Instructor Information:

Name: Dawna Rogers  
Office: Social Science Building Office “B”  
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E-mail: dawna.rogers@texarkanacollege.edu  
Office Hours:  
- Monday 7:30 – 8 am; 11 am – 12:00 pm  
- Tuesday 7:30 – 8 am; 9:30 – 11:30 am  
- Wednesday 7:30 - 8 am; 11 am – 12:00 pm  
- Thursday 7:30 – 8 am; 9:30 – 11:30 am  
- Friday 8 – 10 am by appointment only

Textbook Information:

By Maxwell, Crain, and Santos  

Course Information:

Course Description:

Texas Government: A study of the Texas Constitution and government emphasizing political institutions including: political parties, interest groups, the legislature, the governor, the bureaucracy, the judiciary, and local government.. Credits: 3 SCH

Course Format:

Lecture/online A TC supplemental course site has been created for this class. You can access this course by logging in to the following page: https://campus.texarkanacollege.edu. You must create your Texarkana College email account if you have not already done so. If you have difficulties with the website, contact support@texarkanacollege.edu or call: 1-866-614-5008. If you have to leave a message, be sure to leave good contact information so that help can reach you.

Course Schedule: January 20 – May 13, 2015

Location: Social Sciences Building Classroom 6
Texarkana College Online:
A TC Online course site has been created for this class. You can access this course by logging in to the following page: https://campus.texarkanacollege.edu. Be sure that you follow the instructions listed under "Getting Started with Your Online Course". You must create your Texarkana College email account if you have not already done so. If you have difficulties with the web site, contact support@texarkanacollege.edu or call: 1-866-614-5008. If you have to leave a message, be sure to leave good contact information so that help can reach you.

Computer difficulties are not an excuse for non-participation. You are solely responsible for being able to keep up in the course with a computer that is in good working condition and connected to the internet (high speed connection is the best). Do not wait until the last minute to complete assignments. Something might go wrong.

TC Online Outages: TC does its best to keep our Internet classrooms up and running. If there happens to be a problem with our server, we will notify you and make adjustments.

Technical Assistance: If you have any difficulties setting up your Texarkana College Online account and logging in to the class, contact me or contact the help number listed on the main page of Texarkana College Online.

Pre-requisites: Successful completion of the reading portion of the TSI Exam.

Supplies: You should not need anything other than your textbook and Internet access.

Student Learning Outcomes for the Course:
This course is designed to increase students’ interest and knowledge of how state and local governments operate. After completing this course, students should be able to:

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

Learning Outcome # 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.

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

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

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

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

Civic Portfolio  
7 Unit Exams (100 points each)  
Comprehensive Final Exam  

200 points  
700 points  
100 points  
1000 total points

Grading Scale:

A 90-100  
B 80-89  
C 70-79  
D 60-69  
F 59-below
Course Schedule:

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<td>Unit 1: Prologue, CH 1-3</td>
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<td>GOVT 2306.04 TR – Wednesday, May 13 at 10:30 am</td>
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<td>Spring Commencement</td>
<td>May 19</td>
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**Syllabus Changes:**
As your instructor, I retain the right to make changes based on the time line of the class, feedback from learners and/or logistical issues and will inform you as soon as a change is made.
Responsibilities and Policies:

Student Responsibilities:
- Students are expected to be familiar with navigating the Texarkana College Online Web Site located at https://campus.texarkanacollege.edu
- You are an adult learner and as such you are responsible for your own learning. No one else can be a "stand in" for you in the learning process. You will be held accountable for all assigned activities. I do not take late work or give extra credit.
- Academic Integrity is an expectation in all Texarkana College classes. Plagiarism, cheating and collusion are prohibited at Texarkana College. Plagiarism is defined as passing of another person’s work as your own. Students who fail to observe these standards are subject to disciplinary action. TC has a strong policy on Academic Misconduct which is published in the TC catalog. This policy applies campus wide, including TC Testing Center, as well as off-campus classroom or lab sites. If you are caught cheating in this class, you will be dropped with an "F". Students are furnished this information during Freshman Orientation. If you do not have a copy of the TC Student handbook, you may view the online version by clicking on this link: TC Student Handbook.

Instructor Responsibilities:
- As your instructor, I commit to communicating openly and frequently with you about this class. I will maintain a professional, safe learning environment adhering to the policies of the college. You can expect a reply to communication, be it via e-mail, through online discussions, or voice mail, within 24-48 business hours. If you post something on the weekend, it will probably be Monday before I respond.

Withdrawal Policy:
- If a situation arises that prevents the successful completion of this course, please note that it is each student's responsibility to formally withdraw from this course. If you fail to drop by Friday, April 17, 2015, you could easily end up with an "F" in the course if you have quit working on your assignments.

