

CLARENDON COLLEGE
LIBERAL ARTS DIVISION/GOVERNMENT
COURSE SYLLABUS 3 CREDIT HOURS ONLINE COURSE



TEXAS GOVERNMENT 2306
SUMMER I 2025

Your instructor for this course is Mrs. Kim Jeffrey. E-mail: kim.jeffrey@clarendoncollege.edu. A message through Open LMS (moodlerooms) is the preferred method to contact me.



Your textbook for this course is contained in Open LMS. This course is structured around the OER textbook, Texas Government Textbook and resources, authored by Brenda Norton, and Texas Government 2.0, authored by Kris Seago. License: [Creative Commons Attribution](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

Important Dates:

Class begins	Wednesday, May 28
Census date	Tuesday, June 3
Last day to drop with a "W"	Tuesday, June 17
Exam I	Thursday and Friday, June 5 and 6.
Exam II	Friday and Saturday, June 13 and 14
Exam III	Saturday and Sunday, June 21 and 22
Exam IV	Sunday and Monday, June 29 and June 30
Due dates for this class	All due dates are for U.S. Central Standard Time

Required Enrollment Verification Activity: Students who fail to complete the Syllabus Agreement & Enrollment Verification Activity by the official census date may not be able to continue in the course. This could result in an F for the course and forfeiture of Financial Aid. The census date for this term can be found on the Academic Calendar located at the Inside CC link on Clarendon College's home page.

(The Census date is Tuesday, June 3.)

Online Attendance Policy: Regular attendance is mandatory in this online course. Specific activities are identified each week or during each chapter that must be completed in order for students to be considered "in attendance." Failure to complete these assignments can result in forfeiture of Financial Aid and/or failure of the class.

***Syllabus EVA Agreement, Syllabus Test, and Course Overview must be completed by this date (Saturday, June 3) in order to continue with the course.**

Course Statement of Purpose: This course partially satisfies the Government/Political Science component of the core curriculum and is designed for transfer to a senior college or university.

Course Description: Texas Government 2306 is 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.

Method of Instruction: Since this is an online course, students who take the responsibility for learning are the ones who learn the most. In this class I will be acting more as a "facilitator of learning" rather than a "traditional teacher." However, if you need extra help, if you have questions, or if you have a problem, remember that I am only a message away. It is my general policy to respond to messages within 24 hours from the date of your message.

Course website: This online course uses Open LMS (Moodlerooms) as its online course management program. All instructions, tutorials, exams, and assignments are provided at the course website. All assignments will be submitted there. Due dates for all assignments are listed in the “Course Schedule” at the course website.

Open LMS messaging system: Most communication between you and your instructor and fellow classmates will be handled in Open LMS (Moodle) through the “Messages” feature and discussion forums. You will be able to log into the course website once you have officially registered for the course and once you have been added to the course website. The course website will become available to you by the first day of the semester. If you register late, you will generally have access to the course within 24 hours after you register.

In order to be successful in completing this 3-credit hour course, you should plan to spend **between 17-26 hours per week in this summer course.**



The information explaining how to log into your course website can be obtained by going to [Clarendon College's](http://Clarendon College's home page) home page, and clicking on the Login to Online Classes button. If you have any difficulty logging in, email our help desk at: administrator@clarendoncollege.edu.

Course Expectations: You may expect a response in approximately one day (24hrs) for messages or email. You should usually receive grades for assignments within 5 to 7 days after the assignment comes due or sooner in summer.

Etiquette expectations (netiquette) for all types of communication: You are expected to take responsibility in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Please be polite and maintain a professional tone in your writing.



Computer/Technology Requirement: This course uses web resources that require a good Internet connection and an up-to-date browser. You should use the latest version of **Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, or Internet Explorer.**

Core Objectives for Government and Political Science

- Critical thinking skills, creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information (CT).
- Effective written, oral, and visual communication skills (COM).
- Personal responsibility, the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making (PR).
- Social responsibility, intercultural competency, civic knowledge, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities (SR).

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course the learner shall be able to:

1. Explain the origin and development of the Texas Constitution – Assesses CT and COM with Chapter Texas Politics Assignments.
2. Describe state and local political systems and their relationship with the federal government - Assesses CT and COM with Chapter Texas Politics Assignments.
3. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice in Texas - Assesses CT and COM with Chapter Texas Politics Assignments.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of Texas government - Assesses CT and COM with Chapter Texas Politics Assignments.
5. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in Texas - Assesses SR with Opinion Paper II - Political Participation.
6. Analyze the state and local election process - Assesses SR with Opinion Paper - Rights and Responsibilities.
7. Identify the rights and responsibilities of citizens - Assesses SR with Opinion Paper - Political Participation.
8. Analyze issues, policies and political culture of Texas - Assesses CT, COM and PR with Opinion Paper - Political Culture, Issues, Policies.

