

Intro to Govt

POLS-2301

Fall 2020 Section 00 3 Credits 08/18/2020 to 10/12/2020 Modified 08/31/2020

Meeting Times

This is an online asynchronous course. Materials will be available online but there are no official meeting times.

Contact Information

Office Location: SBS 201-D

E-mail: james.nelson@lamar.edu

Office Phone: (409)880-8529

Virtual Office Hours: M 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.; W 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

In-person Office Hours: by appointment

Catalog Description

The national and Texas constitutions; federalism; political socialization and participation; public opinion and interest groups; parties, voting and elections. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer

Outcomes

General Education/Core Curriculum Student Learning Outcomes (THECB): The following learning outcomes of core curriculum courses are required by the State of Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board:

- Critical Thinking
- Communication Skills
- Personal Responsibility
- Social Responsibility

The THECB learning outcomes for POLS 2301 will be assessed by the following criteria:

Critical Thinking and Communication Skills: Effective critical thinking and written and verbal communication skills are essential to successful completion of the course. In addition to participation in classroom discussions and presentations, critical thinking and communication will be assessed based on one writing assignment per semester that will be evaluated and graded by your instructor based on the approved THECB assessment rubric. **Critical Thinking:** Students will be able to analyze a political problem and synthesize a solution to the problem. The outcome will be assessed on the writing assignment. **Communication Skills:** Students will be able to effectively develop and express an argument supported by fact regarding a political problem or question. The outcome will be assessed on the writing assignment.

Personal Responsibility and Social Responsibility: The classroom is a learning environment, and all students are expected to observe basic rules of courtesy, personal discipline, and responsibility. Personal responsibility and social responsibility will be *informally* assessed by class attendance; timely arrival to class; non-use of cell phones, i-pods, ear buds, etc.; not using computers inappropriately in class (engaging in facebook, surfing the net, etc.); not eating, sleeping, texting, listening to music, carry on private conversations with others or otherwise disrupt the learning environment of the classroom; reading all assigned materials *prior* to class; and completing the Course Evaluation at the conclusion of the semester. Personal responsibility and social responsibility will be *formally* assessed based on multiple choice questions embedded in your examinations. **Personal Responsibility:** Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of how to register to vote and the expectations of citizenship in the United States. This outcome will be assessed on the exams throughout the semester. **Social Responsibility:** Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of political parties and interest group role in the political process and how an individual can effectively engage in these groups to achieve political outcomes. This outcome will be assessed on the exams throughout the semester.

- 7 Social & Behavioral Science (SOC & BS)

Course Materials

Required Electronic Course Materials:

Krutz, Glen, Sylvie Waskiewicz, et al, *American Government 2e*, OpenStax. 21 February 2019, ISBN-13: 978-1-947172-66-1. Download the text through: <https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-2e>. This required digital textbook is available to you at no cost.

*** If you are a person who cannot use a digital textbook, you CAN purchase a hard copy of this book. Please make sure you purchase the most current edition. ISBN-13: 978-1-947172-65-4*

Davis, Terri with James P. Nelson, *The Texas Constitution: The People, History, and Government of the Lone Star State*, "2017. (PDF version of the textbook available in the course, go to Blackboard, "Resources" tab.)

Students are also strongly encouraged to keep up with current political events through objective internet sites or newspaper reading. Please note that information provided on the Wikipedia website is open to submission by any and all readers and *is not considered to be an objective and accurate source of information*. Students citing Wikipedia or any Wiki source in their written term essay or extra credit assignment will automatically receive a "zero" on the overall assignment in which the citation is made.

Course Policies

Late Work Policy: Any student who turns in a written assignment after the due date will lose 10 points (of 100) per business day (M-F) it is late. In accordance with this policy, any paper turned in 5 business days late or later will not receive a grade above 50% (F). Late exams, quizzes, and extra credit will not be accepted.

Instructor's Rules of the Class

Do not listen to lectures with children present. During discussions of the limitations of free speech and other controversial subjects some classroom content will not be appropriate for children.

Evaluation

Grading Scale: Your grade in this class will be determined by a weighted average of your grades on two exams, one paper, and a series of quizzes. I will determine which letter grade your course average falls into using the following criteria.

