

Government 2301.001
Principle of United States and Texas Government
Course Syllabus: Summer I 2016
9:00 AM – 10:50 AM

Instructor Information

Instructor: Daniel T. Caldwell, MS
Classroom: SS141
Office Hours: 1 hour after class
University Email Address: Daniel.Caldwell@tamuc.edu

Class Meeting Times:

MWF: 9:00 – 9:50 & 10:00 – 10:50

Course Information

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

We the People, Texas Edition – 9th edition
ISBN: 978-0393124385

Other readings: Readings have been prepared and will be distributed. These are a blend of primary and secondary materials that complement lectures and provide the foundations for classroom discussions.

Note: It is imperative that you complete the assigned readings; the material contained therein will drive classroom discussion, a very crucial course requirement. You are responsible for all the material contained in the readings; if you do not read them, you will have a difficult semester.

Course Description

Government 2301 is a broad interdisciplinary course in the development of the Institutions and Policies of the Federal Government and the State of Texas

A study of the Texas & Federal constitutional systems; executive, judicial, and legislative powers and institutions; the United States Constitution, economic and financial development, formation and organization; political parties and ideologies; federal and interstate relations; close study of various current problems. Core Curriculum satisfied for Political Science/Government

Student Learning Outcomes:

- 1) Students will be able to recognize their own position as being subjective, follow objectively the arguments of others, and interpret data.
- 2) In written, oral, and/or visual communication, A&M-Commerce students will communicate in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure.
- 3) Students will understand and practice academic honesty.
- 4) Students will demonstrate awareness of societal and/or civic issues.

Instructional/ Methods/ Assessments

The reading assignments and class sessions are listed for each week. I expect you to complete the reading prior to class and be **PREPARED** to discuss or address specific issues raised in the readings. Written assignments will be submitted at the beginning of the class period to the instructor.

Assignment Explanations

Reading Assignments:

The reading assignments and class sessions are listed for each week. I expect you to complete the readings prior to class and be **PREPARED** to discuss and address specific issues raised in the readings. Written assignments will be submitted to the instructor at the beginning of the class period. The material covered in the assigned readings can be on the exam even if the information not covered in class. READ the assigned readings.

Critical Analysis

Each student is required to complete a 1 (One) critical analysis of the weeks reading. There are 5 (Five) weeks during the summer session you are required to submit 5 (Five) Critical Analysis. The focus of the analysis will be focused on the articles presented and your analysis is encouraged. Each analysis should be 2-3 (Two - Three) typed pages with 1" margins, 12pt Times New Roman font. Your critical analysis will be due Monday of each week.

Attendance and Participation

Any absence requires proper documentation. Family emergencies, illnesses, births, deaths, incarcerations or other events and calamities are NOT excused absences. Participation *points are earned through your contribution to class discussion* that reflects informed and on-topic participation. Participation means that you read the required chapter material in preparation for class. If you are not in class, then you cannot earn participation credit. If you miss three classes, the instructor reserves the right to drop any student from the course. Attendance and Participation consists of 20 % of your final grade.

If you do not show up, you will not pass the class!

Grading:

Group Presentation	20%
Reading Responses	20%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Participation/Attendance	20%

Totals	100%
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The grading scale used for this course is as follows:

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	0-59

Classroom Procedures

Student Conduct: Each student is expected to observe basic tenants of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See the Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct).

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious offense and will not be tolerated. Plagiarism occurs when a student purposefully or unintentionally takes information directly from a source without proper citation. For example, forgetting to cite an author and page number with a quote is plagiarism, as is direct copying and pasting from a website. Plagiarism will result in an F for the course and notification to the Dean of Students. Plagiarism is often a result of improper citation and/or acknowledgement of sources; therefore, we will be going over plagiarism in class so you can avoid common pitfalls (and an F!). If a student needs additional assistance, please consult me during my office hours.

Slacker Clause

You will find, if you have not done so already, that taking university courses and making time for life within the context of work, family, and our other daily issues is difficult to manage. However, to that end a person must learn to effectively use their time for leisure, work, family, their issues, and also make room for their class assignments. In an effort to reinforce that idea, and ensure that you receive a quality learning experience in this course, all assignments listed and that you receive during the time of this course must be completed. If you fail to complete one or more assignments, you will automatically fail this course.

Accommodations

Students with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal antidiscrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library, Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu**

Course Schedule

As the instructor for this class, I reserve the right to amend and/or modify this syllabus as necessary.

Please Note: The Lack of Planning on Your Part does not constitute an Emergency on My Part

Date	Topic	Readings
6/6	Introduction to the Course & Politics in the United States	Ch. 1
6/7	The Idea that Shaped the United States	Ch. 2
6/8	The Constitution	Ch. 2
6/9	Federalism and Nationalism	Ch. 3
6/13	Civil Liberties & Civil Rights	Ch. 4 & 5
6/14	Political Participation & The Media	Ch. 7 & 8
6/15	Public Opinion & Bureaucracy	Ch. 6 & 14
6/16	Exam I	
6/20	The Courts	15
6/21	Campaigns and Elections	Ch. 10
6/22	Political Parties & Interest Groups	Ch. 9 & 11
6/23	Congress	Ch. 12
6/24	The Presidency	Ch. 13
6/27	Foreign and Domestic Policy	Ch. 16 -18
6/28	Essentials of Texas Politics	Ch. 19
6/29	Essentials of Texas Politics	Ch. 20 -22

6/30 – Essentials of Texas Government

7/1 – Exam 2

Group Presentations: Each presentation will take place on Wednesday that the group is scheduled to present. Presentations will begin at the beginning of class and I would encourage each group to arrive early to ensure your presentation begins when class starts.

Critical Analysis: Each student is required to complete a critical analysis of the weeks reading. The focus of the analysis will be focused on the articles presented and your analysis is encouraged. Each analysis should be 1 (One) typed page with 1” margins, 12pt Times New Roman font. Your critical analysis will be due Wednesday of each week.