<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>PSCI 2301: Principles of United States and Texas Government</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section</td>
<td>01W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Instructor Information

- Dr. Chad M King
- Office: SS-162
- E-mail: chad.king@tamuc.edu
- Phone: 903-886-5343
- Office Hours:
  - T/TH 1-2:30 PM
  - W 10-12 PM

### Course Learning Objectives

- Students will understand and employ significant theoretical and analytical approaches to understanding political behavior and interaction between citizens, institutions of government, and the US Constitution.

- Students will understand and employ significant theoretical and analytical approaches to understanding political behavior, interaction between citizens and institutions of government in Texas, and the Texas constitution.

### Course Policies and Procedures

All students are expected to comply with the following requirements.

1. Complete all course readings for each section of the course.
2. Regularly check the course site for announcement and updates.
3. Complete assigned readings
4. Take each of the scheduled Midterm Exams.
5. Participate fully in the Class Discussion assignments.
6. Students will respect their fellow classmates and the instructor. This includes treating everyone with courtesy and respect in any and all correspondence for the course. For more information on this subject, please see the Student Guidebook.
7. All students will maintain the highest level of personal responsibility and academic honesty. Academic dishonesty affects all individuals at the University and accordingly will not be tolerated. For this class, academic dishonesty includes cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying
academic work. In particular, passing off work as your own that was written by someone else, without proper citation or attribution, on either exams or discussion assignments will be considered an act of plagiarism. This holds true whether material comes from the textbook, another publication, an internet source, or another student. Any act of plagiarism on a midterm exam will result in a score of 0 for the exam. Any act of plagiarism on a Discussion Assignment will result in a 0 for the entire semester's Discussion Assignment grade. Instances of academic dishonesty may also be referred to the appropriate offices on campus and may result in significant administrative penalties.

8. Failure to complete more than 3 discussion assignments will be considered "excessive" absenteeism and the student will be administratively dropped from the class.

9. Students will comply with any and all eCollege technical requirements in terms of training, computer access, & Internet access.

**Technology Requirements**

Because this is an online course, all students must meet the following technology requirements to successfully complete this course.

- Regular access to a good quality computer
- Regular, high-quality Internet access, specifically, a high-speed internet connection, not dial-up or a cellular phone. Students should use the eCollege tutorial to test the quality and speed of their browser and ensure that it is compatible with the system.
- Students will need access to an Internet browser such as Internet Explorer.

**Access and Navigation**

Student will access this course using eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. Students can access their online courses using through the myLeo portal or directly from the URL http://online.tamuc.edu. In order to login, students will need both their CWID and password to access the myLeo site. If you do not know what your CWID or password is, please contact Technology Services at 903-468-6000 or by e-mail, helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

**eCollege**

Technical support for eCollege is provided around the clock (24 hours a day/7
### Student Technical Support

Days a week so if students experience technical issues with the class page itself they should contact the student help desk for assistance. Students can access support through one of three following methods:

1. **Chat support**: Students can access real-time chat support from within the course page by clicking on "Tech Support" in the tool bar and then clicking on "Chat Online."

2. **Phone**: Students can access phone support by calling the toll free phone number for eCollege, 1-866-656-5511.

3. **E-mail**: Student can request assistance by e-mail eCollege directly at helpdesk@online.tamuc.org. Please note that you might not receive a response for 24 hours if you use the e-mail option.

eCollege also has extensive help files available. These can be accessed by clicking the 'Help' button on the toolbar.

### Required Textbook

There is one required textbook for this course

**We the People, Texas Edition**

Authors: Lowi, Ginsberg, Weir  
Publisher: W.W. Norton, 8th Texas Edition

You should be able to purchase this book from the bookstore or your favorite on-line merchant. Please note there is also an on-line version of the text available from the publishers that is significantly cheaper. While older editions of the textbook are available, the 8th Texas edition is the required edition.

### Telephone and Email Use

The University prefers electronic mail as the primary means of communication between faculty, staff and students. Please use the e-mail address or phone number provided by the instructor.

### Student Conduct & Discipline

The University has rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of business. It is the responsibility of each student to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the student handbook.

### 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 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

Grading and Evaluation

Graded Components

Course grades will be based upon two categories of required components.

- Exams: Students will take three midterm exams. All exams will include material from the textbook and the scheduled dates for the exams are listed below. These exams will feature multiple choice and short answer/essay questions.

- Discussion Assignments: Students will be required to participate on a weekly basis in discussion threads that focus on the assigned readings. Detailed information on this component is listed below.

- Extra Credit: There is no extra credit available for this course, so please do not ask about it.

Final Grade Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm One</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Two</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Three</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Discussions</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grading Scale

Final grades will be based on a 100-point scale, using the following letter/number conversion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>65-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Midterm Exams

Exam Format: Students will take three midterm exams that feature 50 multiple choice questions. 60 minutes are allotted for exam.

