

CLARENDON COLLEGE
Division of Liberal Arts

Course Name: GOVT 2306, Texas Government
Credit Hours: 3

Semester: Fall 2011

Instructor: Mr. McLatchy

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Office Hours:

Pampa Center: MWF 8:10-9:00 and 10:00-11:00 am; MW 7:00-7:30 pm;
TR 9:30-11:00; T 6:30-7:00 pm; or by appointment

Required Instructional Materials:

Textbook: Halter, Gary M. *Government & Politics of Texas, A Comparative View*, Seventh Edition, Boston: McGraw Hill, 2009.

Course Description:

Introduction to the theory and practice of politics and government in America at the state and local levels, with special attention to Texas. Topics include political theory, the Texas Constitution, states rights, political participation and elections.

Statement of Purpose:

Government 2306 partially satisfies the requirements for the Associates degree at Clarendon College and is designed for transfer to a senior college or university.

Methods of Instruction:

The class will consist primarily of traditional lecture and discussion.

Course Objectives:

1. To analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on Texas.
2. To comprehend the origins and evolution of the Texas political system, with focus on the growth of political institutions, the Constitution of Texas, federalism, civil liberties, and civil and human rights.
3. To recognize and assume ones responsibilities as a citizen in a democratic society by learning to think for ones self, by engaging in public discourse, and by obtaining information through the news media and other appropriate information sources about politics and public policy

Classroom Policies:

Classroom Conduct

Failure to comply with lawful direction of a classroom instructor is a disruption for all students enrolled in the class. Cheating violations include, but are not limited to: (1) obtaining an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory exercise by stealing or collusion; (2) discovering the content of an examination, classroom activity, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment before it is given; (3) using an unauthorized source of information during an examination, classroom activity, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment; (4) entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage; (5) taking an examination for another person; (6) completing a classroom activity, laboratory exercise, homework assignment, or research paper for another person; (7) altering grade records; (8) using any unauthorized form of electronic communication device during an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory exercise; (9) Plagiarism. Plagiarism is the using, stating, offering, or reporting as one's own, an idea, expression, or production of another person without proper credit.

Disciplinary actions for cheating in a course are at the discretion of the individual instructor. The instructor of that course will file a report with the Dean of Students when a student is caught cheating in the course, whether it be a workforce or academic course. The report shall include the course, instructor, student's name, and the type of cheating involved. Students who are reported as cheating to the Dean of Students more than once shall be disciplined by the Dean. The Dean will notify all involved parties within fourteen days of any action taken.

Clarendon College student papers should be submitted through the Turnitin website so that they can be checked by instructors for possible plagiarism violations.

Scholastic Honesty: Anyone who is dishonest in any way will receive a zero on that assignment or exam with no opportunity to make up the zero. A second act of dishonesty will result in an F for the course.

American with Disabilities Act Statement:

Clarendon College provides reasonable accommodations for persons with temporary or permanent disabilities. Should you require special accommodations, notify the Office of Student Services (806-874-3571 or 800-687-9737). We will work with you to make whatever accommodations we need to make.

Dropping a Course:

A student who is enrolled in a developmental course for TSI purposes may not drop his/her only developmental course unless the student completely withdraws from the college. A student may drop any other course with a grade of "W" any time after the census date for the semester and on or before the end of the 12th week of a long semester, or on or before the last day to drop a class of a term as designated in the college calendar. The request for permission to drop a course is initiated by the student by procuring a drop form from the Office of Student Services. (Refer to other policies concerning this issue in the current college catalog online.)

Withdrawal: If you decide that you are unable to complete this course or that it will be impossible to complete the course with a passing grade, you may drop the course and receive a "W" on your transcript instead. Withdrawal from a course is a formal procedure that you must initiate. If you do not go through the formal withdrawal procedure, you will receive a grade of "F" on your transcript. A student is permitted to drop a course if he/she obtains an official drop slip from the office and has the instructor sign the slip before the 12th class week.

Remember, a student is only allowed to drop the same class twice before he/she will be charged up to triple the tuition amount for taking the class a third time or more. Furthermore, beginning with the Fall 2007 semester, students in Texas may only drop a total of 6 courses throughout their entire undergraduate career. After the 6, he/she will no longer be able to withdraw from any classes.

Withdrawal from College:

When a student finds it necessary to withdraw from school before the end of the semester, he or she should obtain a withdrawal form from the Office of Student Services. Students may also withdraw from the college by sending a written request for such action to the Registrar's Office. The request must include the student's signature, the student's current address, social security number and course information details. Students who withdraw after the census date for the semester and on or before the end of the 12th week of a long semester, or on or before the last day to drop a class of a term as designated in the college calendar will be assigned a grade of "W."

- Do not leave class before class is over.
- Do not disrupt class.
- Do not sleep in class.
- Do not use foul language
- Respect others (instructor and other students.)

Grading Policies:

The final semester grades will be figured as set in the current catalog:

90 to 100 = A 80 to 89 = B 70 to 79= C 60 to 69 = D Below 60 = F

A student's final grade will be made available through Student Portal at Clarendon College's website.

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

- Writing Assignment: 10% (Must be submitted through the Turnitin.com website)
- Unit Exams: 65% (There will be three unit exams)
- Final Exam: 25%

Tentative Course Outline:

Introduction

Texas Constitutions

Political Participation

Interest Groups

Political Parties

Voting and Elections

Texas Legislature

Texas Executive

Texas Judiciary

Financing State Government

Local Governments

Public Policy in Texas