School Course Policies and Academic Integrity



Clarendon College is committed to a philosophy of honesty and academic integrity. It is the responsibility of all members of the Clarendon College community to maintain academic integrity at Clarendon College by refusing to participate in or tolerate academic dishonesty. Any act of academic dishonesty will be regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense.

Student Academic Integrity and Classroom Ethics

“Academic dishonesty 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) observing the work of another during an examination or providing answers to another during the course of an examination; (4) using an unauthorized source of information during an examination, classroom activity, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment; (5) entering an office, classroom, laboratory, or building to obtain an unfair advantage; (6) taking an examination for another person; (7) completing a classroom activity, laboratory exercise, homework assignment, or research paper for another person; (8) altering grade records; (9) using any unauthorized form of an electronic communication device during an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory activity; and/or, (10) plagiarism. **Plagiarism is defined as the using, stating, offering, or reporting as one’s own, an idea, expression, or production of another person’s work without proper credit. This includes, but is not limited to, turning in a paper purchased or acquired from any source, written by someone other than the student claiming credit, or stolen from another student.** (Clarendon College Student Handbook 2021-2022 – Student Academic Integrity & Classroom Ethics section) --- The *CC Student Handbook* is available online on CC’s homepage. Click on “Inside CC” – under “Students” - click on “Forms & Resources” – then click on “2021-2022 Student Handbook” – Find the “Student Code of Conduct” section and then the “Student Academic Integrity” section – p. 43.

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 copying and pasting from any source using AI generated text is plagiarism. Purchasing papers from a paper mill is plagiarism. All work must have an appropriate citation.
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. **Please password protect your computer and/or your flash drive.**

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. You will receive a zero for any assignment that is plagiarized.**

Academic dishonesty 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) observing the work of another during an examination or providing answers to another during the course of an examination; (4) using an unauthorized source of information during an examination, classroom activity, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment; (5) entering an office, classroom, laboratory, or building to obtain unfair advantage; (6) taking an examination for another person; (7) completing a classroom activity, laboratory exercise, homework assignment, or research paper for another person; (8) altering grade records; (9) using any unauthorized form of an electronic communication device during an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory exercise; and/or, (10) plagiarism. (Plagiarism is defined as the using, stating, offering, or reporting as one's own, an idea, expression, or production of another person's work without proper credit. This includes, but is not limited to, turning in a paper purchased or acquired from any source, written by someone other than the student claiming credit, or stolen from another student.)

Students are responsible for reporting known acts of academic dishonesty to a faculty member, the program coordinator, or the Vice-president of Students. Any student with knowledge of a violation who fails to report it shall him/herself be in violation and shall be considered to have committed an act of academic dishonesty. Additionally, any student who reports him/herself in violation of this code before it is likely that another might consider this possibility will be understood as repentant and acting in good faith. Though the confession will not excuse the student for the violation, the confession will be considered and the violation should not result in suspension from school except in the most extreme cases.

While academic integrity and honesty are the responsibility of the individual student, each individual faculty member, teaching assistant, and/or laboratory instructor is responsible for classroom management and for maintaining ethical behavior within the classroom and/or laboratory. Faculty who discover or suspect a violation should discuss the matter with the suspected violator(s) and attempt to resolve the case at that point. In cases of convincing evidence, the faculty member should take appropriate action. The faculty member and student should complete a Counseling Sheet regarding the violation. (The Counseling Sheet should contain at a minimum the date and time of the violation, the course, the instructor's name, the student's name, an explanation of the infraction or facts of the case, and the resolution to the incident.) This form should be signed by the student, faculty member, program coordinator, and the Dean of Students. The Dean of Students will maintain a file on all violations. If a faculty member prefers to report the case directly to the Dean of Students, it remains his/her prerogative to do so. Additionally, if the faculty member and the accused student cannot reach a resolution or if the faculty member believes that suspension from school is the only fair sanction, the case should immediately be reported by the faculty member, in writing, to the Vice-president of Students. If the Vice-President of Students observes any trends in student behavior which involve more than one violation or act of academic dishonesty, the Vice-president of Students is responsible for notifying all faculty members involved, for contacting the student(s) involved, and after consultation with the faculty member(s) involved for taking the appropriate action. The Vice-president of Students is responsible for the timely notification (normally within two weeks) to all parties of an action taken. Students wishing to appeal a disciplinary decision involving academic integrity or acts of academic dishonesty may do so through the Student Appeals and Grievance Procedure. Students have **three (3)** business days from the day grades are posted at the end of the semester in which the course was taken to challenge the assigned grade.

