



RANGER COLLEGE  
RANGER, TEXAS

---

COURSE SYLLABUS

**TEXAS GOVERNMENT**

**GOVT 2306**

**3 credit hours**

**INSTRUCTOR:**

**Dr. Yong-Hee Park**

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Yong-Hee Park  
EMAIL: ypark@rangercollege.edu  
OFFICE: Business Building  
PHONE: 254.267.7016  
HOURS: Mon/Tue/Wed. 15:00-17:00, Thur. 15:00-14:00, or by appointment

**Special Notice from the Department of Education**

**“In case of fire or other emergency, the nearest exit from this classroom is \_\_\_\_\_.” Please remain outside the building until otherwise notified by college officials.”**

**I. TEXAS CORE CURRICULUM STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

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**

GOVT 2306--Texas Government (3-0): A study of the Texas government including: A study of the Texas State constitution; the organization and administration of the Texas governmental and political system; political participation by the individual and groups; and the principles which underlie the Texas political culture.

**III. REQUIRED BACKGROUND/PREREQUISITE**

Successful completion of required placement testing. Some basic knowledge of politics and government be beneficial.

**IV. TEXTBOOK/READING MATERIALS (*Required*)**

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

**V. COURSE PURPOSES**

Government 2306 is a reading intensive course designed to acquaint the learner with the origin and development of the Texas Constitution, structure and powers of state and local government, federalism and intergovernmental relations, political participation, the election process, public policy, and the political culture of Texas. This course meets the statutory requirements as set forth by the state of Texas.

**VI. LEARNING OUTCOMES**

After studying all materials and resources presented in the course, the student will be able to:

- 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 directly meets the following of the six Core Objectives.

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

## VIII. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

This class will convey the course material through lectures, discussions, primary/secondary documents, instructional videos and PowerPoint presentations. Reciprocally, students are expected to take notes, listen proactively, ask questions, conduct service learning, and read the textbook.

## IX. METHODS OF ASSESSMENT

- **Class participation (10 percent of total grade) (PR, COM)** – This includes regular attendance and participation in class discussions, including required posts uploaded to the Discussion Board in Blackboard. Strong class participation does not mean simply “talking a lot” in class. It means speaking in an informed way about the readings,

synthesizing the comments of others, and listening with respect and attention to the diverse backgrounds and perspectives of your peers. You will receive a class participation grade at the midpoint of the semester and again at the end, based on your attendance and active participation, as well as your completion of, or failure to complete, any given assignments.

- **10 Discussions (20 percent) (PR, SR)** – Careful examination of assigned readings is essential for this reading-and-discussion-based course, so you will be held accountable for completion of the reading assignments. Discussions will assess your knowledge and understanding of what you have read, focusing especially on the technical terminology of government and politics of Texas or Federal. These discussions may also focus on matters that are not in the readings but that emerge as a special focus of collective student interest during preceding class discussions.
  - NOTE: You are responsible for knowing the information in all of the readings even if I do not directly talk about all of it in classroom lectures and discussions.
- **An Essay (10 percent) (CT, COM, SR)** – You will write an essay (3-5 pages) in which you explain how you would evaluate James Madison’s federalist paper 51.
- **First Midterm Exam (20 percent) (CT, SR, PR)** – There will be an in-class midterm exam focusing on basic knowledges about politics and government, U.S. constitution, and federalism.
- **Second Midterm Exam (20 percent) (CT, SR, PR)** -- There will be an in-class midterm exam focusing on civil liberties, civil rights, political parties, interest groups, and campaigns and elections.
- **Final Exam (20 percent) (CT, COM, SR, PR)** – This is not a comprehensive in-class final exam focusing on three branches of government, the legislative, the executive (Presidency), and the judicial.

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

### Grading Summary

- First Mid-term Exam:            20% of your semester grade
- Second Midterm Exam            20% of your semester grade
- Final Exam:                        20% of your semester grade
- Assignments/Homework:        20% of your semester grade
- Essay:                                10% of your semester grade
- A. Participation/Attendance:    10% of your semester grade

## X. CLASS POLICIES

The following rules and guidelines about classroom behavior are to be memorized, internalized, and strictly adhered to. Failure to do so will negatively impact your experience of this class, not to mention your grade.

1. **Arrive on time.** Class begins promptly at the scheduled time. This means you should be in your seat and ready to begin.

