POLS 2306 (Online):
Introductory Texas Politics
Short Summer Session 2018

Professor Eric A. Lopez
Office: BUS 227
Office Phone #: (903) 566-7371
Office Hours: Given the class format, regular office hours will not be held. However, I am readily accessible through email (expect a response within 24 hours) if you should have any questions, or would like to schedule an appointment to discuss any matter related to the course.
Email: elopez@uttyler.edu
• I will only reply to email from an official UT-Tyler email account

Course Description and Objectives
Written constitutions define the powers and responsibilities of government while simultaneously establishing the limits of government. To better understand these concepts, this course is designed to provide an introductory analysis and evaluation of the political systems established by both the U.S. and Texas constitutions. Throughout the course students will:
• Critically examine the philosophical foundations of both political systems by exploring the historical debates and writings that shaped the formation of these documents.
• Distinguish and identify the key differences and similarities between the three branches of government at the National and State level.
• Appraise current events (at both the National and State level) to highlight the applicability and importance of both constitutions in today’s society.
• Consider the formation of partisan preferences.
• Evaluate how partisanship has shaped Texas into a one-party state and the consequences of this affiliation.

Credit Hours: 3; Prerequisites: None

Required Texts
3) Additional required readings will be posted in Canvas.

Requirements, Dates, and Grades
Success in the class will require you to have the ability to log into Canvas daily, since Canvas will be the medium used to deliver the class content (e.g. lectures, readings, quizzes, and exams). Further, this course’s brevity ensures that it will be reading/work intensive. Since we do not “meet” for class, completing the required assignments should not be too daunting as they are structured to allow you to work at your own pace. Please, pay close attention to all due dates for the assignments.

To ease completion and distribution of course material, this course is organized into 10 Modules. Beginning with Module 1, students will need to complete the assigned readings, view all content (e.g. lectures, short videos), and complete all assignments within a given Module in order to proceed to the next Module (Canvas does allow you to save your progress, so that you do not have to complete a given Module in one sitting).

Each Module is structured as follows:

Module Content
1) Learning Objectives
   • Brief overview of the learning objectives of the Module.

2) Readings and Content
   • Readings, and the Reading Schedule, can also be found in the Course Outline and Readings section of the syllabus.
• All readings that do not come from the **Required Texts** for this class can be found in their respective Module. In the **Course Outline and Readings** section, these readings are marked as being located on Canvas.

3) Video Lecture(s)
• Each Module contains a video lecture(s) concerning the readings and related content.

4) Review Questions
• Students will be provided review questions concerning the Module Content. **Answering these questions will not count towards your final grade;** however, they will serve as the basis for your review for Exam 1, Exam 2, and the Final Exam. Therefore, keep track of the questions and be able to answer them. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me for help/clarification.

5) Module Quizzes
• At the end of each module, a quiz will be distributed.
• These quizzes will cover all information that should have been read/viewed for the Module.
• You only have one shot at them (you will be unable to stop, restart, etc). Only open and take a Module Quiz when you have finished reading and viewed all the content of each module.
  o Carefully follow the directions provided.
  o These quizzes WILL count towards your final grade. (A total of 10 quizzes will compose your Quiz Grade for the course.) Therefore, only begin once you have completed the Module content.
  o You will be unable to begin the next Module until you have completed the previous Module’s quiz.

**Exams**
Exam 1, Exam 2, and the Final Exam will be held online on the dates specified below. Please carefully read the instructions provide for each exam, paying close attention to when the exam will be open and when it is due. Most importantly, you will only have one chance to complete each exam (e.g. you are not allowed to stop, save, and finish later). **No exams will be accepted after 12:00p.m. on the testing dates listed below.**

These exams will **only cover** readings and course materials prior to the date of the exam (i.e. no Exam in this course is cumulative). Please note:
• Exam 1 will test your comprehension of material from 5/14 – 5/18
• Exam 2 will test your comprehension of material from 5/21 – 5/25
• The Final Exam will test your comprehension of material from 5/28 – 6/1
Grades and Due Dates
The following are the weights given to the Module Quizzes, Exam 1, Exam 2, and the Final Exam (and the date that each is due):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Date Due (Subject to Change)</th>
<th>Grade Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module Quizzes</td>
<td>Per Module</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>May 19 – May 21</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>May 26 – May 28</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>June 2 – June 4</td>
<td>30%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Final grades will be granted on the following scale: A=100%-90%, B=89%-80%, C=79%-70%, D=69%-60%, and F=59%-50%.

