

Government 2301
United States Government: Institutions and Policies
Course Syllabus: Fall 2014

Instructor Information

Instructor: Daniel T. Caldwell
Office Location: – SS147
Office Hours: TR 11:00-Noon & 3:00 – 4:00
University Email Address: **Daniel.Caldwell@tamuc.edu**

GA Information

Noeve Warren
Jwarren10@leomail.tamuc.edu

Class Meeting Times:

TR- 4:00-5:15p

Course Information

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Ginsberg, Benjamin, et.al. 2012. *We the People, Essentials*, 9th ed. W.W. Norton. ISBN: 978-0393921106

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

Government 2306 is a broad interdisciplinary course in the development of the Political System and origins of government of the State of Texas

A study of the Texas federal and 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

Exams:

Students must complete all three exams. The format consists of Multiple Choice and Short Essay questions. Students are highly encouraged to not miss exams as a makeup exam consists of a complete essay examination given over the materials covered. It is the student's responsibility to schedule and complete their makeup exams. **There are no Exceptions! Failure to make up a Missed Exam Will Result in a Zero (0) for the Exam and a Failing grade for this course.** Each exam will be worth 20% of the final course grade. Each Student is responsible for providing a green scantron.

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.

Biography:

Each student is expected to complete a biographical sketch of a present Senator/Member of the House of Representatives from the Texas Legislature. This assignment counts as 20% of your grade and therefore should be considered important and should be completed in a timely manner. Each paper will be between 4-5 pages in length with Times New Roman, 12pt font and double-spaced.

Please remember plagiarism is not allowed and will not be tolerated. Each paper should include relevant in-text citations from sources you find outside of class. Wikipedia is not considered a source and if found being used on any paper that said paper will receive a 20 point deduction automatically. You need to research the person you chose and you should have a clear argument that explains a brief background, life in Texas and history in that person's respective house. **LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Each biography will be accompanied by a presentation given by each student. Failure to present your biography to the class will result in an 0 for the assignment.

Attendance and Participation

Any absence requires proper documentation. Family emergencies, illnesses, births, deaths, incarcerations or other events and calamities are NOT excused absences. Participation **points are earned through your contribution to class discussion** that reflects informed and on-topic participation. Participation means that you

read the required chapter material in preparation for class. If you are not in class, then you cannot earn participation credit. If you miss three classes, I reserve the right to drop you from the course. Attendance and Participation consists of 20 % of your final grade.

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

Grading:

Examinations:	
Exam 1:	20%
Exam 2:	20%
Exam 3:	20%
Biography	20%
Participation/Attendance	20%
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Totals	100%

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

Cell Phones: The use of cellular phones is prohibited in the classroom. Each student can keep his/her cell phone on his or her desk for checking the time. **TEXTING will not be tolerated** and if a student is caught texting, during class, an automatic pop quiz will be administered and the subject is at the discretion of the instructor.

Student Conduct: Each student is expected to observe basic tenants 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 (pla-gia-rism)—noun

1. the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one’s own original work.
2. In all courses, I expect that all work that you do and turn in is your own. It is the policy of the University, the History Department, and myself that no form of plagiarism, cheating, collusion, or any other form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. Cheating is obtaining unauthorized assistance on any assignment. Collusion is the selling of academic products with the intention that they be submitted to satisfy an academic requirement. Students are expected to uphold and support the highest academic standards at all times. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty will automatically fail the assignment in question, will likely fail the entire course, and will be subject to disciplinary action by the University. Please see pg. 32 of the Student Handbook.

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

Instructors Rights

As the instructor for this class, I reserve the right to amend and/or modify this syllabus as necessary.

Please Note: The Lack of Planning on Your Part does not constitute an Emergency on My Part

Week One:

Introduction to the Course

The Executive Branch of the United States

(U.S. Constitution; Ginsberg, Chapter 10)

Week Two:

The Executive and Legislative Branches in the United States

(U.S. Constitution, Articles I and II; Ginsberg Chapter 9)

Week Three:

The Judiciary: Federal and State

(U.S. Constitution, Article III; *The Federalist*, No. 78; Joseph Story; *Marbury v.*

Madison; *Dickerson v. U.S.*; Ginsberg, Chapter 12; Halter, Chapter 9)

Week Four:

The Courts and the Bill of Rights (U.S. Constitution, Article I, section 9; Article III;

Amendments 1-5 and 13-15; *Barron v. Baltimore*; *Slaughterhouse Cases*; *Gitlow v. New*

York; Ginsberg, Chapter 4)

Week Five:

The Bill of Rights, continued (*Mapp v. Ohio*, *Gideon v. Wainwright*, *Miranda v. Arizona*;

Hudson v. Michigan)

Week Six:

The Problem of "Race" and the Struggle for Civil Rights (U.S. Constitution, Article I, section 2,

section 9, Amendment 14; *Scott v. Sandford*; *Plessy v. Ferguson*; Alexis de Tocqueville)

Week Seven:

Civil Rights (Booker T. Washington; McClaurin v. Bd. of Regents; Brown v. Bd. of Education I; Brown v. Bd. of Education II)

Week Eight:

Federalism and the States (Ginsberg, Chapter 3; Halter Chapter 2)

Week Nine:

Domestic Public Policy and the Bureaucratic State (Ginsberg, Chapter 11; Halter, Chapter 8)

Week Ten:

Fiscal and Monetary Policy in the United States (Ginsberg, Chapter 13)

Exam Two

Week Eleven:

The Wonder of Election's

Week Twelve:

The Rise of the United States to Global Power

Week Thirteen:

The American Century

Week Fourteen:

The Struggle against Extremism and Foreign Policy

Week Fifteen:

The American Republic (Washington, "Farewell Address")