90-100%= A

80-89%=B

70-79%=C

60-69%=D

0%-59%=F

Grading and Evaluation: A student's grade will be determined by the weighted average of that student's scores on two multiple-choice exams (30% each, 60% total) one writing assignment (20%), and quizzes (20%). Each examination consists of fifty multiple choice questions. The examinations are not comprehensive in nature. Five short-answer quizzes will be given during the semester; a student's four best quiz grades will be equally weighted (5% of total average each) and used to determine the quiz component of the weighted average. Exam one and all quizzes will each be available for 72 hours (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday). They will be made available at the end of their respective weeks at 12:00 a.m. Friday morning and will close at 11:59 p.m. Sunday night. Exam two will be available from 12:00 a.m. Monday, October 5 through 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, October 7. Additional instructions will be posted with each assessment.

Required Writing Assignment

Students are required to submit one written assignment during the course of the semester. The required content of the assignment is set forth below. The written essays must be submitted electronically by the student into the course Safe Assign system. Only Word format is accepted by the system.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Students are NOT allowed to submit papers they have written for any other course including written assignments and papers submitted in POLS 2302. If a student is retaking POLS 2301 for a grade replacement, the student is NOT allowed to submit a paper previously submitted in any POLS 2301 course or any other course. Submission of a paper previously submitted by you or any other student in any other course will appear in SafeAssign and be considered by the instructor to be plagiarized. A paper submitted in this course – written by the student or any other person - that appears in any other course will result in an assignment score of zero. Your name and work will be submitted into a permanent file marked "plagiarism" and may be used by the instructor or subsequent instructors for evidence of one-time or repeated plagiarism and may be used as evidence of academic dishonesty resulting in expulsion from Lamar University.

- Your essay must include a title page containing your name, POLS 2301, Written Assignment (with an essay title), semester, and the date of your submission of the assignment through Safe Assign. (The title page is not included as a numbered page and your essay should meet the page number requirement exclusive of the cover page.)
- The written assignment MUST be uploaded as ONE document (title page, essay, works cited should all be in the SAME document). Students can find the link to submit their written assignment by clicking the "Written Assignment" tab in the left-hand column of the course, then clicking "Term Paper Submission." Students may NOT submit the assignment via email inside or outside the course Blackboard system. Students may not cut and paste essays into the assignment window - the assignment MUST be uploaded as a WORD document and MUST be in ONE file. Do NOT upload more than one written assignment document. The system will only allow you to select ONE file, so make sure that file is the combined cover page, paper, AND bibliography. Assignments uploaded in any format other than WORD, such as a PDF, RTF, ZIP, etc., will automatically receive an overall

assignment score of zero. Assignments submitted only via email will automatically receive a zero as will assignments submitted outside of Safe Assign. In summary, you **MUST** submit your paper:

1. As one complete paper (no separate submissions of title pages or bibliographies);
2. In Word format (no zip drives, PDF, RTF or other forms of submission);
3. As an uploaded document from your computer; with the box checked for your

agreement to submit your paper to the Global Reference Database;

4. **No later than October 4, 2020, at 11:59 p.m.**

You should note that the assignment folder closes precisely at 11:59 p.m. Submissions submitted at 11:59.1 will be rejected by the system, and registered as a late submission.

The written assignment will be used to access the Critical Thinking and Communication Skills Learning Outcome core curriculum requirements of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). A copy of the assessment rubric designed to satisfy THECB requirements is provided by in the Contents section in Blackboard. Once you click on the file marked "Writing Assignment Rubric" in Blackboard, you will be able to review the rubric. The rubric used to grade the assignment is based on a 10-point scale. The posted grade will be rescaled to a 100-point scale.

Write a three-to-five page essay containing the following:

1. An introductory paragraph containing a brief description of three subject areas studied this semester that you found most interesting and/or informative, and a statement about a contemporary political problem or issue related to the course that will be discussed in greater detail later in the paper.
2. Discussion of the three subject areas identified in your introduction. Citations and specific academic information gained from the course **MUST** be provided in both the body of the text and in the bibliography. The three subject areas you discuss **MUST** be from POLS 2301 and cannot be topics studied in POLS 2302 (i.e., congress, presidency, governorship, state legislature). Subject areas should focus on topics listed in the syllabus.
3. Identify, discuss and describe a specific contemporary political problem in one of the three subject areas you identified.
4. Construct and communicate a solution to the problem you identified (above). Make sure to develop and express your solution in the form of an argument that is supported by well-documented and properly cited facts and data. A good paper will have at least **3-5 scholarly sources** in addition to the course textbook(s).

Correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, complete sentences, and CITATION of your sources is required. Textbook readings with page numbers (or chapter headings and subheadings for digital textbooks without page numbers) and textbook citation; lectures (title and presenter); and outside scholarly research must be included in your assignment.

Wikipedia/Encyclopedia/Dictionary/Spark Notes and other similar sources are **NOT** allowed and will result in an assignment score

of zero. Citations must be provided in both the body of your essay and in a "Works Cited" section at the conclusion of your essay. Also note that references to court cases must be italicized (*Brown v. Board of Education*) or underlined (Brown v. Board of Education). If you are using internet citations, you MUST include the FULL URL, title, author (if available) and access date.

Your written assignment should be typed and double spaced with 12-point font and one-inch margins top, bottom, and side. Political Science as a field has adopted the APSA Manual of Style; however, you are free to use the citation style adopted by your major department or the style used in your English composition courses (MLA or other style). Regardless of citation style, all sources must be properly, thoroughly, and consistently cited. Careful attention to grammar, spelling, and the mechanics of presentation is expected. *Wikipedia is not a reliable source of information. Any citation of Wikipedia, or other non-scholarly sources in a term paper or other assignment in this course will result in an automatic score of 0 (zero) on the assignment.* Scholarly resources would include journal articles, books, and news organization websites. Government documents such as court decisions and agency reports are also acceptable sources.

Carefully read the Course Management Policies, and "Academic Honesty Statement" for additional guidelines for your written assignments. Any cut and paste, plagiarized, or Wiki cited posts or papers will result in an automatic grade of zero for the overall assignment and possible expulsion from the course and Lamar University. Students have ONLY one chance to upload papers to Safe Assign and the version that is uploaded is the version that will be graded.

Extra Credit

You may write an essay about any subject related to POLS 2301 in order to receive extra credit. You may only turn in *one* extra credit assignment. If you are concerned about the relevance of your topic please discuss it with me before writing your paper. Explain your position on your topic by writing me a 5-7 page double-spaced paper (exclusive of endnotes, footnotes, references, and title page). The maximum amount of extra credit you may receive is five points on your final average; the percentage of this credit you earn will be determined by your grade on the paper. An A+ (100) quality extra credit paper will earn a student five points on that student's final average. A B- (80) quality extra credit paper will earn a student four points, because four is 80% of five. Other grades will be calculated in a similar fashion. Those who turn in plagiarized papers will receive no credit and be reported to the Dean of Students.

You will be required to use Times New Roman 12 point font. You must include information from outside sources; you need to cite them internally and provide a reference list. At least five scholarly sources (ex. books, journal articles, news websites) will be required to receive full credit. For more information about proper citation please refer to <http://www.paulhensel.org/teachcite.html>. The paper will be due on October 12. Submit these papers through Blackboard (there will be a submission portal labeled "Extra Credit"). Papers received after 11:59 p.m. on October 12 will not be graded.

DO NOT USE WIKIPEDIA, ANSWERS.COM, OR ABOUT.COM!! ALSO, DO NOT USE STUDYMODE.COM OR OTHER SITES LIKE IT!!

Late Work Policy: Any student who turns in an assignment after the due date will lose 10 points (of 100) per business day (M-F) it is late. In accordance with this policy, any paper turned in 5 business days late or later will not receive a grade above 50% (F). Late exams, quizzes, and extra credit will not be accepted.

Institutional Policies

Academic Honesty Policy

Lamar University expects all students to engage in academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action.

The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials.

All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include failure of the assignment and/or course up to suspension or expulsion from the university. The penalty may vary by instructor.

Additional information is available on the [Academic Policy website \(https://students.lamar.edu/academic-support/academic-policies.html\)](https://students.lamar.edu/academic-support/academic-policies.html).

Course Drop Policy

Students may drop a course and receive a grade of "Q" during the penalty-free period of the semester or session. For drops after this penalty-free period, grades are recorded as "Q" or "F," indicating the student was passing or failing at the time of the drop. A grade of "Q" may not be assigned unless an official drop has been processed through the Records Office. Students may drop a course online up to the census day by logging into Self-Service Banner. After the census day, courses must be dropped through the Records Office. For additional help, contact the academic advisor or the Records Office at registration@lamar.edu. **Students may not drop a course during the last 20 percent of the term.** Students should check the academic calendar at <https://www.lamar.edu/academic-calendar> (<https://www.lamar.edu/academic-calendar>) for specific dates.

Students with Disability Policy

Lamar University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) is located in the Communication building, room 105. Office staff collaborate with students who have disabilities to provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations.

