COURSE PREFIX PSCI 2302

U.S. and Texas Government: Institutions and Policies

Instructor: Brandon Langehennig
Office Location: Online
Office Hours: Online Mon-Fri 5-6pm; and others by appointment
Office Phone: 903-468-3318
Office Fax: 903-468-3323
University Email: brandon.langehennig@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials: Textbook(s) and all reading links are identified in each course competency which includes supplemental multimedia (video/audio) and other learning tools. See below for technical requirements necessary.

Course Description

This course is an examination of the United States and Texas political systems with emphasis on both formal and informal institutions and the roles they play in the creation and implementation of public policy. Topics considered include the legislative, executive and judicial branches, bureaucratic agencies and public policies.

Please note that you will not be taught what to think about political issues in this course. Rather, you will be provided with the knowledge to determine how to think about political issues for yourself.

This course is meant to provide you with a working knowledge of how a government functions both at the federal level and the state level in the United States of America and in the state of Texas.

Student Learning Outcomes (Should be measurable; observable; use action verbs)

1. **Critical Thinking**: Students will be able to differentiate between fact and opinion.
2. **Communication:** Student communication will be clear, purposeful, and make appropriate use of evidence, data and technology as applicable. 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. **Personal Responsibility**: Students will understand and practice academic honesty.
4. **Social Responsibility**: Students will demonstrate an understanding of societal and/or civic issues.

Course Objective: At the end of the course

- Students will understand and employ significant theoretical analytical approaches to explain the political institutions and processes of the government of the United States.
- Students will understand and employ significant theoretical and analytical approaches to explain the political institutions and processes of the state of Texas.

Pre-Tests

- The course is broken into 3 competencies. Comps 1, 2 and 3 have multiple learning outcomes within each of them to cover the required course materials and objectives. Each will have a pre-test and post-test. The Couse Project is a required case study analysis writing assignment. It does NOT have a required pre-test.
- The Pretest evaluates what your CURRENT knowledge is on the subject matter. This is a baseline to help identify what your strengths and weaknesses are within the content of the competency. This identifies what you need to study for the post test.
- Pre-Tests are graded yet DO NOT average into your final grade
- They should be done **WITHOUT** looking up answers. Do not feel embarrassed if you don't know all or any of the questions. This test is to direct you to your deficiencies.
- Since the materials in this course build upon one another, you must pass the current competency posttest before moving to the next competency. This applies for both the pretests and posttests.
- I do NOT need an email when you've submitted a pre-test. They are graded in the order they are received within the 24-48 hour time frame.

The Competency Learning Outcomes (LO's)

- **It is vital** that you read and understand the objectives of each learning outcome. They will be the foundation of what you will have to demonstrate mastery of in the post test.
- The learning outcomes contain your readings and a variety of secondary learning tools such as exercises, multimedia videos, slide presentations and practice questions. Take notes while moving through these materials.
- These are NOT required materials to turn in for grading; however, they are your sources for refreshing, and mastering the outcome content.

Competency Mastery Post-tests

Competency 1-3 **EACH** have a post-test mastery demonstration. This will consist of a combination of multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank and short essay responses. Specific instructions will be outlined in the Post-test module of each competency. These post-tests have a time limit, and you will receive a preliminary score after submission. Grading for the remainder of the post-test (short answer/essay questions) is 24-48 hours at which time you will receive the final competency grade and if passed, the ==password== to the next competency.

The point scale grading for each competency post-test is on a scale from 0-100 points. The required MINIMUM passing score for any competency in the Org. Leadership program post-test is 80%.

The Course Project is a case study analysis writing assignment. The specific instructions and details are outlined in this module. This assignment is a comprehensive analysis of the all the coursework and is to be completed after passing competencies 1-3.

The point scale grading for this project will be based on a 0-100-point scale with an essay grading rubric identified in the competency instructions. The required minimum passing score for this project is 80%.

For each competency and the Course Project you have THREE attempts at the mastery post-test to reach the minimum 80%.

FINAL GRADE

Your final grade is based on the total number of competencies and the course project receiving an equal weighting of 25% of your post test score of 80% or higher. Failed posttest attempts and pretests are not averaged in your final grade.

