

GOVT 2302 Course Overview and Topic Outline

Syllabus

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Course Description

Primary emphasis on the legislative, executive, and judicial systems of local, state, and federal governments as established in the Texas and U. S. constitutions. Included are the bureaucracy and selected problems in making public policy.

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.

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

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.

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 and according to the College's policy on *disruptive behavior* (see **Temple College Student Handbook**). In addition, the instructor may remove a student from the roster due to excessive absences according to the College's policy for attendance (see **Temple College Student Handbook**).

Course Requirements

3 Exams = 100 points each

1 Video Exam/report = 100 points

1 report = 100 points

Additional grades will be given for On-line discussions

Other grades as assigned

All students are required to take and pass the final exam as well as a comprehensive exam. Failure to attend the exam and pass it will result in an 'F' in the course.

Report Assignment:

Research Essay

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 at least 2 pages long and double spaced. Finally, the Final Essay will be graded on a 100 point scale, where students will receive a grade based on the following criterion:

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.

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.

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

There are a total of 540 points available:

486 - 540 =A
432 - 485 =B
378 - 431 =C
324 - 377 =D
< 324 = F

Testing:

Tests may consist of objective as well as subjective questions to test student knowledge and application of the material.

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 either ASPA format for formal reports and extra credit. 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.

Late Work

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 may be 100% essay and require you purchase a Blue Book for completion. **Any** assignment 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**.

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.

Faculty members will discuss the attendance policy at the beginning of each semester and maintain an official record of attendance for each course primarily to remain in compliance with federal financial aid regulations and requirements. At the discretion of the instructor or as may be required by THECB (Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board) policy and law, the attendance policy for certain courses may be more stringent than the general policy. Students are responsible for reviewing the first day handout for each class and for knowing the attendance requirements.

Further, the college empowers individual faculty members to effect the withdrawal of a student from any course in which s/he has failed to meet attendance expectations. Faculty members are encouraged, but not required to notify students in jeopardy of being withdrawn from a course. However, since attendance is absolutely the responsibility of the student, such notification is a courtesy, not a requirement. Administrative withdrawal for excessive absence is the prerogative of the faculty member and, as such, students are encouraged to contact their teachers and/or Admissions Office to confirm enrollment status.

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**.]

Classroom Behavior

- "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.*
- **DAILY** preparation is essential for success in this course.
- 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 instructor 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.
- No electronic device(s) will be allowed in the classroom without prior approval of the instructor.

Topical Syllabus

Rights	Civil Liberties	Chapter 15
	Equal Rights	Chapter 14
Legislative	Congress	Chapter 10
	TX. Legislature	Chapter 22
Executive	Presidency	Chapter 11
	TX Executive	Chapter 23
Judiciary	Federal	Chapter 13
	TX State Court	Chapter 24
Bureaucracy	Federal	Chapter 12
	Welfare & Education	Chapter 16 & 17
	Foreign & Defense	Chapter 18
	Domestic Policy	Chapter 17
	TX Public Policy	Chapter 23

NOTE: Topics and reading assignments are subject to revision.