

CLARENDON COLLEGE  
LIBERAL ARTS DIVISION/GOVERNEMENT  
TEXAS GOVERNMENT 2306 - COURSE SYLLABUS  
SPRING 2011  
**MWF 8:00 to 8:55 A.M.**  
3 CREDIT HOURS  
ROOM 220

INSTRUCTOR: Kim Jeffrey

Office: 110

PHONE: 806-874-4812,ext.131 HOME 806-856-5932

E-MAIL: kim.jeffreyclarendoncollege.edu

OFFICE HOURS:   Monday       9:00 – 10:00   1:00 – 2:30  
                  Tuesday       9:00 – 12:00   1:00 – 2:30  
                  Wednesday   9:00 - 10:00  
                  Friday         9:00 – 10:00   12:00 – 1:00

Or I will be happy to meet with you anytime by appointment.

**TEXT:** Halter, Gary. M. (2006). **Government & Politics of Texas: A Comparative View** (7<sup>th</sup> Ed.). Boston, MA: McGraw Hill Companies, Inc.

**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, current events and issues.

**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.

**METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:** Each class will consist of in-class lectures and/or power point presentations by the instructor on relevant material from the textbook as well as other sources. Class time will also consist of classroom discussions concerning topics related to current political events and related issues.

**EXEMPLARY OBJECTIVES FOR SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES:**

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 Constitutions 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

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:** The learner shall be able to:

1. Analyze the meaning and concept of federalism and how Texas operates within the federal system.
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 state and local government is financed.
6. Demonstrate the meaning of judicial review and how this impacts the checks and balances of governmental functions.
7. Will be able to assess the power of political actions groups and special interest and demonstrate the pitfalls of these groups and their interaction with the political parties and individuals.
8. Effectively argue and support points of view on a variety of government subjects.

**EXAMS:** There will be three exams during the course of this semester. Each exam will be worth 30% of your total grade. Your class participation will be worth 10%. Each exam will consist of forty (40) multiple choice questions. Each question will have four choices, with only one correct answer. There will be ONE (1) essay question worth twenty (20) points. This essay topic will be given to you well in advance of the exam and you will be given more specific written instructions before the exam. The essay portion and the multiple choice portion of the exam will be given separately. The written portion will be given on the first half of the class period, the multiple choice portion will be given on the second half of the class period. Please check the syllabus for test dates. The **final exam** will be given only on the date posted on the syllabus' Course Schedule. No exceptions. Exams will be based on the textbook reading assignments and in-class lectures. 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 25%   |
|              |             |             |                     | Exam II 30%  |
|              |             |             |                     | Exam III 30% |
|              |             |             | Class Participation | 15%          |
|              |             |             |                     | Total 100%   |

**CLASS ATTENDANCE POLICY:** The class participation score will be based on the student's attendance. You cannot participate in class if you are not in class. More than 3 absences (Tuesday, Thursday), (Monday, Wednesday) more than 4 absences (Monday, Wednesday, Friday), and more than 1 absence (one day a week classes) will result in the loss of five (5) points of the class participation score. Three tardies will be counted as one absence. If you are late, it is your responsibility to make sure the instructor counts you as present.

**EXCUSED ABSENCES:** Approved participation in school-sponsored activities is considered an excused absence. It is your responsibility to inform the instructor **prior to the school-sponsored activity**. It is also your responsibility to **make arrangements for making up any exams** missed to do the excused absence. An absence MAY also be excused based on the following:

1. illness on the part of the student
2. severe illness or death in your immediate (not extended) family

You must provide documented proof of the reason for your absence or it will not be excused.

**CLASS POLICIES:** Students are responsible for all college regulations as stated in the Clarendon College Catalog available in the administration office. Students are expected to conduct themselves in the classroom in a manner that is conducive to academic progress. Disruptive conduct is considered a serious offense. Faculty members reserve the right to remove a student for a class for just cause. Students removed will be referred to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action, up to and including disciplinary suspension. Cell phones, pagers, headphones, and all other **electronic devices must be off and out of sight** before you enter the classroom. These electronic devices may be turned on and set on silent mode only with the expressed consent of the instructor. If you abuse this policy I will ask you to leave the classroom and you will be referred to the Dean of Students.

**ACCOMODATIONS:** Clarendon College seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified persons with temporary or permanent or temporary disabilities. Clarendon 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. Should you require special accommodations, it is the student's responsibility to contact the Student Services (806-874-3571 or 800-687-9737). We will work with you to make whatever accommodations we need to make.

**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. If you stop attending class, but do not officially withdraw or drop, your name remains of the roster. You will be issued a grade on the work completed. The last day to drop with a “W” is **Friday April 15, 2010**. If you are considering dropping this class, please come by and visit with me before you drop.

### **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 BE GIVEN A ZERO ON THAT ASSIGNMENT OR TEST.**

COURSE SCHEDULE: **MWF @ 8:00 a.m.**

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Jan 19 – 21        | Syllabus, vocabulary, Chapter 1, Introduction to Texas Government            |
| Jan 24 – 28        | Chapter 2, The State Constitution and the American Federal System            |
| Jan 31 - Feb 04    | Chapter 8, The Office of Governor and State Agencies in Texas                |
| Feb 07 – 11        | Chapter 12, Public Policy in Texas   |
| Feb 14 – 18        | <b>Exam I</b> & Begin Chapter 3, Participation in Texas Politics             |
| Feb 21 - 25        | Chapter 3, Participation in Texas Politics                                   |
| Feb 28 – Mar 04    | Chapter 4, Interest Groups in Texas Politics                                 |
| Mar 07 – 11        | Chapter 5, Political Parties in Texas  |
| <b>Mar 14 – 18</b> | <b>SPRING BREAK</b>  |
| Mar 21 - 25        | Chapter 6, Elections and Campaigns in Texas                                  |
| Mar 28 – Apr 01    | Chapter 7, The Texas Legislature   |
| Apr 04 - 08        | <b>Exam II</b> & begin Chapter 9, The Court System in Texas                  |
| Apr 11 – 15        | Chapter 9, The Court System in Texas   |
| <b>Apr 15</b>      | <b>Last day to drop with a “W”</b>   |
| Apr 18 – 20        | Chapter 9, The Court System in Texas; Chapter 10, Financing State Government |
| Apr 22 - 25        | <b>Good Friday and Easter Holidays</b>                                       |
| April 27 - 29      | Chapter 11, Local Governments in Texas                                       |
| May 02 – 06        | Chapter 11, Local Governments in Texas                                       |

**Monday, May 9 @ 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. Final Exam**

Please note the Course Schedule is subject to change.

Course information will also be available on the Student Portal for this course under Course Documents.  
Your User Name and Password are available at the office.

## CLASS CONTRACT

I have received and read the syllabus for **Texas Government 2306** taught during **SPRING 2011** Semester by Mrs. Jeffrey. Ms. Jeffrey has explained the syllabus to me and I agree to abide by the policies written in it. I understand the policies of class attendance, dropping the course, academic honesty and general class behavior, and, I understand the consequences of failing to comply with the policies.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

Your Major \_\_\_\_\_

Future Career \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information

\_\_\_\_\_ phone

\_\_\_\_\_ e-mail

