TEXARKANA COLLEGE

Syllabus: Texas Government 2306 --- Hybrid Course

Course Number: GOVT 2306 Semester & Year: Fall 2017 **Instructor Information:**

Name: John Stuart

Office: E - Social Science Building

Telephone: 903-823-3226

E-mail: John.Stuart@texarkanacollege.edu

Office Hours:

Monday:

8-9:30 a.m.; 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Tuesday:

8-9:30 a.m.; 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Wednesday: 8-9:30 a.m.; 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Thursday:

8-9:30 a.m.; 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Friday:

9-11:00 a.m.

Textbook Information:

TEXAS POLITICS TODAY by Jones, Maxwell & Crain, 18th edition (2017-2018). A textbook is a necessary requirement for this course. ISBN: 9781337598033. Also, the **STUDY QUESTION GUIDEBOOK** in the College Bookstore is a requirement for the course.

Student Learning Outcomes for the Course:

This course is designed to increase students' interest and knowledge of how state and local governments operate.

Learning Outcomes/Objectives:

#1: The student will understand the history and political culture of Texas and be familiar with current population data.

#2: The student will understand the foundations, development, and features of the Texas Constitution of 1876 and how it compares to the United States Constitution.

#3: The student will understand the types of elections, the voting process, and campaigns in Texas.

#4: The student will be able to discuss how political parties and interest groups connect people to Texas government.

#5: The student will be able to describe the structure and function of the three branches of government in Texas.

#6: The student will understand the structure, functions, and operations of the institutions of local government in Texas.

Other Learning Outcomes/Objectives are listed in the Study Question Guidebook for the course.

Student Requirements for Completion of the Course:
Requirements for the course include the following:
Five Major Unit tests, five Take-Home tests, two chapter Terms & Names, one
Interest Group review, one Internet Activity, one Political survey, and one
Comprehensive Post-Test.

Student Assessment:

You have the following possibilities for earning points:

(1) Five Major Unit tests -	500 total points
(2) Five Take-Home tests -	100 total points
(3) Two Chapter Terms & Names -	20 total points
(4) One Interest Group review -	160 total points
(5) One Comprehensive Post-Test	100 total points
(6) One Internet Activity	10 total points
(7) One Political Survey -	10 total points
	900 total points

There will be various ways to obtain Extra Bonus Points during the semester.

Grading Scale:

Grade		
Α	900-810 points	
В	809-720 points	
С	719-630 points	
D	629-540 points	
F	540-below	

CLASS SCHEDULE

TEXAS GOVERNMENT 2306 --- HYBRID COURSE State and Local Government Fall 2017 <u>TEXAS POLITICS TODAY</u> by Jones, Maxwell & Crain, 18th edition (2017-2018) J. Stuart – Professor

Tuesday -- 9:30-10:50 a.m.

Aug. 29	INTRODUCTION. What is Government?
Aug. 29	Begin on Chapter 1, "Texas Culture, & Diversity."
Sept. 5	Begin on Chapter 2, "Texas in the Federal System."
Sept. 12 Sept. 12	Begin on Chapter 3, "Texas Constitution." <u>Chapter 3 Take-Home Test</u> due.
Sept. 19 Sept. 19	Continue on Chapter 3. TEST I: Chapters 1, 2, & 3. Test opens online after class until Sept. 21 (Thursday).
Sept. 26 Sept. 26	Begin on Chapter 4, "Voting and Elections." Chapter 4 Terms due.
Oct. 3	Begin on Chapter 5, "Political Parties, Factions, & Campaigns." Begin on Chapter 6, "Interest Groups." Chapter 6 Take-Home Test due.
Oct. 10	Continue on Chapter 6.
Oct. 10	TEST II: Chapters 4, 5, & 6 Test opens online after class until Oct. 12.
Oct. 17 Oct. 17	Begin on Chapter 7, "The Texas Legislature." Chapter 7 Terms due.
Oct. 24 Oct. 24 Oct. 24	Begin on Chapter 8, "The Texas Executive." <u>Chapter 8 Take-Home Test</u> due. <u>Deadline for Interest Group Review</u>
Oct. 31 Oct. 31	Continue on Chapter 8. TEST III: Chapters 7 & 8. Test opens after class until Nov. 2.
Nov. 7 Nov. 7 Nov. 7 Nov. 7	Begin on Chapter 9, "The Texas Judiciary." Begin on Chapter 10, "Law and Due Process." <u>Chapter 10 Take-Home Test</u> due. Internet Activity Due Texas Laws.

Nov. 14	Continue on Chapter 10.	
Nov. 14	TEST IV: Chapters 9 & 10.	
	Test opens online after class until Nov. 16.	
Nov. 20-24	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS	
Nov. 28	Begin on Chapter 11, "Local Governments."	
Nov. 28	Chapter 11 Take-Home Test due.	
Dec. 5	Begin on Chapter 12, "Public Policy in Texas."	
Dec. 12	Continue on Chapter 12.	
	Comprehensive Post-Test over Course Learning Objectives.	
	Post-Test opens online after class until Dec. 13.	
Dec. 14	FINAL EXAM: Chapters 11 & 12.	
	Thursday, December 14, 8:00 a.m.	