Exam Times and Dates: Midterm Exams will be taken on-line and are scheduled on the dates listed below. All three exams will begin at 11:59 PM on a Thursday and will close 48 hours later at 11:59 PM on Saturday.

Midterm Exam One

Opens 2/14
Covers Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and Appendix Readings

Midterm Exam Two

Opens 4/4
Covers Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11

Midterm Exam Three

Opens 5/2
Covers Chapters 19, 20, 21, 22

Technical Issues: Students will take three midterm exams via the course page. Students are responsible for testing the compatibility of their own
computers and software prior to starting the exam and must be sure to have a high speed internet connection to eliminate the chance of technical problems. Exams are timed and can only be taken once. Once the exam has begun, the allotted time will begin counting down and students will not be able to "pause" or put the exam time on hold, even if they disconnect from the course site or exam. Students should save their answers frequently by clicking on the “Save Answers” button. Students should not click the “Submit Test” button until they have completed the exam as it will not be possible to re-enter the exam once the test has been submitted. Students who encounter technical problems as a result of failing to comply with these guidelines will not be given an opportunity to re-take or re-access an exam. Any technical problems should be immediately referred to the help desk.

Make Up Exams

If a student misses a midterm exam, that student will receive a grade of 0 for the exam. Make-up exams will only be granted at the discretion of the instructor. Any request for a make-up exam must be made in writing and include documentation explaining why the absence was legitimate. Such a request must be received within 3 calendar days of the missed exam date, unless the student is physically unable to submit such a request during that time period. Legitimate reasons may include illness severe enough to require professional treatment, death in the immediate family, participation in University activities, and/or legal obligations. Technical problems with accessing the course will not be considered a valid excuse for missing an exam unless it can be shown that the problem is the fault of the eCollege platform. Please note, these reasons do not guarantee that a make-up exam will be given.

Make-up exams will be exclusively essay format.

Class Discussion Assignments

This is the second graded component of the course and will consist of 15 weekly discussions. Topics for the discussion assignments will be posted on Monday each week at 9 AM. Each discussion thread will close at 11:30 PM on Friday that week. Regardless of the reason, there will be no make-up opportunities for discussion assignments and students will not receive any credit for posts made after the deadline.

Each student will randomly be assigned to a discussion group for the duration of the course. The instructor will create a discussion thread topic for each discussion group to which students are expected to compile a response.

Students will be graded upon two criteria. First, students are expected to submit an original response to the topic posted, answering all parts of the topic. Second, students are expected to respond to the posts of other students in their discussion
Students should engage in conversation with their group members in a thoughtful discussion about the topic as well as their individual responses to the topic. Students should make a minimum of 5 posts during the week and these posts should not be made all on the same day during the final hours of the assignment time line.

Students will receive a grade of 1, 2, or 3, with 3 being the highest, on each discussion assignment. (Students who do not participate will receive a 0) Grades will be based both upon the quality of the content of a student’s posts, as well as the student’s engagement with other students by responding to posts in the student’s group. Posts that do not fully answer the questions or do not respond posted will not receive full credit. Students who wait until the end of the time frame may receive a grade penalty.

All content submitted for Discussion Assignments must be a student's original submission. Any material taken from another source, including the textbook, should include a proper citation. Material which is copied or pasted from any source will be considered plagiarism as discussed above in the Course Policies and Procedures section.

When the Discussion Assignment average is computed at the end of the semester, the student’s lowest individual assignment score will be dropped. If a student completes all 15 assignments, the lowest score will be dropped. For students who do not complete all of the assignments, one score of 0 for a missing assignment will be dropped. The Discussion Assignment average will be a ratio of the number of points earned on each assignment divided by 42 (3 points X 14 assignments)

Failure to complete more than 3 discussion assignments will be considered "excessive" absenteeism and the student will be administratively dropped from the class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jan 14 - Jan 20</td>
<td>American Political Culture</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jan 21 - Jan 27</td>
<td>US Constitution</td>
<td>2, Appendix A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Jan 28 - Feb 3</td>
<td>Federalism</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Feb 4 - Feb 10</td>
<td>Civil Liberties</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Feb 11 - Feb 17</td>
<td>Civil Rights</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Feb 18 - Feb 24</td>
<td>Public Opinion</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Feb 25 - Mar 3</td>
<td>The Media</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mar 4 – Mar 10</td>
<td>Political Participation</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Mar 18 - Mar 24</td>
<td>Political Parties</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Chapter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>----------------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 25 - 31</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
<td>Campaigns and Elections</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 1 - Apr 7</td>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
<td>Interest Groups</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 8 - Apr 14</td>
<td>Chapter 19</td>
<td>Texas Political Culture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 15 - Apr 21</td>
<td>Chapter 20</td>
<td>Texas Constitution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 22 - Apr 28</td>
<td>Chapter 21</td>
<td>Texas Political Parties</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 29 - May 3</td>
<td>Chapter 22</td>
<td>Texas Interest Groups</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that the instructor reserves the right to change any part of this syllabus as needed over the course of the semester. Any and all changes will be announced.