If you have, or think you may have, a disability (e.g. mental health, attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory, or physical), please contact the DRC at 409-880-8347 or drc@lamar.edu to arrange a confidential appointment with the Director of the DRC to explore possible options regarding equitable access and reasonable accommodations.

If you are registered with the DRC and have a current letter requesting reasonable accommodations, we encourage you to contact your instructor early in the semester to review how the accommodations will be applied in the course.

Additional information is available at the [DRC website \(http://www.lamar.edu/disability-resource-center/\)](http://www.lamar.edu/disability-resource-center/).

Academic Support

Academic Support can be located at <http://students.lamar.edu/academic-support/index.html>.

There are many areas (i. e. Advising, Writing Center, etc.) of academic support. Each area provides their own specific contact information and days and hours of operation.

Student Services

*Lamar University recognizes that students may experience challenges that hinder success in their academics and/or college experience. We believe in giving all students access to resources that allow them to overcome these challenges. If you are struggling with stress, procrastination, anger management, depression, anxiety, substance abuse and/or eating disorders, please reach out to our counseling professionals at the **Student Health Center at 880-8466 to call for an appointment or visit our website <https://www.lamar.edu/students/student-engagement/student-health-center/index.html> for more information about our services.***

*Students who face challenges securing food or housing, tuition and/or books and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the LU Strong program. The program is located in the **Setzer Student Center, Room 230 at 409-880-8458 or at lustrong@lamar.edu** Furthermore, please notify your professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any additional resources they may possess.*

Your information and situation will be treated with the utmost privacy and is protected by Texas law. These services are available to all currently enrolled students at Lamar University and Lamar Institute of Technology.

Information on Student Services can be located at <http://students.lamar.edu/index.html>. There are many resources (i. e. Course schedules, important phone numbers, etc.) available. Each area provides their own specific contact information and days and hours of operation.

Academic Continuity Policy

In the event of an announced campus closure in excess of four days due to hurricane or other disaster, students are expected to check Lamar University's website and login to LU Connect for instructions about continuing courses remotely.

Emergency Procedures

Many types of emergencies can occur on campus; instructions for severe weather or violence/active shooter, fire, or chemical release can be found at the [Office of Environmental Health/Safety and Risk Management \(https://www.lamar.edu/about-lu/administration/risk-management/index.html\)](https://www.lamar.edu/about-lu/administration/risk-management/index.html) webpage.

Severe Weather

Follow the directions of the instructor or emergency personnel.

Seek shelter in an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor, putting as many walls as possible between you and the outside.

If you are in a multi-story building and you cannot get to the ground floor, pick a hallway in the center of the building.

Stay in the center of the room, away from exterior walls, windows, and doors.

Violence/Active Shooter

CALL - 7777 from a campus phone (Text 409-241-8002 from a cell phone). Note: Calling 911 from either a campus or cell phone will contact the City of Beaumont dispatch rather than the LU police.

AVOID - If possible, self-evacuate to a safe area outside the building. Follow directions of police officers.

DENY - Barricade the door with desks, chairs, bookcases or any other items. Move to a place inside the room where you are not visible. Turn off the lights and remain quiet. Remain there until told by police it is safe.

DEFEND - Use chairs, desks, cell phones or whatever is immediately available to distract and/or defend yourself and others from attack.

Copyright Policy Statement

Copyright is defined as the ownership and control of the intellectual property in original works of authorship which are subject to copyright law. As an institution of higher learning that values intellectual integrity, Lamar University prohibits the distribution of published materials (print or electronic) in violation of copyright law.

LU Connect Portal

Students are asked to obtain a Lamar Electronic Account username and password so they can log onto the LU CONNECT website. Students may get information on how to get into the LU CONNECT website from the University's homepage (<http://www.lamar.edu>) by clicking on the LU CONNECT link on the left top corner of the screen. Follow the steps to secure your LU CONNECT username and password.

LU Learn/Blackboard Learning Management System (LMS)

Students will utilize the Lamar University's Learning Management System (LMS), Blackboard, for online courses.

For Blackboard technical support go to <https://blackboardsupport.lamar.edu>.

Phone: 866-585-1738

Phone and chat are available 24/7/365

Exams and quizzes taken within LULearn (Blackboard) may require online proctoring. Lamar University uses Proctorio for online proctoring. For additional information about online proctoring click [here \(https://www.lamar.edu/lu-online/student-support-services-quick-links/index.html#proctoring-services\)](https://www.lamar.edu/lu-online/student-support-services-quick-links/index.html#proctoring-services) and view details under proctoring services.