2. **Always bring the assigned reading to class.** If there is an assigned reading on a given class day, class time will be devoted to discussing that reading. We will also read some things aloud together. In order for you to participate in close readings and discussions, it is imperative that you have in hand all of the assigned texts for each day, including printouts (preferably annotated by you) of any texts provided electronically.
3. **Come to class prepared.** You are expected to participate in class discussions and come to class meetings having completed all assigned readings and written work.
4. **Turn in assignments on time.** By accepting this syllabus, you agree to accept a score of zero on any late work.
5. **Don't cheat.** Any assignment reflecting cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty will receive a grade of zero. A second instance will result in automatic failure of the class and a report being filed with Ranger College's Vice President of Instruction. The consequences of this report can be quite severe for your academic future. For more details, see the section of the Ranger College Catalog (available at [www.rangercollege.edu/catalog.pdf](http://www.rangercollege.edu/catalog.pdf)), titled "Student Misconduct," subsection "Academic Dishonesty."
6. **Six absences = Dropped from class with a failing grade.** I expect you to attend class regularly. As per Ranger College's stated absence policy in the general college catalog (see pages 25-26 at <http://rangercollege.edu/catalog.pdf>), the only absences that will be excused are "official" ones, defined as those that occur due to authorized Ranger College activities (such as sporting events). Unofficial absences are counted from the first day of class as listed in the College Calendar, regardless of the date of your registration.
7. **No phones, laptops, or tablets. Ever. This even includes using a phone or computer to access course materials.** Your phone must be turned off and properly stowed in your bag or otherwise stored off your person prior to class takeoff. Your phone should NEVER be in your hand, on your desk, in your pocket, or anywhere else that it might distract you, your classmates, or me. Don't even bring a laptop or tablet to a class. Basically, anything with a microchip in it is off-limits. My experience is that all digital devices effectively destroy the classroom atmosphere, as about ninety percent of people using them will be texting, playing games, doing email, shopping, surfing Facebook and YouTube, and so on. I am not (totally) anti-technology. I simply want to preserve the sacred teaching space of our classroom as a teaching space. I want to have a conversation with you. And long experience as an educator has shown me that allowing students to use digital devices in class is a surefire way to undermine that goal.
8. **Missed Major Exams and Assignment Make-Up and Grading Policies**
  - A. Make-up work must be turned in within one week of returning to class.
  - B. The student may take make-up exams only by appointment.
  - C. A grade of zero will be given for any missed exam that is not excused.
  - D. It is the sole responsibility of the student to acquire the lecture notes and any other class material covered during their absence.

E. For all late work a penalty of 10% will be applied for each day it is late. Make-up exams and quizzes will only be administered after class has been completed or by appointment.

9. **Email:** I am happy to communicate with you by email and will do my best to respond within 24 hours during the week. Messages sent over the weekend will be read on Mondays. In the subject line of any email that you send me, please indicate the content of the email. Then begin your message in the following manner:

Dear Dr. Park,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am in your Texas Government class.

**XI. COURSE OUTLINE/ SCHEDULE**

Week	Chapter	Title	Remark
1 <sup>st</sup> week	Syllabus	Introduction, Syllabus and Basic Knowledge	
2 <sup>nd</sup> week	Chapter 1	Basic Knowledge and The Environment of Texas Politics	
3 <sup>rd</sup> week	Chapter 2	Federalism and the Texas Constitution	
4 <sup>th</sup> week	Chapter 3	Local Government	
5 <sup>th</sup> week	<b>First Midterm Exam</b>	<b>Covers Basic Knowledge, Chapter 1 and 2</b>	
6 <sup>th</sup> week	Chapter 4	Political Parties	
7 <sup>th</sup> week	Chapter 5	Campaigns and Elections	
8 <sup>th</sup> week	Chapter 6	The Politics of Interest Groups	
9 <sup>th</sup> week	<b>Second Midterm Examination</b>	<b>Covers Chapter 3,4, 5 and 6</b>	
10 <sup>th</sup> week	Chapter 7	The Legislature	
11 <sup>th</sup> week	Chapter 7	The Legislative	
12 <sup>th</sup> week	Chapter 8	The Executive	
13 <sup>th</sup> week	Chapter 8	The Executive	
14 <sup>th</sup> week	Chapter 10	The Judicial Branch	
15 <sup>th</sup> week	Chapter 10	The Judicial Branch	
16 <sup>th</sup> week	<b>Final Examination</b>	<b>Covers Chapter 7, 8, and 10)</b>	Final Exam
17 <sup>th</sup> week			

**XII. NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT**

Admission, employment, and program policies of Ranger College are non-discriminatory 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. **The student is responsible** for making the initial contact with the Range College Counselor, Gabe Lewis (glewis@rangercollege.edu). It is advisable to make this contact **before or immediately** after the semester begins.