Course Withdrawal

A student may drop a class with a "W." This must be done on or before the last day to drop a class as designated by the college calendar. This request for permission to drop a course is initiated by the student by **procuring a drop form from the registrar's office**. The student should sign the form, have the instructor sign the form, and return it to the office. For on-line students, this can also be done by calling the Registrar's Office. Please remember that failure to officially drop a course will result in a final grade of "F" for the class. Any student who is considering dropping this course is encouraged

to contact me before initiating the drop. Remember, a student is only allowed to drop the same class twice before he/she will be charged triple the tuition amount at Clarendon College for taking the class a third time or more. Furthermore, 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. The final drop date for Summer I 2025 is Tuesday, June 17, 2025.

Accommodations Statement

Clarendon College provides reasonable accommodations for persons with temporary or permanent disabilities. Should you require special accommodations, notify the Vice-president of Student Services. We will work with you to make whatever accommodations we need to make.

Nondiscrimination Policy

Clarendon College, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status. It is the policy of Clarendon College not to discriminate based on gender, age, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, veteran's status, national or ethnic origin, or sexual orientation. Harassment of a student in class, i.e., a pattern of behavior directed against a particular student with the intent of humiliating or intimidating that student will not be tolerated. The mere expression of one's ideas is not harassment and is fully protected by academic freedom, but personal harassment of individual students is not permitted.

Student Rights and Responsibilities: Student Rights and Responsibilities are listed on the College website at: <http://www.clarendoncollege.edu/Resources/Student%20Services/StudentRightsResponsibilities.pdf>.

For this course I use Turnitin to check all student work for **plagiarism** for ALL papers and assignment in this course. Instructions on how to do this are posted in those sections. **Turnitin also contains an AI checker.**

Do NOT use Grammarly for assignments in this course as Turnitin will flag it as AI generated text. Students are not allowed to use advanced automated tools (artificial intelligence or machine learning tools such as ChatGPT or Dall-E 2) on assignments in this course. Each student is expected to complete each assignment without substantive assistance from others, including automated tools.



Course Policies

Weekly attendance is mandatory in all online courses. Students are expected to log-in to their online course(s) at least **twice (2) a week**. Progress towards satisfactory completion assignments is expected on a weekly basis. This means you must log in at least twice a week to complete the Discussion Forum, other written assignments and exams. Lack of progress could jeopardize your academic standing and/or financial aid.

Attendance is reported each **Thursday**. Students who follow the online attendance policy are marked "present." This status can be checked in the Student Portal. Students can be placed on academic probation or lose financial aid for chronic non-attendance.

Course policy for cheating or plagiarizing:

- ✚ Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a **zero for the assignment or exam** and will be referred to the Vice-president of Students Affairs.
- ✚ Any additional cheating/plagiarism will result in a grade of "F" for the course.

Course policy for late work and make-up exams:

- ✚ No make-up exams are given and late assignments are not accepted. In an emergency, notify me at once. I can be reached through the Messages link in this course and by e-mail: kim.jeffrey@clarendoncollege.edu. This contact information is also in the Quick Links on the course page.
- ✚ I normally return messages within 24 hours from the date it is sent.

Grading Formula for the Course: 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 59 = F

✚ Grades will require from 5-7 days after the date it is due.

✚ **Any activity not completed is a zero**, even if a hyphen appears beside the activity in the Open LMS gradebook.

✚ The current course average in the LMS Gradebook is not correct until the hyphens have been replaced with zeroes.

✚ Course grades are based on the following:

- | | |
|-------|--|
| ✚ 38% | Exams (4 exams, each exam represents 9.5 points toward your total grade for this course). |
| ✚ 12% | Texas Politics (4 assignments, each represents 3 points of your total grade). |
| ✚ 40% | Opinion Papers (4 assignments, each represents 10 points of your total grade). |
| ✚ 10% | Your Choice Discussion Forum (12 postings & 12 replies to the posting of another student). |
| 100% | Total |

Your Grades can be found in the Course Dashboard under the Gradebook link in Open LMS and in your Student Portal on the Clarendon College Homepage at: www.clarendoncollege.edu. Your official end of course grade will be in your CC Student Portal at the end of the semester.

In order to begin this course, you must agree to abide by the policies contained in the syllabus you have just read. Not following some of those policies could significantly affect your grade. This will be considered a binding contract between you and me that will be used in the event there are any disagreements over issues or about your grades in this course. Make sure you have read the syllabus and understand all of the information in it. The signature line is located on Syllabus EVA Agreement link on the main page of the course.

Tentative Course Schedule

The course schedule below is subject to change. If any changes are made, I will send you a message through Open LMS and your Bulldog email and change the course schedule.

Tentative Course Schedule Texas Government 2306 Summer I 2025



Your grades can be found in the Gradebook Link in the Course Dashboard. Your official grades will be in the Clarendon College Student Portal.