Network Use

ACCEPTABLE USE

Students must respect the integrity and security of Lamar University computer systems and network, and the privacy and preferences of other users. Responsibility for learning about and complying with Lamar University Acceptable Use Policy ultimately rests with the individual. The network may be used to download, copy, or store any software, shareware, digital media files or freeware, as long as the use complies with copyright law licensing agreements, and campus policies, such as storage space limitations and network bandwidth restrictions. The network may not be used for any activity, or to transmit any material, that violates United States or local laws.

UNACCEPTABLE USE

The network may not be used for commercial purposes. Advertising and sponsorships on Lamar University websites is restricted. In addition, students may not permit other persons to use their usernames, passwords, accounts or disk space, or disclose their usernames, passwords or account information to any third party. Students may not log on to someone else's account, internet address, or other network codes, or attempt to access another user's files. Students may not create false or dummy accounts to impersonate someone else. Students may not try to gain unauthorized access ("hacking") to the files or computer systems of any other person or organization. Students may not impersonate another person by forging e-mail, web pages or other electronic media. Students who maliciously access, alter, delete, damage or destroy any computer system, computer network, computer program, or data will be subject to disciplinary action by Lamar University, and criminal prosecution as well. Students may not disrupt or attempt to disrupt network traffic, and they may not attempt to monitor or capture network traffic in any way. Finally, students may not intentionally create, store, display, print or transmit information that violates the university's Sexual Harassment Policy.

Netiquette (Online Etiquette) Statement

Please adhere to the same standards of behavior and professional respect online that you would follow in face-to-face communication with others, but most particularly when writing email and when taking part in collaborative and discussion board activities. Lamar provides access to network resources, including the Internet, in order to support learning and to prepare students for the 21st century world. Students, however, are expected to adhere to the *Lamar University Acceptable Use Policies when Using Networks*. More comprehensive student code of conduct can be found at <https://students.lamar.edu/academic-support/code-of-conduct.html>.

GENERAL GUIDELINES TO RESPECT ALL PARTICIPANTS

- Respect the right of each person to disagree with others.
- Treat people the same as you would face-to-face.
- Respect the time of others.

GUIDELINES WHEN COMMUNICATING WITH OTHERS (EMAIL, DISCUSSIONS, BLOGGING, AND ETC.)

- Always sign your name to any contribution you choose to make.
- Be constructive in your responses to others in the class.
- Do not use all caps (Doing so may be interpreted as shouting).
- Re-read your postings before sending them.
- Always think before you write.
- Respond respectfully.
- Use appropriate grammar and structure.
- Spell-check your postings.
- Use short paragraphs focused on one idea.
- Use appropriate business language at all times.

Technical Support

Technical Support can be located at <http://students.lamar.edu/it-services-and-support/index.html>.

Phone: 409-880-2222

Email: servicedesk@lamar.edu

Hours of Operation (CST):

Monday - Thursday 7:30 a.m.-12:00 a.m.

Friday 7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Sunday 3:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.

Attendance Verification

Students must complete an Attendance Verification Quiz for ALL COURSES - both on-campus and online - in which they are enrolled each term by the third class day to comply with U.S. Department of Education attendance requirements. Failure to complete this quiz by the deadline may result in loss of course enrollment and/or financial aid. The quiz is located in EVERY COURSE through LULearn (Blackboard) even if the course meets on campus.

COVID-19 Requirements

The Lamar community is beginning this semester during a health crisis, which is unprecedented for a university and which has erupted on a massive scale. President Evans has outlined and required the following personal mitigation steps.

- Adhering to social distancing protocols (6 feet)
- Following enhanced personal hygiene practices, including regular handwashing and/or use of hand sanitizing products when soap and water are not readily available
- Self-screening for any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 before coming to campus (or leaving dorm room if a campus resident) and seeking medical care if feeling ill
- Wearing masks or other face coverings inside all buildings at all times except when alone in an office or dorm room

Students taking this class are required to wear masks or face coverings in the classroom at all times. Faculty and students share the same goals during this health crisis; we want success in this course, and we want the campus to remain open. Members of the Lamar community share significant and unrelenting responsibilities. As members of the larger world community, we have not only the opportunity but the duty to develop and to exhibit a sense of social responsibility. Masks protect those people around you, and everyone has to wear a mask for this measure to benefit all of us. During this Coronavirus pandemic, wearing a mask is a sign of mutual respect. The journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* suggests that “among all strategies for reducing transmission, wearing face masks may be the central variable that determines the spread of the virus.”

