GOVT 2306- STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Web Course Syllabus

GOVT 2306- State and Local Government (3-3-0)
Origin and development of the Texas constitution, structure and powers of state and local government, federalism and inter-governmental relations, political participation, the election process, public policy, and the political culture of Texas. Prerequisite: Must be TSI complete in Reading and English. F, Sp, Su. (4510025125)

Instructor: Jeff Stanglin, J.D.
Office: OM 209
Phone: 903-983-8230
Office Hours: Please see the syllabus for this specific semester (provided in class)
Email: Please email me through course email only

Course Rationale: One of the measures of good citizenship is a basic knowledge of and involvement in our political system. This basic introduction to the Texas political system will provide the student with an understanding of and an appreciation for citizen participation. This course partially satisfies the Government requirement for A.A., A.A.T. and A.S. degrees at Kilgore College.

Welcome to GOVT 2306--State and Local Government! You are going to learn a lot this semester about the two levels of government that are closest to the people—state government and local government. Through this process, you will learn more about yourself, your classmates, and the world around you, and my hope is that you’ll have fun doing it. Please read this syllabus carefully before beginning the course.

Required Text

Student Learning Outcomes: GOVT 2306- State and Local Government

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:
1. Explain the origin and development of the Texas constitution.
2. Describe state and local political systems and their relationship with the federal government.
3. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice in Texas.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of Texas government.
5. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in Texas.
6. Analyze the state and local election process.
7. Identify the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
8. Analyze issues, policies and political culture of Texas.

Computer and Internet Access
Because this is an online course, students must have access to a computer with reliable internet capabilities. Technological failure is NEVER an excuse for failure to turn in an assignment or complete a test.

Course Information
Grading Scale
Grades will be awarded according to the following scale:
A = 90% and above
B = 80% – 89%
C = 70% – 79%
D = 60% – 69%
F = 59% and below

Final Grades will be determined according to the following percentage division:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam #1</td>
<td>12%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam #2</td>
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<td>Exam #3</td>
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<td>Exam #4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local Government Paper</td>
<td>12%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Final</td>
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Format- There is a checklist of tasks that you must complete for each chapter. I am providing this checklist as a means for you to stay focused and disciplined throughout the term. Adhering to this checklist should maximize your performance in the course. The checklist is immediately above the “calculate your grade” section of the course schedule.

Exams- There will be four exams and one comprehensive final. Please note the dates on which the exams are available. You must take the exam during these days. All exams will follow the same format—up to 50 multiple-choice questions.

To help you prepare for each exam, I will provide you with a study guide. I highly recommend that you use the study guides in preparation for the exams.

You may be required to take the unit exams at either the Testing Center in Kilgore or the Testing Center in Longview. Please ensure that you have reliable transportation to and from the testing center.
If taking the tests at one of the testing centers is not feasible, your only other option is to take the test through ProctorU.

There are no make-ups given for any test that is missed—no exceptions. You are provided plenty of time to take each exam (days in fact) and regardless of your circumstances, you should be able to take each test on time.

Research Paper- You must complete a research paper. The paper counts as 20% of your course grade. Please see the syllabus for this specific semester for paper topics and the due date.

Extra Credit
One extra-credit project is available. Students who turn in a late project will receive no extra credit. Those who complete the project are eligible to receive up to three percentage points on their final grade. This might not seem like much, but it could mean the difference in a letter grade! The project is due on the Friday before final exams begin. Please see the syllabus for this specific semester for the project. The project is due during the final week of class.

Drop Policy
It is your responsibility to drop a course or withdraw from the college; failure to do so will result in receiving a performance grade, usually a grade of —F. The last day to drop/with a grade of “W” is when approximately 75% of the course is over. The exact date will be on the syllabus for that specific semester.

Civility Statement
Students are expected to assist in maintaining an environment that is conducive to learning. Inappropriate or distractive behavior is prohibited in order to assure that everyone has opportunity to gain from time spent in class. Should a disruptive incident occur, the faculty member in charge may remove the student on either a temporary or permanent basis. Students have the right to appeal through the appropriate channels.

The mark of an educated mind is to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it—Aristotle

Course Outline

UNIT I Foundations
Chapter 1 Texas Culture and Diversity
Chapter 2 Texas in the Federal System
Chapter 3 The Texas Constitution

UNIT II Participation
Chapter 4 Voting and Elections
Unit 1 will cover the foundations of Texas government and politics. Specific topics include Texas culture and diversity, Texas in the context of the federal system, and the Texas Constitution. Test 1 will cover chapters one through three.

Unit 2 will cover political participation. Specific topics include voting and elections, political parties, and interest groups. Test 2 will cover four through six.

Unit 3 will cover institutions of government. Specific topics include local government, the legislature, the executive branch, and the courts. The paper on a local government meeting is due during this unit. Test 3 will cover chapters seven, eight, nine, and 12.

Unit 4 will cover law and public policy. Specific topics include law and due process and public policy. The research paper is due during this unit. Test 4 will cover chapters 10 and 11.

The Instructor reserves the right to make modifications in content and schedule as necessary to promote the best education possible within prevailing conditions affecting this course. Each year, students will be given an opportunity to evaluate the instructor and the course.

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 Disabilities Services. Direct contact information is provided therein.