Policy Concerning Canvas and Submitting Papers
The Professor is conscious to the fact that Canvas can be unreliable at times. If you are having trouble posting in the discussion forums, accessing posted readings, or submitting an assignment, please inform me about the issue and attach the relevant assignment. All times listed in this syllabus correspond to the Central Time Zone, since this corresponds with UT-Tyler’s time zone. Late assignments will be penalized a letter grade for each day they are late and none will be accepted after June 4, 2018.

If any conflict (other tests, travel plans, etc.) with an assignment’s due date exists that you feel will not allow you to complete the assignments on time, notify me of your situation by Friday, May 28, 2018. Be advised that allowances (e.g. extensions) will only be given in extreme cases with my discretion as to what I define as extreme. Late papers will only be accepted, without penalty, in the case of an unforeseen event, such as a sudden emergency (death in your family, illness, etc.), or if you have an approved absence by the Dean of Students (see also: Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities and Student Absence due to Religious Observance sections of the syllabus).

Technical Information
If you experience technical problems or have a technical question about this course, you can obtain assistance by emailing itsupport@patriots.uttyler.edu or call 903.565.5555.

When you email IT Support, be sure to include a complete description of your question or problem including:
- The title and number of the course
- The page in question
- If you get an error message, a description and message number
- What you were doing at the time you got the error message

Plug-ins and Helper Applications
UT Tyler online courses use Java, JavaScript, browser plug-ins, helper application and cookies. It is essential that you have these elements installed and enabled in your web browser for optimal
viewing of the content and functions of your online course. Always ensure that you are using the most update version for the browser you choose to access the online learning content.

**NOTE:** Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the recommended browsers for Canvas.

- **Adobe Flash Player** allows you to view content created with Flash such as interactive web applications and animations. [http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/](http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/)

**Netiquette Guide**

"Netiquette" is network etiquette, the do's and don'ts of online communication. Netiquette covers both common courtesy online and informal "rules of the road" of cyberspace. Review and familiarize yourself with the guidelines provided. [http://www.learnthenet.com/learn-about/netiquette/index.php](http://www.learnthenet.com/learn-about/netiquette/index.php)

**UT Tyler Honor Code & Students’ Rights and Responsibilities**

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do. Students Rights and Responsibilities To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: [http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php](http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php)

**“Make Up” Policy**

Make up exams and Module Quizzes will only be offered to those students that have a University approved absence, a doctor’s note detailing your inability to take the exam/quiz on the date provided on this syllabus, or a sudden emergency (e.g. death in your family, illness) that prohibits your attendance for the exam/quiz on the date provided on this syllabus. Anyone who has not satisfied any of these requirements and does not take the exam/quiz will be given a grade of “0.”

Recall, if any conflict (others tests, travel plans, etc.) with the exams/quizzes exists, notify me by Friday, May 28, 2018. Be advised that allowances will only be given in extreme cases with my discretion as to what I define as extreme. (see also: Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities and Student Absence due to Religious Observance sections of the syllabus).

**Student Absence Due to Religious Observance**
Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the Professor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

**Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities**
If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the Professor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the Professor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

**Student Standards of Academic Conduct**
The UT Tyler community regards cheating as an extremely serious matter and deals severely with those who violate the standards of academic integrity. Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

“Cheating” includes, but is not limited to:
- copying from another student’s test paper;
- using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
- possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed “crib notes”. The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
- using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
- collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
- discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
- divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructors has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
- substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
- paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
- falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
• taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
• misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.

“Plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the submission of it as one’s own academic work offered for credit.

“Collusion” includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software.

If a student is suspected of academic dishonesty, the classroom instructor may ask the student to meet with him or her to discuss the incident. A student may admit to allegations of academic dishonesty, waive the right to a hearing and accept penalties imposed by the instructor. The student may also deny all allegations and ask to see the Dean of Student Affairs. An accused student may accept the decision of the Dean of Student Affairs or ask for a hearing before an impartial hearing officer appointed by the university. Witnesses may be called and evidence presented. The hearing officer will consider all evidence and make a decision. The decision of the hearing officer may be appealed to the President by either the student or the Dean of Student Affairs. For further discussion of academic dishonesty and possible penalties, please see: http://www.uttyler.edu/judicialaffairs/scholasticdishonesty.php

Class Conduct and Threatening Behavior
Given the nature of political discourse, some of the topics discussed and debated in class may be sensitive to some students. It is expected that students, regardless of the subject matter, maintain civility in their class comments and online interactions. The University and the Professor seek to promote a safe environment where students may participate in debates, discussion, and other objectives concurrent with the educational process without compromising their health, safety, and welfare. Concurrent with this ideal, mutual courtesy and respect should govern all classroom conduct (both in-class and online). Therefore, threats of physical harm or verbal abuse will not be tolerated in this class.

