



COURSE PSCI 2301.91W

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2016

Instructor: Travis A. Grasser, Adjunct Professor

Office Location: classroom

Office Hours: Before and after class as well as T/TH 11:30-12:30 Ferguson 128

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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required

We the People, Texas Ed. (Cloth), 9th Edition 13

ISBN: 9780393921113

Author: Ginsberg

Publisher: Norton

Course Description

This course covers U.S. and Texas governmental principles. This course examines the origins of these systems as well as how they truly function on the national level.

Student Learning Outcomes

Critical thinking

- 1.) Students will be able to differentiate between fact and fiction
- 2.) Students will be able to form substantive and evidence-driven arguments to propose solutions to problems or explain phenomena.
- 3.) Students will be able to recognize their own position as being subjective, follow objectively the arguments of others, and interpret data.
- 4.) Students will demonstrate the ability to synthesize the cogent body of knowledge from various sources of information, acknowledge the contributions/insights of others, and make independent judgments.

- 5.) Students will demonstrate creative thinking by linking content and insights from multiple disciplines.
- 6.) Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances or data.

Communication

- 1.) 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.
- 2.) Student communication will be clear, purposeful, and make appropriate use of evidence, data and technology as applicable.
- 3.) Student communication will follow conventions of grammar and syntax appropriate to the audience, Purpose, and message.

Personal Responsibility

- 1.) Students will be able to understand their role in their own education.
- 2.) Students will understand and practice academic honesty.

Social Responsibility

- 1.) Students will demonstrate awareness of societal and/or civic issues.
- 2.) Students will recognize and understand the roles of diversity in society.

Student Responsibility Sheet: The student responsibility sheet is designed to measure the Student Learning Outcome that assesses students' role in their education. It will be distributed to students electronically, via email or eCollege, in the first week of the semester. Completed responsibility sheets are due on or before 5.00pm on Friday, September 2. The completed sheets may either be printed and submitted in person to the instructor, or may be emailed to the instructor. Failure to submit these sheets will result in a failing grade for the course regardless of any other work that has been completed for the course. Consequently, responsibility sheets that are submitted late will not be accepted. For further explanation of this requirement, please do not hesitate to ask the instructor.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

This course is lecture supplemented by text and eCollege.

GRADING

Grading for this course is based on a 1000 point scale. There will be 15 quizzes that will cover lecture material and be worth a total of 150 points. There will be a 15 weekly one page papers worth 150 points. There are 2 tests the first will be worth 100 points and the second 200 points. A 5 page research paper will be assigned and will be worth 200 points (with some possibility to make it more) and the final will be cumulative and will be worth 200 points. In addition to these assignments there will be several opportunities for extra points throughout the semester.

THERE WILL BE NO LATE WORK ACCEPTED.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

As this course is web enhanced through eCollege, students will require the following hardware and software:

Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. Windows XP or newer, and Internet Explorer 7 or newer is best. Preferred internet access/connection should be high-speed (not dial-up). Preferred word processor is Microsoft Word 1997-2003 or newer).

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

This course will be facilitated using eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University – Commerce. To get started with the course, go to: <https://leo.tamuc.edu> You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903-468-6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Interaction with Instructor Statement: For general questions and assistance with the course, the instructor will keep a schedule of 2 regular office hours per week. If a student cannot meet during the designated schedule, arrangements can be made to meet at a more convenient time. An email should be sent to the instructor at least 24 hours prior to the time the student plans on meeting. A reply can be expected within 24-36 hours.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course and University Specific Procedures

Class Decorum Civility in the classroom or online course and respect for the opinions of other is very important in an academic environment. It is likely you may not agree with everything that is said or discussed in the classroom/online course. Courteous behavior and responses are expected. To create and preserve a learning environment that optimizes teaching and learning, all participants share a responsibility in creating a civil

and non-disruptive forum. Students are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that does not disrupt teaching or learning. Faculty have the authority to request students who exhibit inappropriate behavior to leave the class/online course and may refer serious offenses to the University Police Department and/or the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. (See Student Guidebook)

Academic Honesty It is the policy of the University, the History Department, and the instructor that no form of plagiarism or cheating will be tolerated. Plagiarism is defined as the deliberate use of another's work and claiming it as one's own. This means ideas as well as text, whether paraphrased or presented verbatim (word-for-word). Cheating is defined as obtaining unauthorized assistance on any assignment. Collusion is defined as selling or purchasing academic products with the intention that they be submitted to fulfill an academic or course requirement. Proper citation of sources must always be utilized thoroughly and accurately. Cheating/plagiarism/collusion will result in a grade of "0" for the assignment, and may also result in failure of the course and/or disciplinary action by the University. Any student found guilty of violating academic integrity policy will fail the assignment in question, will automatically fail the course and will be subject to disciplinary action by the university (see Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b. [1,2,3]). Further information on the history department's plagiarism policy can be found on the department webpage. If you are unclear about what constitutes academic dishonesty, ask.

Writing Center: Students are encouraged to take advantage of the Writing Center's resources for assistance with drafting their written assignments. Although the center will not write your paper for you, it may help you to improve your writing skills. If you use the Writing Center, plan in advance because it can only help you if there is adequate time to incorporate their suggestions into your paper. Additionally, I am willing to read rough drafts (and even multiple drafts) of your written work so long as the drafts are submitted at least one week prior to the due date.

Disability

ADA Statement

Students with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination 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 Fax (903) 468-8148 StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu
Students with Disabilities

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*). Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

The instructor has the right to change as needed

Week 1 ending Sept 3- Chapter 1 People, Politics and Participation as well as foundations of government
Week 2 ending Sept 10- Chapter 2 US Constitution
Week 3 ending Sept 17-Chapter 3 and 21 Constitutions
Week 4 ending Sept 24- Chapter 4 and 20 – Federalism and Texas Constitution TEST 1
Week 5 ending Oct 1 – Chapters 5,6 Civil Rights and Liberties
Week 6 ending Oct 8 - Chapters 7 Political Groups and Interest Groups
Week 7 ending Oct 15 –Chapters 8,9,22 Parties and Elections
Week 8 ending Oct 22 – Chapters 10,23
Week 9 ending Oct 29 –Chapter 11, 12 Media and Technology TEST 2
Week 10 ending Nov 5 –Chapters 13,24 Congress
Week 11 ending Nov 12- Chapters 14,25 President and Governor
Week 12 ending Nov 19 Chapters 16,26 Courts
Week 13 ending Dec 3- RESEARCH Paper Due November 29. Chapters 15,27,28
Week 14 ending Dec 11- Review and Remaining chapters
DECEMBER 14th FINAL by midnight