

Orientations:

My courses require face to face orientation (Exceptions must be approved by the instructor). You must attend one of the following sessions:

Course Title	Date	Time	Location
Gov't 2306	Monday, Jan. 12, 2009	3:00 p.m.	BUS 258
Gov't 2306	Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2009	4:00 p.m.	BUS 258
My Courses Require Face to Face Orientation. (Exceptions must be approved by the instructor).			

COURSE OUTLINE

Government 2306

COURSE NAME: AMERICAN STATE GOVERNMENT (GOV 2306)

TEXTBOOK : Practicing Texas Politics, 13th edition, 2007

AUTHORS : Brown, Trotter, Langenegger and Garcia

PURPOSE AND GOALS OF COURSE: The subject of the course is to study the principles and organization of American state, county, and municipal government, together with current problems and the constitution and government of **Texas**.

INSTRUCTOR NAME : Dr. Manoucher R. Khosrowshahi (Dr. K.)

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 510-2279

OFFICE NUMBER : Jenkins "114"

OFFICE HOURS : M-F 7:00 - 9:00 a.m. and by appointment.

E-MAIL: MKHO@TJC.EDU

SET UP YOUR APPOINTMENT NOW! DON'T WAIT 'TIL I GET BUSY:)

COURSE GRADE:

There will be a total of 1,000 points in this class. Students' final grades will be based upon the following point system:

A = 1,000 - 900 points	D = 699 - 600 points
B = 899 - 800 points	F = 599 - 000 points
C = 799 - 700 points	

The course requires four examinations over assigned chapters and the final exam as follows:

Required Tests	Points	Topic	ASSIGNMENTS
Exam 1	200 (20% of your grade)	The environment of Texas Politics; Federalism and the Texas Constitution;	Chapter 1 and 2
Exam 2	200 (20% of your grade)	Local Governments; The Political Parties, Politics of Elections;	Chapters 3 , 4 and 5
Exam 3	200 (20% of your grade)	The Politics of Interest Groups; The Legislature; The Executive;	Chapters 6 , 7 and 8
Exam 4	200(20% of your grade)	Public Policy and Administration; Law, Courts, and Justice; Revenues, Expenditures and Fiscal policy.	Chapters 9 , 10 and 11
<u>Comprehensive Final Exam</u> (Chapters 1- 11 of the Textbook) May be replaced by projects.	200 (20% of your grade)	All Chapters of the book	Chapters 1- 11
Total	1000		
Extra Credit Projects	100		Check the Project Folder in the Course Content

Test I: Chapter 1 and 2

Test II: Chapters 3, 4 and 5

Test III: Chapters 6, 7 and 8

Test IV: Chapters 9, 10, and 11

Four electronic exams will make up 80% (800 points) of your course grade. 20% (200 points) of your course grade can be earned from taking the final comprehensive essay exam or successful completion of projects described in this syllabus.

In other words, students have a choice to take the final comprehensive essay exam or complete projects.

Optional Assignments/Projects	Points	Check the Date / Due Date on Your Calendar
Power Point Project	200	<u>Any project received after the deadline will lose 50% its value per day with no exceptions.</u>
Photo Gallery Project	200	<u>Any project received after the deadline will lose 50% its value per day with no exceptions.</u>
Travel Study Project During the Spring or May Break: You will earn three hours of elective credit toward your degree plan (Partial scholarship is available.)	200	Spring Break Check your the calendar. <u>Click here Turkey Trip for further information</u>

You may complete ONE additional project to earn extra credit. However, you will only receive 100 points (no more) as an extra credit. One my not repeat the same project as an extra credit. The deadline for the submission of the extra credit is the same as other projects.

Remember, grades are **NOT** given by your instructor; they are **EARNED** by you. There is no "grading on a curve."

PERFORMANCE/LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After studying the material presented in this course of study, the student will be able to do the following tasks:

1. Be able to cite the influence of demographic factors upon the political environment of Texas.
2. List the characteristics of the Texas constitution and their relationships to the U.S. Constitution.
3. Describe the process of political activity and election in Texas.
4. Identify the function, operation and importance of the legislature in governing Texas.
5. Identify the role of the Governor and the executive branch in Texas government.
6. Describe the process of fiscal management of the state of Texas.
7. List the function and operations of the Texas Judicial system.
8. Identify the elements of the county, city, and special district governments in Texas.
9. Better understand, evaluate, and develop political ideas and views.
10. Be informed citizens of the United States.

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Using their computer at home or in a campus computer lab, students can utilize the Internet to read lessons and assignments, link to other sites on the Internet related to their course, access syllabi and course information, upload and download assignments and homework, join a bulletin board for class discussion, and use e-mail to communicate to the instructor and fellow students. In place of class discussions, students use Internet based "discussion group" to read what other students and the instructor have said about a topic and then add their own comments to the discussion.

COURSE POLICIES

In a legal sense, this syllabus is considered as a "student and teacher contract." Therefore, **please print and keep this contract for your reference. During the semester, you must continue to visit the website to check for any updates or clarifications to your course requirements.**

Examinations

Each exam will cover assigned reading materials, whether or not specifically discussed, as well as online discussions. Each of the examinations will have **fifty multiple choice questions**. For calculation of your grade, you multiply the number of correct questions (answered in a test) by 4. The result will be your grade in my 200 scale. For example, if you answer 40 questions correct, you multiply 40 by 4. Your grade is 160 in my scale.

