



SYLLABUS TEXAS GOVERNMENT 2306
CLARENDON COLLEGE
SPRING 2011 3 CREDIT HOURS
ONLINE COURSE
Instructor: Kim Jeffrey

Office Hours: Because this is an online course, the best way to reach me is the **Web CT e-mail** through the online course. For emergencies and Chapter Quiz submission use:

Kim.Jeffrey@clarendoncollege.edu.

I will check and answer e-mails every couple of days or sooner.

CALENDAR OF IMPORTANT DATES:

Classes Begin	Tuesday, January 18
Last Day to Register and/or Add/Drop	Thursday, January 27
Last Day to Drop with a 'W'	Friday, April 15
Final Exam	Saturday, Sunday, Monday, May 7,8,9

CLASS PARTICIPATION WILL BE A CURRENT EVENTS TOPIC: Every week, students will post a short summary relating to a current event topic of their choice for a total of 15 postings for this course. Additionally, students will be required to post five separate replies to the postings of other student. This short synopsis or **summary** may be about any current event relating to government or politics. **Decide what your topic is, how you would handle the situation** if you were the decision-maker in control and **give your reasons as to why** you would address the problem in this way. **Provide the source of your information. THESE POSTINGS WILL BE YOUR CLASS PARTICIPATION SCORE AND WILL BE 10% OF YOUR TOTAL GRADE FOR THE CLASS.** There will be a format and additional information for you on the Discussion Board of the Homepage. Please refer to the **UNIT ASSIGNMENT AND INSTRUCTIONS** located under the **Syllabus Icon** or the **Homepage Calendar** for the due dates for postings. Please take note: no late postings will be accepted.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: To acquaint the student with the structure and functions of the Texas Constitutional System. The course is designed to satisfy state and college requirements for degree-seeking students as well as to provide a direction for future study. Government 2306 partially satisfies the requirement for an Associate Degree at Clarendon College and is designed to transfer to a senior college or university.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Texas Government 2306 is an introduction to the theory and practice of politics and governance in Texas at the state and local and county levels. Topics include political theory, the Texas Constitution, Federalism, Separation of Powers, political participation, elections, the Texas economy and current events and issues.

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

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION: This is an online course. Students who take the responsibility for learning will learn the most. Therefore, in this class I will be acting more as a "facilitator of learning" than a "traditional teacher." What you learn in this course will come from these sources: textbook readings, power point presentations and current events postings from yourself and other students. If you need extra help, remember that I am only an [email](#) message away.

TEXT: Halter, Gary M. Government & Politics of Texas: A Comparative View. 7th Ed. McGraw-Hill. New York: 2008. The text may be purchased at the Clarendon College Bookstore. **YOU WILL NEED THIS TEXTBOOK, however it will not matter if you have a different edition.** This is a very brief textbook with only 299 pages.

EXAMS: There will be three exams for this course. Each exam will be worth 30% of your total grade. Your class participation will be worth 10%. Each exam will consist of fifty (50) multiple-choice questions. Each question will have four choices, with only one correct answer. Please check the syllabus for the dates of the tests. Please note the exams are set for three days in a row and you may test anytime during this period. **The final exam will be on Saturday, Sunday, Monday, May 7, 8, 9. Please make sure you can fit the exams into your schedule.** Exams will be based on the textbook reading assignments, chapter outlines and chapter power point presentations. Total grades will be based on the following formula:

A = 90 - 100	B = 80 – 89	C = 70 - 79	D = 60-69	F = below 60
		Exam I	30%	
		Exam II	30%	
		Exam III	30%	
Class Participation weekly current event assignments			10%	
			Total	100%

ATTENDANCE: Since this is an online course there is no attendance policy. It is up to you to set your own times “for class.” The exams will be given only the dates stated on the syllabus. You will have **60 minutes** allotted for each exam. **Please make sure you will have no interruptions or disturbances during the exam.**

WITHDRAWAL: If you choose to drop this course, it is up to **YOU** to do so. **I cannot drop the course for you.** **The last day to drop this class with a “W” is Friday, April 15.** It is your responsibility to read and understand the policies concerning withdrawal from college or from any individual course(s). These policies may be found in the College Catalog or you may contact the Office of Student Services 806-874-3571 or 800-687-9737. 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. Beginning with the Fall 2007 semester, students in Texas may only drop a total of six courses throughout their entire undergraduate career. After the six, the student will no longer be able to withdraw from any classes.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: SCHOOL POLICY:

Cheating will not be tolerated and may be cause for expulsion from the class and/or receiving a grade of “F” for the class. In addition, the student will be reported to the Dean of Students, and students who are reported as cheating to the Dean of Students more than once shall be disciplined by the Dean. 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.

PLAGIARISM: Read the following explanations carefully and be sure that you understand them.

1. **Word-for-word plagiarism:** The student quotes his or her source without using quotation marks. Even if the student cites the source, he or she is still plagiarizing because proper quotation procedures were not used.

2. **Paraphrased plagiarism:** The student uses a source and with the exception of changing a few words or phrases essentially quotes the original. Even if the source is properly cited, the writing is still plagiarized because the student has used the author's style, vocabulary, and content and claimed it as his or her own.

3. **Improper citations:** If a student uses someone's information other than his or her own, the source of the material must be properly cited. Failure to do so is plagiarism.

4. **Improper use of ideas:** Ideas are as equally protected as words. If the student uses someone's ideas, but expresses them in his or her words, the student plagiarizes if he or she does not cite the source of the idea.

5. **Internet use:** Copying and pasting from the Internet is plagiarism. Purchasing papers from a paper mill is plagiarism.

6. **Student sharing:** While students are certainly free to work together and study together, an assignment that calls for individual work must reflect the student's personal effort. If a student borrows or copies another student's work, that is plagiarism. If a student has another student write a paper, that is plagiarism. If two students collaborate on an individual assignment and turn in the same work, that is plagiarism.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. It involves legal issues about improper use of materials that do not belong to the student. Plagiarism is unethical. A student must do his or her own work; otherwise, the learning process is compromised. Plagiarism is unfair to fellow students who take the time and make the effort to do their own work. Essentially, plagiarism is cheating and will not be tolerated.

Any student caught cheating will receive a zero for the assignment or exam and will be referred to the Dean of Instruction.

OFFICE HOURS: You may e-mail me at any time using the Web CT online email. I will check my e-mail every couple of days or sooner. I may also be reached by phone at 806-856-5932 between the hours of 5:00 and 9:00 in the evenings or you can leave a message on my machine. The best way to reach me is through the Web CT Mail box.

Please refer to the UNIT ASSIGNMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS located under the **Syllabus Icon** for further information.