

COURSE SYLLABUS
American and Texas Government

PSCI 03E - 80770, MWF 11:00a-11:50a, Location: SS143
Meets 8/27/2018 through 12/14/2018

Casper Kamau, PhD

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

Campus carry: 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 otherwise authorized to carry a 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/policiesProceduresStandardsStatments/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.

Student conduct (while you may include your own expectations and policy regarding content, university policy requires that the following statement appear on all syllabi: “All students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.”

Students with Disabilities: The American 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 903-468-8148.

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Non-discrimination Notice: A&M-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.