

**Clarendon College**  
**Division of Liberal Arts**  
**Government/Political Science**

**Texas State Government 2306**

**Fall 2011**

**Online**  
**(3) Three Credit Hours**

**Instructor: Ms. Myers**  
**Contact: (806)874-4846**  
**Email: Mailbox within WebCt**

**Required Text:** Government Politics of Texas. Gary M. Halter. Seventh Edition.

**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.

**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 one's responsibilities as a citizen in a democratic society by learning to think for one's self, by engaging in public discourse, and by obtaining information through the news media and other appropriate information sources about politics and public policy.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

The learner shall:

1. Will analyze the various functions of Texas government.
2. Categorize and explain the three branches of government.
3. Effectively explain how government is formed and by who's authority.
4. Relate and give examples of how government is paid for.
5. Will be able to assess the power of political action groups and special interest and demonstrate the pitfalls of these groups and their interaction with the political parties and individuals.
6. Effectively argue and support points of view on a variety of government subjects.

**Method of Instruction:** During the term we will primarily utilize discussion questions and quizzes. You will be responsible for reading the chapters assigned to each Unit.



Each week you will be assigned Discussion Questions that correspond to selected chapters from each unit. These questions can be found by clicking on the Assignments link on the course Homepage. These questions will always be posted by 1pm on Monday and must be answered and uploaded by Monday of the following week by 11pm(no later!). You will also be required to take a Unit Quiz covering information from each Unit. These will be timed, multiple-choice quizzes. The Quizzes will always open at 1 pm each Friday and close by 11pm the following Monday. In addition to the Discussion Questions and Quizzes, you will be assigned at least one short Outside Assignment per month(see course schedule at the end of this document)

**GRADING POLICY:**

<b>Element</b>	<b>Points</b>
Unit Questions 12sets@20pts each	240 points
Unit Quizzes 12@20pts each	240 points
Outside Assignments 3@40pts each	120 points
<b>Total: 700 points</b>	

**Grading Scale:**

**630 and above.....A**  
**560 – 629 .....B**  
**490 – 559.....C**  
**420 – 489.....D**  
**Below 420.....F**

**NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED!**

**Class Policies:**

1. You are expected to complete all weekly assignments on or before the time they are due.
2. Late work will not be accepted, nor will make-up Quizzes.
3. Plagiarism is considered serious academic misconduct. Instructors determining that a student plagiarized an assignment will assign a failing grade for that assignment and may elect to pursue disciplinary action against the student.
4. If you stop logging into your course or completing assignments, but do not officially withdraw or drop, your name will remain on the roll and you will be given a grade only for the work completed up to that point.

5. In addition, students are responsible for all college regulations as stated in the Clarendon College Catalog.

### **Viewpoints Disclaimer**

The views expressed in this document, course materials, and/or classroom presentations are those of the instructor and do not necessarily represent the views of Clarendon College, its faculty and staff, or its students. Views expressed by students are likewise those of the person making such statements.

### **Scholastic Dishonesty**

It is the responsibility of students and instructors to help maintain scholastic integrity at the college by refusing to participate in or tolerate scholastic dishonesty. Commission of any of the following acts shall constitute scholastic dishonesty. This listing is not exclusive of any other acts that may reasonably be said to constitute scholastic dishonesty: acquiring or providing information for any assigned work or examination from any unauthorized source; informing any person or persons of the contents of any examination prior to the time the examination is given in subsequent section of the course or as a makeup; plagiarism; submission of a paper or project that is substantially the same for two courses unless expressly authorized by the instructor to do so; submission of a paper project prepared by another student as your own. Students are responsible for being familiar with the college's Academic Integrity Policy.

### **Physical or Educational Access:**

Clarendon College seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified persons with disabilities. This college will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to make the college aware of any disability in a timely fashion to arrange for suitable accommodations.

## Course Schedule

**August 31-September 12**

**UNIT 1**

**Intro to Texas Government**

**September 12-September 19**

**UNIT 2**

**The State Constitution and the American Federal System**

**September 19- September 26**

**UNIT 3**

**Participation in Texas Politics**

**September 26-October 3**

**1<sup>st</sup> Outside Assignment**

**October 3- October 10**

**UNIT 4**

**Interest Groups**

**October 10-October 17**

**UNIT 5**

**Political Parties in Texas**

**October 17-October 31**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Outside Assignment**

**October 31-November 7**

**UNIT 6**

**Elections and Campaigns**

**November 7-November 14**

**UNIT 7**

**Texas Legislature**

**November 14-November 21**

**UNIT 8**

**Governor and State Agencies**

**November 21-November 28**

**UNIT 9**

**Court System in Texas**

**November 28-December 5**

**UNIT 10**

**Local Government in Texas (we skipped chapter 10)**

**December 5-December 12**

**UNIT 11**

**Public Policy in Texas Political Parties &  
3<sup>rd</sup> Outside Assignment**

**WE ARE DONE FOR THE SEMESTER!!! HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS!**