Attendance Policy:
- Regular attendance is required for this course. All students are required to sign a daily roll sheet. Maximum allowable absences for traditional classes are FOUR per semester. FIVE absences will result in a student being dropped from this course and/or receive a grade of “F.” This is not the only (or even the major) reason you should attend this class conscientiously. Tardiness is unacceptable. The classroom door will be locked and no student will be admitted once class begins. A significant portion of your grade will come from lecture material and class participation. When you miss a class, it is advisable to obtain a classmate’s notes, look them over, and then contact me to discuss anything that is unclear to you.

Make-up Policy:
- I make no exceptions for missed assignments. All assignments are due by the date indicated in the course syllabus. Failure to submit an assignment as stated will result in a “0” for the assignment.
Academic Integrity Statement:

- 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 “F”.
- 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.

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.

Classroom Policies:

Your college experience is not just about passing classes, but preparing for a career in the professional world. An employer wants to see a degree or certificate, not because they necessarily are concerned with your knowledge of the War of 1812, but that you have proven endurance, organizational skills, and etiquette required to be a productive citizen and a valuable member of your organization. The following list provides not only a useful set of rules for class conduct, but more importantly lays groundwork for furthering the professional skill set.

The professional skill set includes being prepared, organized, operating on schedule, conducting one’s self professionally and cordially, working with others and working independently, meeting new challenges, and perhaps most importantly, blaming yourself for your failures and recognizing others for your successes. Successful people have a mindset that reminds them that everything you do and most of what happens to you are a result of your choices. We all have unfortunate circumstances, but it is how we handle these problems that set us apart from those who are not successful in the professional world.
My classroom policy, then, is structured with these hidden rules of the professional culture in mind:

• While drinks with lids are acceptable, please **do not eat in class**. Eating should be done before or after class. If you have no other time to eat than in class, you have done a poor job of creating your daily schedule. Do not pass your mistake on to us.

• Today’s professional world expects everyone to be well versed in device usage. While I would prefer no cell phone usage during class (and NEVER for talking or texting), limited usage for class purposes such as recording lectures, ebook reading, taking photos of notes, etc. is permissible as long as they are not distracting to myself or other students. The same guidelines apply to tablets or laptops. **Make sure your phone does not ring in 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 class after the second offense.

• There will be a zero tolerance policy for any behavior that is disruptive of classroom learning. This includes use of vulgar language or rude behavior toward instructor or any other student in the class.

• Remember, an emergency on your part does not necessarily constitute one on mine. Cars that do not start, children who are sick, a change of work schedule, an inability to wake up in the morning, not having materials for class, a failure to understand the final exam schedule and other similar problems should not be brought into my classroom. If you need exceptions or adjustments, please see me during office hours or schedule an appointment.

• Class begins promptly. Class may not begin with my lecture, but it is your responsibility to arrive before or at start of class. Remember, you choose your schedule. Walking into class during lecture is a major distraction. What happens is you are declaring to the world that your inability to arrive on time is more important than the instructor and a room full of other people. Tardiness is unacceptable. Therefore, **the classroom door will be locked upon my entry**. Please do not embarrass yourself further by knocking.

• Present means you are alert, prepared, and participating. If you fall asleep in a business meeting, I would expect you to be written up or fired at your job. It is also distracting, disrespectful, and counterproductive. If you are going to sleep, stay at home. **If you sleep in class, I may ask you to leave and will mark you absent for the day.**

• Students should make arrangements with the instructor in advance if they need to leave class before dismissal. However, these should be rare occurrences. School should always be at or near the top of your priority list and rarely should other things override class time.

• The courses I teach deal almost exclusively with the two most potentially volatile subjects known to humankind: religion and politics. However, here we consider these on academic terms only. Please, do not take topics discussed personally. Learn to separate the intellectual from the emotional.

**Online Course Policies:**

- **Email:** When you email me always be sure to include your first and last name and the course in which you are enrolled. I have several different Internet classes this session and it will help me get an answer to you faster.
STUDENT INFORMATION

NAME ________________________________

EMAIL ________________________________

MAJOR DEGREE PLAN ________________________________

MAY 2015 GRADUATE? ________ Yes ________ No

MOST INTERESTING POLITICAL TOPIC:

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

LEAST INTERESTING POLITICAL TOPIC:

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

My initials beside and my signature below the following statements indicates that I understand their meaning and/or consequences.

________ I have read and understand the course syllabus and schedule.

________ Only four absences are allowed for this course.

________ A no tolerance texting on cell phone policy is in place for this course. If I am caught texting on my cell phone during class, I will be dropped from the course immediately.

________ A civic portfolio is required for this course.

________ All unit exams are to be taken by the date indicated in the course syllabus.

________ All assignments are due by the date indicated in the course syllabus. Failure to submit an assignment as stated will result in a “0” for the assignment.

_________________________________________  ______________________________
STUDENT SIGNATURE  DATE

Thank you for your input!