

Government 2301
Principles of United States and Texas Government
Course Syllabus: Fall 2018

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Daniel T. Caldwell
Office Location and Hours: SS152 – by appointment
University Email Address: Daniel.Caldwell@tamuc.edu

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

PSCI 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 1 (One) critical analysis on selected additional readings. The list of additional readings can be found at the bottom of the course schedule. It is the student's responsibility to note the author's perspective, analyze the material, and report the relevance of the reading. See the critical analysis handout for further instructions. Each analysis should be 4-5 (Four - Five) typed pages with 1" margins, 12pt Times New Roman font.

Attendance and Participation

All absences require proper documentation. Family emergencies, illnesses, births, deaths, incarcerations or other events and calamities are NOT excused absences unless documented. Participation ***points are earned through your contribution to class discussion***, which reflects informed, and on-topic participation. If you are not in class, then you cannot earn participation credit.

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

Grading:

Group Presentation	20%
Critical Analysis	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: "All students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets 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 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.

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.

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@tamuc.edu**

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.