sources to defend his or her arguments in a manner consistent with the information. Student takes into consideration arguments from the opposing stance.

15 -14 -Average essay, C quality work (70-79). Arguments have logical consistency. Conclusion follows logically from supported arguments. Student uses sources to defend his or her arguments in a manner consistent with the information.

Other Written Work:

Reports and other papers will be submitted with name in upper right corner with the course and section number under the name. In addition, students may use APSA format for formal reports and extra credit. You may use the optional book on Political Science Writing (see texts). Students should be sure that they properly format and reference material to avoid plagiarism issues. Grammar and correct spelling count. Students may lose up to 20% of an individual grade due to spelling and/or grammar errors.

Writing Center Information

The Temple College Writing Center (TCWC), located in Portable Building 31 Rm. 31 (next to Berry Hall), offers help to writers at any stage of the writing process including brainstorming, researching, drafting, documenting, revising, and more; no writing concern is too large or too small. If you visit the TCWC, take a copy of your writing assignment, a hard copy of your draft or any notes you may have, as well as any material you need help with. To find out more about UWC services or to schedule an appointment, call 298-8393 or stop by in person.

Grading GOVT 2301

Total Points Available = 550

495 - 550 = A
440 - 494 = B
385 - 439 = C
330 - 384 = D
<330 = F

Late Work GOVT 2301

Generally, **no work will be accepted late**. If you know you will be out for an exam, then you should make arrangements to take the exam early. Make up exams taken after the tests for the class have been returned will be 100% essay and require you purchase a Blue Book for completion. **Any** assignment, including exams, turned in late will result in **15 points** being taken off the grade the first day and 5 points each day after that. **No Assignment** will be accepted if more than **7 days late**.

Dropping the Course

It is absolutely the **responsibility of the student** to drop this course if she/he should decide that she/he couldn't continue for any reason. The instructor will not remove students from the class roster except when required by disruptive behavior according to the College's policy on *disruptive behavior* (see **Temple College Student Handbook**) or for non-attendance such as never attended or according to the policy on attendance.

Attendance Policy

Please be in class at the beginning of the class session and remain in class for the duration. Students who repeatedly arrive late and leave class sessions early disrupt the class and will be removed from the class roster according to the College's policy on disruptive behavior (see **Temple College Student Handbook**). This policy will be enforced this semester!

Updated TC Attendance Policy:

Regular and punctual class attendance is expected at Temple College since it is assumed that students are enrolled for the serious purpose of furthering their education. Excessive absenteeism is defined as being equivalent to two weeks of instruction in a sixteen week semester and may result in the receipt of a failing grade or involuntary withdrawal from the course.

Classroom Behavior GOVT 2301

- "Obscene language and activities that are offensive to modesty or decency are prohibited on the College campus" (from **Student Handbook**).
- Do NOT bring **beepers** or **cellular phones** to class sessions. College policy prohibits use of these devices in classrooms, except in the case of medical or emergency personnel who are on call

(**Student Handbook**). *Any student who is covered by this exception is asked to inform the instructor at the first class meeting.* Violation of this will result in your device being confiscated by the instructor. Return of the device is at the discretion of the instructor.

- **DAILY** preparation is essential for success in this course. Up to **5 points** can be added to your final grade for active, consistent participation
- Approach this course with a **positive attitude!!** Disregard what others have told you about the course, good or bad. You can learn more about American government and politics this semester than you ever imagined, if you let yourself. **PRECONCEIVED ATTITUDES** concerning college courses such as this one can do more to impede your education than anything else!!
- Do **NOT expect** the material to simply "**WASH OVER YOU!!**" **YOU** must take the initiative to learn!!!!
- Students may **not** use tape recorders to record lectures, discussions, or any other activity occurring during class sessions. The instructor **will** make special accommodations for any student who has a documented learning disability. More generally, any student with a documented learning disability must inform the college at the beginning of the semester so that the instructor may take appropriate action to set up special testing procedures, study aids, or other accommodations. Any electronic devices not specifically allowed by the instructor will be confiscated.

REHABILITATION ACT AND AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

Temple College complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Information regarding disabilities, voluntarily given or inadvertently received, will not adversely affect any admission decision.

If you require special services because of a disability, notify the Temple College Disabilities Coordinator. This voluntary self-identification allows Temple College to prepare appropriate support services to facilitate your learning.

Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism

Cheating and dishonesty are unacceptable and **will not be tolerated!** Measures will be taken to detect cheating. Any infractions will be dealt with by **seeking the maximum penalties** available under current College policy. [Refer to the sections on Academic Integrity and Disciplinary Penalties in the **Student Handbook**.]

Topics GOVT 2301

Topical Syllabus

	Topic	<i>Reading Assignment</i>
Preliminary Considerations	Political Culture	Chapter 1, 2, 19
Constitutional Foundations	American Philosophical Principles - Federalism	Chapter 4
	The U.S. Constitution	Chapter 3
	The Texas Constitution	Chapter 20
Federalism	Constitutional/Legal System	Chapter 4
	Cultural System	Chapter 2
	Political System	Chapter 2, 4
Political Processes	Political Socialization	Chapter 6, 21
	Public Opinion - Media	Chapter 5
	Political Parties	Chapter 7, 21
	Interest Groups	Chapter 9, 21
	Campaigns and Elections	Chapter 8, 21
Local Government	State & Local Politics	Chapter 25
	Texas Local Politics	

NOTE: Topics and reading assignments are subject to revision.