*PLEASE NOTE: SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO REVISION. ANY CHANGES TO THIS SYLLABUS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN CLASS.

If you have any type of disability which requires assistance, please see the Professor as soon as possible during the first week of the semester.

Whenever you miss a class, it is <u>YOUR RESPONSIBILITY</u> to see the Professor during office hours and <u>NOT</u> during class time to get handouts and other information. Also, when you miss an exam, it is <u>YOUR RESPONSIBILITY</u> to make arrangements with the Professor for all make-up exams within a three class day period.

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday:

8-9:30 a.m.; 11:00-12:00 p.m.

Tuesday:

8-9:30 a.m.; 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Wednesday:

8-9:30 a.m.; 11:00-12:00 p.m.

Thursday:

8-9:30 a.m.; 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Friday:

9-11:00 a.m.

If the Professor is not in the office during these hours, please leave a message on the telephone answering machine or with the business & social science secretary, or send an e-mail message to the Professor.

E-Mail Address: John.Stuart@texarkanacollege.edu

College telephone: 903-823-3226.

Attendance/Absentee/Tardy Policy:

Texarkana College's policy allows Professors to withdraw a student from a course due to excessive absences. For this class, a student will be considered Tardy/Late after the start of class until fifteen (15) minutes after class begins. Three tardies will count as one absence. The student will be considered absent fifteen (15) minutes after the designated start time of class. If a student leaves and returns during class or leaves the class before the class is over, he/she may be considered absent. A student will be dropped from the course if absences exceed two (2) absences as stated by college policy.

Faculty members are not obligated to provide opportunities for students to make-up missed assignments and tests as a result of a student's absence from class. The college institution is required to take attendance and experience demonstrates that regular attendance enhances academic success. As such, students are expected to attend each meeting of their registered courses.

All students will sign-in each class day and a record will be kept for each student's attendance during the semester. You are responsible for your own attendance. Also, each student is required to have assignments completed the day that the assignments are due. The Professor reserves the right to drop students after (a) excessive absences, and/or (b) one or more Unit Exams not completed. However, dropping a class that you are failing or in danger of failing is your responsibility.

A student should not stop attending a class without formally withdrawing from the course by the institutions published Last Day for Students to Drop. If a student stops attending class after the published Last Day for Students to Drop, the student may receive a grade of "F" in the class. The Professor will submit the last date of attendance for students receiving a grade of "F" or "W". The last day to drop a course is **November 17.**

Withdrawal from a course(s) may affect a student's current or future financial aid eligibility. Students should consult the Financial Aid Office to learn both short and long term consequences of a withdrawal.

Excused Absences Policy:

A student's absence due to school trips and/or school business will not be counted against a student's allowable number of absences. Military duty and absences for Holy Days (FBD LEGAL) are covered in a separate section of the catalog and the student handbook.

These are the only excused absences that are considered by Texarkana College. Responsibility for work missed for any absence is placed on the student. Professors are required to allow students to make up work missed if the absence is due to military duty or religious holy days when students follow the correct notification procedures. Professors are not required to allow students to make up work for absences due to other reasons. Make-up polices are listed in each individual Professor's syllabus.

MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE ABSENCES

After official registration, the following number of unexcused absences will be the maximum allowable before a student may be dropped from the class. Again, a student will be dropped from this course if absences exceed two (2) absences.

Academic Classes

A COURSE THAT MEETS FOR	CHETULL 16 WEEK SEMESTER
Class or Lab Meets:	An instructor may withdraw a student from a course if absences exceed:
Once a week (Night classes or Friday classes) Twice a week (MW or TR classes) Three times a week (MWF or TRF classes) Four times a week (MTWR classes)	2 4 6 8 Three tardies count as one absence

Make-up Policy:

According to the Texarkana College Student Rules and Regulations, all students are encouraged to attend class, especially on the day that exams and assignments are due. Faculty members are not obligated to provide opportunities for students to make-up missed assignments and tests as a result of a student's absence from class. For this course, you may make-up only the first four major/unit tests as well as the Take-Home tests and chapters Terms & Names, but there is a time limit of for these make-ups. All MAKE-UP Tests (Testing Center) must be completed within three class days after the test is given in the classroom (ten points will be deducted automatically from each test unless there is an excused documented absence). Late Take-Home tests and chapter Terms & Names will only be accepted until the beginning of the next class period, with points being deducted for late work. If you foresee an absence, turn assignments in early. All other assignments and class activities for extra bonus points cannot be. made-up if you are absent and no credit will be given for these assignments. There are no incompletes or dropping of the lowest test scores. Please note: It is important for you to realize that there is a direct correlation between class attendance and success in a course. It is your responsibility to get the assignments and any course hand-outs for the next class period when you are absent. You must come by the Professor's office during posted office hours.