We are responsible for each other. Each of us has to protect the Lamar family and to remember that we have especially vulnerable populations among us; for example, some students have chronic illnesses or disabilities, some students have children, some students are older, and some faculty are older. Our individual choices are of the utmost importance. The university has confidence that all students will recognize their part in maintaining a safe environment for the campus community and that students will make the best choices while on and off-campus. In large part, your behavior will determine if the campus remains open for the entire semester. Also, an outbreak on the campus would affect not only our campus but the regional communities. Universities have an ethical responsibility to lead and to model good behavior. You, the students, are the heart of the university. Everyone has to participate because an outbreak becomes everyone’s problem.

Students who exhibit any of the symptoms of COVID-19 have a civic responsibility not to expose others to the virus. If a student has symptoms like a fever or a cough, the student should seek medical help and not attend class. As President Evans has stated, “In the spirit of caring for one another and ensuring the health of each other, it is important that we accept a role of responsibility.”

Any student who has a medical condition or a disability that would prohibit the student from wearing a mask should provide documentation to the Lamar Disabilities Resource Center.

Course Subject Outline

Course Schedule - POLS 2301 – Fall 2020

Week 1

Introduction and Course Overview (familiarize yourself with the syllabus and other instructional materials)

Open Stax: Chapter 1: American Government and Civic Engagement

Davis and Nelson (Texas readings): Chapter 1: Early Explorations, Settlements, and Disputes over Texas Land

Week 2

Davis and Nelson (Texas readings): Chapter 2: Migration and Immigration to Texas

Open Stax: Chapter 2: The Constitution and its Origins

September 2-6: Quiz 1 available (due September 6 at 11:59 p.m.) [Quiz 1 has been delayed due to Hurricane Laura. These are the revised availability dates and due date. Quiz 1 will cover readings listed under Week 2 and related lecture materials.]

Week 3

Federalist 10 and 51 (also Bill of Rights material in slides)

Davis and Nelson (Texas readings): Chapter 3: Groundwork for Understanding the Current Texas Constitution (1876): The Constitutions of Texas, Political Culture, and the People of Texas

September 2-6: Quiz 1 available (due September 6 at 11:59 p.m.) [Quiz 1 has been delayed due to Hurricane Laura. These are the revised availability dates and due date. Quiz 1 will cover readings listed under Week 2 and related lecture materials.]

September 4-6: Quiz 2 available (due September 6 at 11:59 p.m.) [Note: Quiz 2 will cover readings listed in Week 3 and related lecture materials.]

Week 4

Open Stax: Chapter 3: American Federalism

Davis and Nelson (Texas readings): Chapter 4: The American Federal System and its Significance to Understanding Texas Government

September 11-13: Quiz 3 available (due September 13 at 11:59 p.m.) [Note: Quiz 3 will cover readings listed in Week 4 and related lecture materials.]

September 11-13: Exam 1 available (due September 13 at 11:59 p.m.) [Note: Exam 1 will cover readings listed in Weeks 1-4 and related lecture materials.]

Week 5

Open Stax: Chapter 6: The Politics of Public Opinion

Open Stax: Chapter 8: The Media

September 18-20: Quiz 4 available (due September 20 at 11:59 p.m.) [Note: Quiz 4 will cover readings listed in Week 5 and related lecture materials.]

Week 6

Open Stax: Chapter 9: Political Parties

Open Stax: Chapter 10: Interest Groups and Lobbying

Week 7

Open Stax: Chapter 7: Voting and Elections

Davis and Nelson (Texas readings): Chapter 5: Elections, Political Parties, and Lobbying in Texas

October 2-4: Quiz 5 (due October 4 at 11:59 p.m.) [Note: Quiz 5 will cover readings listed in Week 7 and related lecture materials.]

Written Assignment due October 4 at 11:59 p.m.

Week 8

October 5-7: Exam Two available (due October 7 at 11:59 p.m.)[Note: Exam 2 will cover readings listed in Weeks 5-7 and related lecture materials.]

October 8-9: Instructor Available for Extra Credit Paper Consultation

Week 9/Last Day

October 12: Extra Credit paper due at 11:59 p.m.

CHANGE STATEMENT:

This syllabus may change with prior notice from the instructor.

Additional Items