Students must complete examinations by the published dates during the semester. You have two choices to take the exams by the date or deadline.

1. If you want to take the test earlier, you call me and make appointment with me and take the test at TJC campus anytime before the deadlines.
2. You may take the test at the scheduled time. Examinations will be given at the BUS 212 (UTT Campus) on Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m. Please check the course calendar for the dates.

Otherwise, if you miss the date or deadline, there will be 50 points penalty (in a 200 point scale).

Comprehensive Final Essay Exam

The final comprehensive exam may be taken to earn 200 points. The final comprehensive exam will cover all the chapters of the textbook. There will be five questions. You will only answer three questions. All questions will be in **essay** format. If you decide to take the final exam, you must complete the exam by **the published date**.

In lieu of the comprehensive final essay exam, you may complete any combination of published projects in this class.

Missing Exams:

If you do not take the first four multiple choice exams by the published date, **fifty points** (total) will be deducted for each **make up test**. The tests will be available to you before the last date (for the multiple choice questions). You do not need my permission to take the make up test. However, **no test will be given after the last date (for the multiple choice questions) under any circumstance.** There are no penalties for taking the tests early. The final comprehensive essay exam cannot be made up.

Reporting Grades:

After each test date, **you grades will be posted on the Blackboard in two days or so.** You may access them online. To protect your privacy, your test and/or project scores cannot be given via e-mail or phone. Furthermore, I will not discuss any matters regarding grades via e-mail or phone under any circumstances. From my past experience, I learned that face to face discussions are more productive than phone or e-mail discussions. You may stop by my office and get your grade any time if you so desire. **UTT will post your course grade at the end of semester on the web.** You may access them online.

There is no daily or weekly assignment to be turned in. However, you must study every week to prepare for the tests accordingly. Also, if you plan to complete a project or to earn extra credit, you must complete published project(s) to meet the requirements of the course. Depending on the project, you may spend some times everyday to work on your project(s).

Withdrawal Policy:

I encourage you to consult your instructor before dropping the course.

Students are responsible for withdrawing from courses. A student may initiate a withdrawal from a course or the college for any reasons. The student will receive a grade of "W" for a course if a withdrawal form is submitted to the registrar's office by the published deadline by the university. For detail information about UTT's withdrawal policy and deadlines, visit the following link:

<http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar/withdrawals.htm>

I strongly encourage you to schedule conferences with me to discuss your progress. If you are not available for consultation with me at my office hours, I will attempt to meet with you at some time which is mutually convenient to both of us. Please do not be bashful. It is my job to attempt to assist you in any way if you will make it known to me your desire for assistance. Communication between the student and instructor is very

important, and is the student's responsibility to initiate such communication.

If you have difficulty with this course, please see your instructor as soon as possible. Sometimes it is possible to give you helpful ideas on how to study or perhaps I can recommend assistance elsewhere on campus. I will try to help you succeed. I am accountable to you, myself, and my peers to provide the highest quality of instruction, incentives, and opportunities for you to learn. Remember, full-time study is a full-time job that requires forty or more hours a week. I want you to come away from this class with more than just a grade.

Cheating in any form will not be tolerated. Individuals caught doing so will be disciplined to the maximum extent possible. Interaction among class members is encouraged; plagiarism and cheating are not.

Netiquette

Be polite and respectful! The online environment offers a level playing field. Appearance, age, disabilities, race, etc. are generally absent. However, because of the lack of body language, students and teachers may offend each other without intending to do so. Be polite and sensitive when responding. Don't "say" anything online that you would not tell to someone's face.

Sharing Emotions Online:

Since we have no verbal ways of expressing ourselves in a virtual class, consider using smiley faces to help clarify your meaning or to show the emotion behind your words. You read smiles by tilting your head to the left. Here are some smiley faces:

- :-)** is a smiling face
- ;-)** is a wink and smile
- :-)** is a frown
- :-0** is surprise

Evaluating Tips:

The information available on the internet ranges in its accuracy, reliability, and value. Unlike print media (books, journals, magazines), no one has to approve the content of a web site before it is made available. It is your job

to evaluate web sites and to determine whether they offer reliable information.

To learn how to evaluate internet material critically, read the following article:

- [**The Good, The Bad & The Ugly: or, Why It's a Good Idea to Evaluate Web Sources**](#)

For a comprehensive list of articles on this topic, see [**Evaluation of Sources**](#).

Disability Accommodation:

"If you have a disability, including a learning disability, for which you request disability support services/accommodation(s), please contact Ida MacDonald in the Disability Support Services office so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting disability support services/accommodation(s) must provide appropriate documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Support Services counselor. In order to assure approved services the first week of class, diagnostic, prognostic, and prescriptive information should be received 30 days prior to the beginning of the semester services are requested. For more information, call or visit the Student Services Center located in the University Center, Room 282. The telephone number is 566-7079 (TDD 565-5579)." Additional information may also be obtained at the following UT Tyler Web address: <http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices>.