Keep in mind that although many people either like or dislike government courses, this course will assist in refreshing your memory about not only the big picture, but also how government intertwines within every industry. As a leader in your field, whether that is industry driven such as finance, service, manufacturing, non-profit or educational entity, there are many elements that PSCI 2301 and 2302 can provide to you which can enhance your leadership ability.

Also, a reminder that although this is not a grammar course, you will be preparing and turning in written material through the post-tests and course project to demonstrate your mastery of the competency. Please pay attention to the basic sentence structure, grammar, and these basic definitions. ***Refresh your memory on what they mean, and how you would answer a question that included it. Examples: Define; Describe; Analyze; Compare; Contrast; Discuss; List; Explain; Identify; Evaluate.*** In addition, when answering a question, be careful and completely answer EACH specific element of a

question. If it asks to analyze A, B, C and you only analyze A and B, you will not get complete credit. I'm here to help you be successful, as well as learn and master the course requirements so please keep our communication open.

Course Concerns

If you have questions pertaining to the content of this course (e.g., questions about an exam, about course due dates, etc.), please contact your instructor via email. Please be aware there is a 24 hour response time which applies.

Other Questions/Concerns

Contact the appropriate TAMU-C department at 1-800-888-2682 related to your questions/concerns. If you are unable to reach the appropriate department with questions regarding your course enrollment, billing, advising, or financial aid, please call 903-886-5518 between the hours of 8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.)

Communication and Support

Email is the best way to communicate as it is checked throughout the day.

Dropping the Class

If you need to adjust your schedule by dropping this course, please contact your Academic Coach. Please be aware that dropping your course may impact your financial aid, veterans and military benefits, three peat, 45-hour, and 30-hour rules. It is the student's responsibility to drop the course. If you fail to officially drop the class, a failing grade shall be assigned.

Student Withdrawal

A student wishing to withdraw from all courses before the end of a term for which he/she is registered must clear his or her record by filing an application for voluntary withdrawal. Please contact your Academic Coach.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Browser support

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact D2L Support, who will

determine the best course of action for resolution. Reported issues are prioritized by supported browsers and then maintenance browsers.

Supported browsers are the latest or most recent browser versions that are tested against new versions of D2L products. Customers can report problems and receive support for issues. For an optimal experience, D2L recommends using supported browsers with D2L products.

Maintenance browsers are older browser versions that are not tested extensively against new versions of D2L products. Customers can still report problems and receive support for critical issues; however, D2L does not guarantee all issues will be addressed. A maintenance browser becomes officially unsupported after one year.

Note the following:

- Ensure that your browser has JavaScript and Cookies enabled.
- For desktop systems, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.1 or greater.
- The Brightspace Support features are now optimized for production environments when using the Google Chrome browser, Apple Safari browser, Microsoft Edge browser, Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and Mozilla Firefox browsers.

Desktop Support

Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)	Maintenance Browser Version(s)
Microsoft® Edge	Latest	N/A
Microsoft® Internet Explorer®	N/A	11
Mozilla® Firefox®	Latest, ESR	N/A
Google® Chrome™	Latest	N/A
Apple® Safari®	Latest	N/A

Tablet and Mobile Support

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
Android™	Android 4.4+	Chrome	Latest
Apple	iOS®	Safari, Chrome	The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or **point** release of that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
			or **point** release of that major version). For example, as of June 7, 2017, D2Lsupports iOS 10.3.2 and iOS 9.3.5, but not iOS 10.2.1, 9.0.2, or any other version. Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser.
Windows	Windows 10	Edge, Chrome, Firefox	Latest of all browsers, and Firefox ESR.

- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
  - o 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
  - o Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
  - o Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution

- You must have a:
  - o Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
  - o Speakers or headphones.
  - o *For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.

- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: JAVA web site http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp

- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.
    Pop-ups are allowed.
    JavaScript is enabled.
    Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
  - Adobe Reader https://get.adobe.com/reader/
  - Adobe Flash Player *(version 17 or later)* https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/
  - Adobe Shockwave Player https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/
  - Apple Quick Time http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/

- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu**.**

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT
Brightspace Support

Need Help?
Student Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words "click here" to submit an issue via email.

System Maintenance

Please note that on the 4th Sunday of each month there will be System Maintenance which means the system will not be available 12 pm-6 am CST.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx).
http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette](http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html)
http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf).

http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

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 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/

Nondiscrimination Notice

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.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

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 the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf)

document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url: http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf

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.