Campus Carry
We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a
handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at: http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php

**UT Tyler: A Tobacco-Free University**
All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors. Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products.

There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit: www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free.

**Disability Services**
In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychiatric disabilities. If you have a disability, including non-visible disabilities such as chronic diseases, learning disabilities, head injury, PTSD or ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment you are encouraged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources office and schedule an interview with the Accessibility Case Manager/ADA Coordinator, Cynthia Lowery Staples. If you are unsure if the above criteria applies to you, but have questions or concerns please contact the SAR office. For more information or to set up an appointment please visit the SAR office located in the University Center, Room 3150 or call (903) 566-7079. You may also send an email to: cstaples@uttyler.edu

If you are registered with the SAR office, please set up a meeting with the Professor to discuss what accommodations should be made to ensure your success in the class.

**Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies**
Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar.

Each semester’s Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar. Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.
The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a “W” grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid State-Mandated Course

The Census Date for this semester is Tuesday, May 15, 2018.

Course Drop Policy
Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date). Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions. Disability/Accessibility Services In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit: https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler (and fill out the New Student application). The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director of Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at: http://www.utttyler.edu/disabilityservices. The SAR office located in the University Center, # 3150 or call 903.566.7079.

Social Security and FERPA Statement
It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g. via e-mail) risks
violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation
Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your Professor’s directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform the Professor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

UT Tyler Resources for Students
• UT Tyler Writing Center (903.565.5995), writingcenter@uttyler.edu
• UT Tyler Tutoring Center (903.565.5964), tutoring@uttyler.edu
• The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, this is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.
• UT Tyler Counseling Center (903.566.7254)

Changes to the Syllabus
The information contained in this syllabus, other than the grade and absence policies, may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the Professor.

Course Outline and Readings (subject to change)
Each subsequent Module on Canvas will be available in accordance with the dates on the reading list. While you are free to work on these modules on your own time, you should be completing and beginning new modules in accordance with the schedule provided below.

5/14: Introduction to the Course
• Review the syllabus and familiarize yourself with Canvas
  o From the home screen, you can find a link to the syllabus and a link to the course modules.
• To access module content, click on the Modules link on the left-side menu. From there, please read/view all content in the Introduction to the Course Module.
  o You will be unable to proceed to Module 1 content until you have done so.
  o Your first assignment is listed in this module, as you are expected to introduce yourself using the FlipGrid prompt provided.
• Students are expected to email the Professor to confirm that they have read the syllabus and understand the assignments, requirements, and structure for this course (if any questions should arise during your review of the syllabus, please do not hesitate to email me for clarification).
Unit 1 – Foundations of the Texas Constitution

5/14 & 5/15: Module 1 – Revolutionary Thought
• 5/14 – Module opens at 8:00am
• 5/15 – FYI: CENSUS DATE
• Read:
  o Virginia Declaration of Rights (Canvas)
  o The Declaration of Independence (Canvas)
  o Barnett, Randy. “What the Declaration of Independence Really Claimed.” The Volohk Conspiracy (Canvas)
  o Federalist #10 (Seagrave)
  o OPTIONAL:
    ▪ John Locke – Second Treatise of Civil Government, Chs. 1-2 (Canvas)
    ▪ Samuel Adams – The Rights of Colonists (Canvas)
    ▪ Thomas Paine – Common Sense (Canvas)
• View Lecture(s):
  o Revolutionary Thought (Canvas)
  o Federalist 10 (Canvas)
• Quiz 1: Due at 12:00pm on 5/16

5/16 & 5/17: Module 2 – The U.S. Constitution
• 5/16 – Module opens at 8:00am
• Read:
  o Articles of Confederation (Canvas)
  o Constitution of the United States (Seagrave)
  o The Bill of Rights (Seagrave)
  o Geer et al. Chapters 2 & 3 (Canvas)
  o Federalist #’s 1, 10, 15, 39, & 51 (Seagrave)
  o OPTIONAL:
    ▪ Distinctive Features and Outline of the U.S. Constitution
• View Lecture(s):
  o The Articles vs. The Constitution (Canvas)
  o Article 1 (Canvas)
  o Article 2 (Canvas)
  o Article 3 (Canvas)
  o OPTIONAL:
    ▪ The U.S. Constitution (Canvas)
• **Quiz 2:** Due at 12:00pm on 5/18