Academic Dishonesty Policy

Scholastic dishonesty, involving but not limited to cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion, or falsification of records will make the student liable for disciplinary action after being investigated by the Dean of Students. Proven violations of this nature will result in the student being dropped from the class with an "E".

This policy applies campus wide, including TC Testing Center, as well as off-campus classroom or lab sites, including dual credit campuses. This information can be found in the Student Handbook at https://texarkanacollege.edu/PDFFiles/CurrentStudents/studenthandbook.pdf.

Disability Act Statement:

Texarkana College complies with all provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act and makes reasonable accommodations upon request. Please contact Larry Andrews at 903.823.3283, or go by the Recruitment, Advisement, and Retention Department located in the Administration building for personal assistance.

If you have an accommodation letter from their office indicating that you have a disability which requires academic accommodations, please present it to me so we can discuss the accommodations that you might need for this class. It is best to request these changes at the beginning if not before the start of class so there is ample time to make the accommodations.

Financial Aid:

Attention! Dropping this class may affect your funding in a negative way! You could owe money to the college and/or federal government. Please check with the Financial Aid office before making a decision.

Reminder Class Policies:

Cell phones and beepers must be turned off and not visible in the class unless an emergency situation exists. This situation must be discussed with the Professor prior to class. If a student is caught text-messaging in class, the student will be dropped from the class. If a student's cell phone rings in class, the student will receive a warning and will be dropped from the class after the second offense.

Students should make arrangements with the Professor in advance if they need to leave class before dismissal. There will be a zero tolerance policy for any behavior that is disruptive of classroom learning. This includes ANY use of vulgar language or RUDE BEHAVIOR toward Professor or any other student in the class.

Please Note:

This course syllabus is subject to revision. Any changes to this syllabus will be announced in class.

TEXAS GOVERNMENT 2306

Major Tests	Points Possible	Your Grade
I	100	
II	100	
III	100	
IV	100	
V	100	
Final Exam - Comprehensive Post-Test	100	
Take-Home Tests	Points Possible	Your Grade
I – Ch. 3	20	
II – Ch. 6	20	
III – Ch. 8	20	
IV – Ch. 10	20	
V – Ch. 11	20	
Terms & Names	Points Possible	Your Grade
Ch. 4	10	
Ch. 7	10	
Discussion/Participation	Points Possible	Your Grade
Interest Group Review	160	
Political Survey	10	
Internet Activity	10	
Total Points	900	
Extra Points		
Lost Points		

TESTS:

Major tests will cover chapters indicated, Study Questions, class notes, chapter terms, and videos. Test items include multiple choice questions, matching terms, identifications (I.D.'s), and a few short-answer completion questions. You will need five Scan Tron 882 from the College Bookstore. There will be four major tests plus the Final Exam for a total of five major tests. The Study Questions (outlines) will indicate important information in each chapter. These will be covered by test regardless of whether they have been discussed in class.

TAKE-HOME TESTS:

There will be five Take-Home Tests during the semester (20 points each; total of 100 points). Late Take-Home Tests will only be accepted until the beginning of the next class period, with points being deducted for late work. If you foresee an absence, turn the Take-Home Test in early.

GOVERNMENT DISCUSSION/PARTICIPATION:

Discussion/Participation points will include looking up some government terms and Study Questions; working on a political survey, and an Interest Group topic project as course requirements this semester. Other information will be provided later for these participation items. The Interest Group project is worth approximately 160 points and the other participation items are worth approximately 40 points; total of 160 points for Discussion/Participation.

Also included as part of classroom discussion/participation will be extra credit points which students can earn based on participation (answering and asking questions), good attendance, good attitude, and promptness at the end of the semester.

DISCIPLINARY INFRACTIONS:

Each faculty member is his/her own disciplinarian in the classroom. Any student may be subject to being <u>relocated</u> to another desk, or being <u>dropped</u> from this class for disciplinary infractions. This includes such items as unnecessary talking, tardiness, cheating on tests, sleeping in class and during videos, personality and attitude problems which disrupts teaching with detrimental effect upon other students and the class, etc... Behavior that interferes with the class will be dealt with and the student engaging in the behavior will be asked to leave the class.

Also, no food or drinks in the classroom.

CONFERENCES;

If you find that you are having difficulty with the course, please schedule a conference with the Professor. Do this before it is too late and not toward the end of the semester. Remember the Professor is here to advise and assist you, not to consign you to eternal torment.

EXTRA POINTS:

Attendance- Good attendance indicates a responsible student and can help you at the end of the semester.

Participation- You may earn some extra points by participation in additional and constructive class discussions such as answering and asking questions on the subject/course, having a good attitude, etc.. One or two book article reviews approved by the Professor. See additional page. (5 points each; total of 10 points for the article reviews).