POLS 2306.60 Introductory Texas Politics  
University of Texas at Tyler Summer 1 2012  

On the Internet

Instructor Information
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Required Text

Layout
There are five Units in this course each of which contains reading assignments and chapter quizzes. Each unit should be completed in the one week period allotted.

There will be five exams, each worth 100 points. They will consist of 50 two-point objective questions. You will have 50 minutes maximum to take each of the five exams. If you are unable to take a test during the assigned time period, you need to contact the instructor ASAP. *Except in extreme cases, make-up exams will not be allowed.*

BlackBoard
This is an online course. All course materials, quizzes, assignments and exams are here. You must use your assigned Patriot email account for communication

Grading Policy
Unit one exam 100 pts  
Unit two exam 100 pts  
Unit three exam 100 pts  
Unit four exam 100 pts  
Unit five exam 100 pts  
Fourteen Chapter quizzes 140 pts  
Total 640 pts

Grade scale (in points)
90-100% A 576-640 A  
80-99% B 512-575 B  
70-79% C 448-511 C  
60-69% D 384-447 D  
59% and below F 446 and below F
**Course Objectives**
This course offers an introduction to Texas state and local government. It will supply the student with a framework for analyzing the constitutional basis for Texas government, the processes of Texas government as well as the institutions and the policies of Texas government. In addition to understanding the formal structures and processes of government emphasis is also placed on the realities of the political system.

At the conclusion of this class students should be able to identify top elected officials in Texas government and their primary duties; understand the Texas budget process; have a basic understanding of the Texas judicial system and the process of electing judges; have a working knowledge of the legislative process, legislative leaders, the committee system and policy decisions facing state leaders and be familiar with the duties of county and city officials.

This course is meant to be an overview of Texas government with the main purpose of showing students how the process works and the responsibility of citizens to follow politics and become active participants beyond voting.

**Learning Outcomes**
After successfully completing this course, students should be able to demonstrate:
- familiarity with terminology used to study political science and state and local government
- basic knowledge of the historical evolution of Texas governmental structures
- an understanding of the constitutional, institutional, political and legal processes and structures within the state of Texas
- comprehension of the interrelationships of national and local and state governments
- recognition of the role of states in implementing public policy
- awareness of basic values of Texas political culture

**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/StudentRightsandResponsibilities.html

**Grade Replacement/Forgiveness**
If you are repeating this course for a grade replacement, you must file an intent to receive grade forgiveness with the registrar by the 12th day of class. Failure to do so will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates will receive grade forgiveness (grade replacement) for only three course repeats; graduates, for two course repeats during his/her career at UT Tyler.
State-Mandated 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 12th day of class (See Schedule of Classes for the specific date). Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Registrar’s Office and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Registrar’s Office if you have any questions.

Disability Services
In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodation must provide documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Support Services counselor. If you have a disability, including a learning disability, for which you request an accommodation, please contact Ida MacDonald in the Disability Support Services office in UC 282, or call (903) 566-7079.

Student Absence due to Religious Observance
Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor 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 instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

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.