



To access COVID-19 information, please visit the [Stay Healthy Lions Webpage](#).

PSCI 2306 Texas Government
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2021 Term 1

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Shaonda Gathright
Office Location: Online
Office Hours: Email or Telephone or Virtual by Appointment
Office Phone: 972-983-9676 (text in emergency)
University Email Address: Shaonda.gathright@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: Email
Communication Response Time: 24 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials

This course has been designed using Open Educational Resources (OER). All materials are embedded within the course and are accessible via the internet. After taking the pretest, students are encouraged to bookmark, download, or save materials provided via the internet for use during quizzes, assignments, and projects in this class.

Supplemental Materials

Links and files will be provided in the content tab within each LO in the course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a survey of the principles and practices of the political system in Texas. The student will examine the formal and informal institutions of the state government and how they play in to the creation of public policy. Topics considered include the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, the state bureaucracies, public policies, local governments, and the global forces that continue to shape our understanding of the relationship between the people and government of Texas.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Completion of this course provides the student with the knowledge to:

- 1.
2. **Critical Thinking:** Students will be able to differentiate between fact and opinion.
3. **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

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

4. **Personal Responsibility:** Students will understand and practice academic honesty.
5. **Social Responsibility:** Students will demonstrate an understanding of societal and/or civic issues.

REGULAR AND SUBSTANTIVE COURSE INTERACTION

As a general guide, students enrolled in a three semester hour course should spend one hour engaged in instructional activities and two to three hours on out-of-class work per week in a traditional semester. Students are expected to double this effort of engagement given that this course is being delivered in a seven-week term. Educational activities in this course are designed to ensure regular and substantive interaction between students and faculty to ensure that students are able to demonstrate competency.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed: Students will need reliable computer and internet access for this course. Students must be able to effectively use myLeo email, myLeo Online D2L, and Microsoft Office.

Instructional Methods: This course is an online course. To be successful in this course, all content and course modules should be read and reviewed. All assignments and quizzes (both graded and not graded) must be completed. Please contact the instructor by email for any assistance.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course: To be successful in this course, all content and course modules should be read and reviewed. Please review the course welcome document for more detailed study tips and course assistance.

ASSESSMENT

Pretest(s) 3

Project(s) 1 Course Project Analysis

Posttests(s) 3

GRADING

A score of 80% or higher on both the Culminating Project and Posttest is required to demonstrate competency and receive credit for the course. The following items will be used to calculate the final grade in the course.

| Item | Worth |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Posttests (3 each 100 points) | 300 points |
| Culminating Project | 100 points |
| Total | 400 |

Grading Scale

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

F = 79% or Below

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are the technical requirements

Learning Management System (LMS) Requirements:

View the [Learning Management System Requirements Webpage](#).

LMS Browser Support:

Learn more on the [LMS Browser Support Webpage](#).

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

Visit the [Virtual Classroom Requirements Webpage](#).

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

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. Other support options can be found on the [Brightspace Support Webpage](#).

Interaction with Instructor Statement

This is an online course; therefore, expect most communication to be online as well. Correspondence will always be through university email (your "myLeo" mail) and announcements in myLeo online (D2L). The instructor will make every effort to respond to emails within 24 provided the

correspondence follows the requirements listed below. Students are encouraged to check university email daily.

All emails from students should include:

- **Course name and subject in the subject line (ex. ORGL 3322 – Posttest)**
- **Salutation**
- **Proper email etiquette (no “text” emails – use proper grammar and punctuation)**
- **Student name and CWID after the body of the email**

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

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 online in the [Student Guidebook](#).

Students should also consult the [Rules of Netiquette Webpage](#) for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum.

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy, please view the [Attendance Webpage](#) and the [Class Attendance Policy](#)

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 Policy](#)
[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

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
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 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](#)

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](#) document 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

| Learning Objectives and Competencies | Materials to Read or Review | Assignments |
|---|------------------------------------|--|
| Competency One <ul style="list-style-type: none">• LO 1: Texas Political Culture• LO 2: The Texas Constitution• LO 3: Texas Political Parties/Elections and Campaigns• LO 4: Texas Interest Groups | Review materials in each LO | Complete Pretest Complete Post test after your pretest has been graded. You will receive your password in the pretest comments. |
| Competency Two <ul style="list-style-type: none">• LO 1: The Texas Legislative branch• LO 2: The Texas Plural Executive and Bureaucracy• LO 3: The Texas Judicial Branch | Review materials in each LO | Complete Pretest Complete Post test after your pretest has been graded. You will receive your password in the pretest comments. |

| Learning Objectives and Competencies | Materials to Read or Review | Assignments |
|---|------------------------------------|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LO 4: Texas local government | | |
| <p>Competency Three</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LO 1: Texas Public Policy • LO 2: Texas Budgetary Processes • LO 3: Texas Crimes and Corrections Policy | Review materials in each LO | <p>Complete Pretest</p> <p>Complete Post test after your pretest has been graded. You will receive your password in the pretest comments.</p> |
| Course Written Analysis | | Submit by due date through Assignments tab |