

COURSE SYLLABUS
American and Texas Government

PSCI 04E - 80454, MWF -12:00-1250p Location: SS143
Meets 8/27/2018 through 12/14/2018

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Course Information

This course is a one credit-hour online course on the Constitutions of the United States and Texas. The course is divided into three different sections, one on basic political theory, one on the US Constitution, and one on the Texas Constitution.

Course Objectives

Upon passage of this course, you should be able to:

- Define various key terms regarding American and TX Government, like federalism, the separation of powers, and civil liberties.
- Describe how the political theories of Hobbes and Locke influence each other and the Constitution.
- Identify and explain what is in the US Constitution, including the amendments.
- Identify and explain what is in the Texas Constitution.

Required Materials

There are no required materials for you to purchase refer to the readings listed in the syllabus

Calendar

Foundations and Concepts

August 27 - 31

Origins in Political Science

September 3 -7

The State

September 10 – 14

Hobbes, Locke

September 17-21

Federalist 10, 51

Sept 24-28

Test 1

American Government

October 1 – 5

American Constitution History

October 8 – 12

The Structures - The Judiciary

October 15 – 19

The Executive

October 22 -26

The Legislature

October 29 – November 2

Test 2

Texas Government

November 5-9

Texas Constitution History

November 12-16

Texas Government

November 19-23

Principles

November 26-30

Other Topics

December 3-7

Overview

December 10-14

Test 3

Grading Criteria and Assignments

Participation = 25%; Test 1 = 25%; Test 2 = 25%, Test 3 = 25%

A+: 95-100%; A-: 90-94; B+: 83-89; B: 77-82; B-: 70-76; C+: 65-69; C: 60-64; F: Below 60%.

Class Participation: Regular attendance; Assigned reading prior to the class meeting when it will be discussed; Class presentations based on assigned readings; Constructive and frequent contributions to seminar discussions.

Readings

Note – Other readings may be added during the semester

Hobbes - <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/hobbes-moral/#StaNat>

The State of Nature, The State of Nature Is a State of War, The Laws of Nature, Establishing Sovereign Authority, Absolutism, The Limits of Political Obligation

Locke - <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/locke-political/>

Natural Law and Natural Rights, State of Nature, Consent, Political Obligation, and the Ends of Government

The Constitution - <http://www.annenbergclassroom.org/page/a-guide-to-the-united-states-constitution>

Preamble

Federalist Papers - Hamilton, John Jay, James Madison, PUBLIUS,
<https://www.congress.gov/resources/display/content/The+Federalist+Papers>

Federalist 10 Factions, Federalist 51 Equal Defense of Departments

Note

In addition to the above, students are expected to:

- know that this syllabus, including calendar/timelines, is subject to change at the discretion of the Professor;
- access and read related policy material at the Universities Website

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StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

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