- All due dates are set for U.S. **Central Standard** time zone.
- **Links** for exams, quizzes, and assignments with instructions are in each section of the course and are due by 11:55 p.m. The due dates are on each link and in the **Open LMS Calendar**.
- Exams can be taken only on the dates specified in the Course Schedule. No make-up exams.
- ***I do not accept late work.*** If you do not understand how to submit an assignment, refer to the Student Tutorials at the bottom of every page or send me a message, and I will help you. Do not wait until the last minute to submit an assignment or take an exam. Things can and do go wrong.
- Assignments and practice quizzes are open so you may work ahead on those. This does not include the Discussion Forum. **You may not work ahead on the Discussion Forum since it's the primary method I will use to report your attendance every week.**

Class Orientation: Begins Wednesday, May 28 through Tuesday, June 3

- You must sign the EVA Syllabus Agreement, take the syllabus test, and read the Course Overview by the Census date or you will not have access to the course content and assignments.
- Specific activities have been identified that must be completed in order for the student to be considered “in attendance” for that week.
- These activities are the Discussion Forum and are marked by an *asterisk in the Course Schedule.

Unit I: Begins Wednesday, May 28 – Friday, June 6

e-book reading assignments:

- Chapter 1: Introduction to Texas History and Politics
- Chapter 2: American Federalism and the Texas State Constitutions
- Chapter 3: Texas Executive Branch

Unit I: Discussion Forum **Submit these postings to be considered “in attendance” for the week.* Due dates are:

- Chapter 1 posting and one reply are due on Wednesday, June 4.
- Chapter 2 posting and one reply are due on Friday, June 6.
- Chapter 3 posting and one reply are due on Friday, June 6.

Chapter 1 and 2 Opinion Paper - Political Culture: due **by Wednesday, June 4.** (10 points)

Chapter 3 Texas Politics written assignment: due by **Friday, June 6.** (3 points)

Unit I Exam: Thursday, Friday June 5 and 6.

- Covers Chapter 1, 2, 3 with 50 multiple choice questions.
- Once you begin you will have 50 minutes to take the test. This is plenty of time, but make sure you’re ready.

Unit II: Begins Saturday, June 7 – Saturday, June 14

e-book reading assignments:

- Chapter 4: The Texas Legislative Branch
- Chapter 5: Political Parties
- Chapter 6: Interest Groups and Lobbying

Unit II: Discussion Forum ** Submit these postings to be considered “in attendance” for the week.* Due dates are:

- Chapter 4 posting and one reply are due on Wednesday, June 11.
- Chapter 5 posting and one reply are due on Saturday, June 14.
- Chapter 6 posting and one reply are due on Saturday, June 14.

Chapter 4: Texas Legislature: due on **Wednesday, June 11.** (3 points)

Chapter 6: Opinion Paper: Political Participation and Elections: due by **Saturday, June 14.** (10 points)

Unit II Exam: Friday, Saturday, June 13 and 14.

- Exam II covers Chapters 4, 5, 6 with 50 multiple choice questions.
- Once you begin you will have 50 minutes to take the test.

Unit III: Begins Sunday, June 15 - Sunday, June 22

e-book reading assignments:

- **Chapter 7: Political Participation and Elections in Texas**
- **Chapter 8: Local Governments in Texas**
- **Chapter 9: Budget, Finances and Policy**

Unit III: Discussion Forum **Submit these postings to be considered “in attendance” for the week.* Due dates are:

- Chapter 7 posting and one reply are due on Thursday, June 19
- Chapter 8 posting and one reply are due on Sunday, June 22.
- Chapter 9 posting and one reply are due on Sunday, June 22

Chapter 7: Opinion Paper - Political Participation and Elections: due by Thursday, **June 19.** (10 Points)

Chapter 8: Local Governments in Texas due **Sunday, June 22.** (3 points)

Unit III Exam: Saturday and Sunday, June 21 and 22.

- Exam III covers Chapters 7, 8, 9 with 50 multiple choice questions.
- Once you begin you will have 50 minutes to take the test.

Unit IV: Begins Monday, June 23 – Monday, June 30

e-book reading assignments:

- **Chapter 10 Texas Judicial Branch**
- **Chapter 11: Criminal Law in Texas**
- **Chapter 12: Public Opinion and Media**

Unit IV: Discussion Forum ** Submit these postings to be considered “in attendance” for the week.* Due dates are:

- Chapter 10 posting and one reply are due on Wednesday, June 25.
- Chapter 11 posting and one reply are due on Monday, June 30.
- Chapter 12 posting and one reply are due on Monday, June 30.

Chapter 10: Court System in Texas due on **Wednesday, July 25.** (3 points)

Chapter 10 and 11 Opinion Paper: Judicial Elections and Criminal Justice System due by **Monday, June 30.** (10 points)

Unit IV Exam: Sunday, Monday, June 29 and 30.

- Exam IV (Final) covers Chapters 10, 11, 12 with 50 multiple choice questions.
- Once you begin you will have 50 minutes to take the test.

Congratulations