



RANGER COLLEGE
STEPHENVILLE, TEXAS

COURSE SYLLABUS

Texas Government

GOVT 2306

3 credit hours

Face to Face

INSTRUCTOR:

Nancy Nutto Hughes

INSTRUCTOR: Nancy Nutto Hughes
EMAIL: nhughes@rangercollege.edu
OFFICE: By appointment
PHONE: 254-631-2377
HOURS: By appointment

I. Texas Core Curriculum Statement of Purpose

Through the Texas Core Curriculum, students will gain a foundation of knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world, develop principles of personal and social responsibility for living in a diverse world, and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning.

II. Course Description

A study of the organization of state and local governments with particular emphasis on the constitution and governmental system of Texas.

III. Required Background or Prerequisite

Only prerequisites are a desire to learn, a willingness to learn and consider different viewpoints, and the self-discipline to prepare for class, timely complete assignments, and prepare for exams.

IV. Required Textbook and Course Materials

Brown, Lyle C., Joyce A. Langenegger, Sonia R. Garcia, Ted A. Lewis, and Robert E. Biles. Practicing Texas Politics. 17th Edition. 2018.
ISBN-10: 1305952022 ISBN-13: 9781305952027

Additional course material include (but are not limited to) handouts, power point presentations, assigned reading materials, and videos. These will be available both in class and on Blackboard.

V. Course Purpose

Focus on consideration of the Constitution of the United States and the constitutions of the states, with special emphasis on that of Texas. Course involves the analysis of governmental institutions, political behavior, civic engagement, and their political and philosophical foundations.

VI. Learning Outcomes

- Explain the origin and development of the Texas constitution.
- Describe state and local political systems and their relationship with the federal government.

- Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice in Texas.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of Texas government.
- Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in Texas.
- Analyze the state and local election process.
- Identify the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
- Analyze issues, policies and political culture of Texas

VII. Core Objectives

This course meets the following of the six Core Objectives established by Texas:

- Critical Thinking Skills (CT)** – Creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis; evaluation and synthesis of information
- Communication Skills (COM)** – effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication
- Empirical and Quantitative Skills (EQS)** – The manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
- Teamwork (TW)** – The ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
- Social Responsibility (SR)** – Intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
- Personal Responsibility (PR)** – The ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making

VIII. Methods of Instruction

This course is taught in units. For each unit, there will be assigned reading, lecture, power point presentations, discussion of relevant current events, and a unit exam. In addition, relevant videos will be used. Some units may include additional assignments and hot topics (mini essays). In place of a term paper, a semester project is utilized.

IX. Methods of Assessment

- **Class Participation (10% of course grade)(CT, COM, SR, PR).**
Class participation includes:
 - Preparing for attending class
 - Having a current event that relates to government
(international, national, state, or local) for each class meeting.
 - Respectfully participating in discussions

Answering questions in class

Turning in class assignments

- **Unit Exams (50 % total)(CT, COM, SR, PR).** An exam will be given after each of the 6 units. Exams will be a combination of essay, short answer, fill in the blank, and multiple choice.
- **Meeting Project (10 % of course grade)(CT, COM,SR, PR).** This project may be completed individually.
- **Semester Project (10 % of course grade)(CT, COM, SR, PR).** During the course, collect 10 political cartoons. For each cartoon, describe what the cartoons portrays, identify and an analysis the current event the cartoon is documenting, and give your pion of the issue the cartoon addresses. This is in place of a term paper, so give this project your due diligence.
- **Class Assignments (10 % of course grade)(CT, COM, SR, PR).** Will be posted on Blackboard.
- **Comprehensive Final (10% of course grade)(CT, COM, SR, PR).** Final will be essay, short answer, fill in the blank, and multiple choice.
- **Extra credit (COM,PR).** Extra credit is available for:
 - Turning in the Meeting and/or Cartoon Project any time before the day of the actual due date. Up to 5 points added to grade on project.
 - Personally interviewing a public elected official and writing a short, concise paper concerning the interview including your opinion. Paper must be turned in by due date. Up to three points may be added to your course average.

Grading scale: A = 90-100% B = 80-89 C = 70-79 D = 60-69 F = Below 60

X. Course/Classroom Policies

1. Attend class. It is very hard to learn if you are not present.
2. Attend class prepared. It is very hard to learn if you are not mentally, emotionally, and intellectually present.
3. Unexcused absences. The only excused absences are those defined by Ranger College. If you know ahead of time you will be absent, notify me either in person or by email. If unforeseen circumstances occur, let me know ASAP. Do not wait until he final to inform me.
4. Make up work. A make up for a missed unit exam may be taken within 2 weeks of the original exam date. After that, a grade of 0 will be entered for the exam. There are no makes up for anything else in this course.
5. Late work. Late work will not receive full credit. The later the work, the less the credit.
6. DO NOT CHEAT. You will take a quiz over plagiarism. First time, you will get a zero on the assignment/exam/project. Second time, you will be pursed under any or all possible consequence authorized by Ranger College.
7. NO HAND CRACK. Hand crack is all those electronic digital gizmos we are all addicted to...including but not limited to cell phones, tablets, laptops, recording devises, headphones, music/media players. Keep them up and out of sight. If there is some

massive overriding circumstance where you are expecting a extremely significant call, tell me before class.

8. Contacting me. If you have assignments to turn in or unforeseeable circumstances, confusion over material or an assignment, or any other class related issue, contact me. Email me at nhughes@rangercollege.edu. Include your name, course, and class time/section. I make effort to respond within 24 hours. Please keep in mind that students tend to be nocturnal...I am not.

XI. Course Outline/Schedule

Course Units: Unit 1 review of what is government, types of governments world-wide, Federalism, Texas Constitutional History, Current Texas Constitution – its history, its writing, and its content.
 Unit 2 – Executive Branch
 Unit 3 – Legislative Branch
 Unit 4 – Judicial Branch
 Unit 5 – Local Government
 Unit 6 - Political Process, Open Meeting Act, Sunset Legislation, Civil Rights Act

Dates may be subject to revision. Any revisions will be announced in calls, posted on Blackboard, and announcement send on Blackboard.

Week	Topic/Assignment
1	Introduction to Course, Unit 1
2	Unit 1
3	Rw & Exam
4	Unit 2
5	Unit 2
6	Rw & Test Unit 2, Unit 3
7	Unit 3, election project due
8	Rw & Test Unit 3
9	Unit 4
10	Unit 4
11	Rw & Test Unit 4, Unit 5
12	Unit 5
13	Unit 5, Cartoon & Meeting due, Extra Credit due
14	Rw & Exam Unit 5, Unit 6
15	Course Review
16	Final

XII. Non-Discrimination Statement

Admissions, employment, and program policies of Ranger College are nondiscriminatory in regard to race, creed, color, sex, age, disability, and national origin.

XIII. ADA Statement

Ranger College provides a variety of services for students with learning and/or physical disabilities. Students are responsible for making initial contact with the Ranger College Counselor, Gabe Lewis (glewis@rangercollege.edu). It is advisable to make this contact before or immediately after the semester begins.