5/18: *Module 3 – The Texas Constitution*
• 5/18 – Module opens at 8:00am
• Read:
  o The Texas Declaration of Independence (Canvas)
  o The Texas Constitution (Maxwell Chapters 2 & 3)
• **View Lecture(s):**
  o The Texas Constitution (Canvas)
• **Quiz 3:** Due at 12:00pm on 5/21

Exam 1 (May 19 – May 21)
• Exam must be completed by 12:00pm on Monday, May 21st
• Exam will be distributed at 8:00am on Saturday, May 19th
• Please carefully read the directions provided in Canvas

![Texas election map]

**Unit 2 – Understanding and Analyzing Texas Politics**

• 5/21 – Module opens at 8:00am
• Read:
  o Voting and Elections in Texas (Maxwell Chapter 4)
• **View Lecture(s):**
  o Voting and Elections in Texas, Parts 1, 2, and 3 (Canvas)
• **Quiz 4:** Due at 12:00pm on 5/23

5/23 & 5/24: *Module 5 – Political Parties*
• 5/23 – Module opens at 8:00am
• Read:
  o Political Parties (Maxwell Chapter 5)
• **View Lecture(s):**
  o Political Parties in Texas, Parts 1 and 2 (Canvas)
• **Quiz 5:** Due at 12:00pm on 5/25

5/25: *Module 6 – Interest Groups*
• 5/25 – Module opens at 8:00am
• Read:
Interest Groups (Maxwell Chapter 6)

- **View Lecture(s)**
  - Interest Groups in Texas (Canvas)

- **Quiz 6**: Due at 12:00pm on 5/28

**Exam 2 (May 26 – May 28)**
- Exam must be completed by 12:00pm on Monday, May 28th
- Exam will be distributed at 8:00am on Saturday, May 26th
- Please carefully read the directions provided in Canvas

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**Unit 3 – Institutions of Texas Government**

**5/28 & 5/29: Module 7 – The Legislative Branch**
- **5/28** – Module opens at 8:00am
- **Read:**
  - Article 1 of the Constitution of the United States (Seagrave)
  - 17th and 20th Amendments of the Constitution of the United States (Seagrave)
  - House of Representatives: *Federalist* #’s 51, 54 & 57 (Seagrave)
  - Senate: *Federalist* #’s 62 (Seagrave)
  - The Texas Legislature (Maxwell Chapter 7)
- **View Lecture(s):**
  - The Texas Legislature, Parts 1 and 2 (Canvas)
- **Quiz 7**: Due at 12:00pm on 5/30

**5/29 & 5/30: Module 8 – The Legislative Process**
- **5/29** – Module opens at 8:00am
- **5/29** – FYI: Last Day to Drop/Withdraw From Classes
- **Read:**
  - The Legislative Process (Maxwell Chapter 7)
  - Public Policy in Texas (Maxwell Chapter 12)
- **View Lecture(s):**
  - The Legislative Process, Part 1 and 2 (Canvas)
  - Public Policy in Texas (Canvas)
- **Quiz 8**: Due at 12:00pm on 5/31

**5/31: Module 9 – The Executive Branch**
- **5/31** – Module opens at 8:00am
• Read:
  o Article 2 of the Constitution of the United States (Seagrave)
  o 12th, 20th, 22nd, 25th, and 27th Amendments of the Constitution of the United States (Seagrave)
  o Federalist #’s 70 & 71 (Seagrave)
  o Texas’ Governor and the Bureaucracy (Maxwell Chapter 8)
• View Lecture(s):
  o The Governor and Elected Executives (Canvas)
• Quiz 9: Due at 12:00pm on 6/1

6/1: Module 10 – The Judicial Branch
• 6/1 – Module opens at 8:00am
• Read:
  o Article 3 of the Constitution of the United States (Seagrave)
  o Federalist #’s 78 (Seagrave)
  o Marbury v. Madison (1803) (Canvas)
  o Texas’ Judicial Branch (Maxwell Chapters 9 & 10)
• View Lecture(s):
  o The Texas Judiciary (Canvas)
  o Judicial Selection and Retention (Canvas)
• Quiz 10: Due at 12:00pm on 6/4

Final Exam (June 2 – June 4)
• Exam must be completed by 12:00pm on Monday, June 4th
• Exam will be distributed at 8:00am on Saturday, June 2nd
• Please carefully read the directions provided in Canvas