



# Texas Government GOVT. 2306 - Web SYLLABUS

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<b>Surface Mail:</b>	<b>Odessa College 201 West University Odessa, Texas 79764</b>
<b>Office Hours:</b>	<b>Contact by email</b>
<b>Blackboard:</b>	<b>Beginning December 18, click here to go to the <a href="#">Blackboard login page</a>. Click here to go to the <a href="#">Blackboard login page</a>. The OC webmaster will enroll you in this course on Blackboard. Once that is done, you will only need to login each time, click "Courses", then "Government 2306", and you will be in my course for test-taking, assignments, announcements, etc. <i><u>5 bonus points for each if submitted in the first 3 days if the course!</u></i></b>
<b>Recommended Blackboard Training Session</b>	<b>All students MUST attend one of the following Blackboard Training sessions in the LRC 2nd floor Bib Lab: 1. Tuesday, December 18 – 12 noon <i><u>20 bonus points for attending one session!</u></i></b>

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To present the basic concepts of politics that will better enable you, the student, to understand Texas government and politics.
2. To motivate you, the student, to take an interest in and understand issues and problems facing the United States, Texas, and Odessa or city which you live in.
3. To stimulate you, the student, to exercise your privileges and obligations as a U.S. citizen, through participation in local, state, and national political activities.

## DROP POLICY

You are responsible for dropping this class if you quit doing the work. The instructor **will not** do so . Failure to drop results in an F.

## DISCUSSION GROUPS

We will have several discussion group topics in this course. The discussions are not 'at will' but are considered an

integral part of your learning. The selected topics will be posted online with specific instructions and due date. You will receive a grade for your discussion and responses to the other students' comments. **Students must participate in all two discussion topics. At the end of the discussion period, students must post their final "Summary" of the discussion topic on Blackboard under "Assignments"--the appropriate unit # and assignment name.** *Failure to include student's name, OC ID number, date, and assignment name at the top of page one of EVERY assignment will lead to a loss of a full letter grade on the assignment.* Please see the [discussion topics](#) for detailed instructions. To enter into the discussion area students will go to [Blackboard](#). Please follow the instructions as given. If you have any questions, please contact your [instructor](#). ***Your grade will be based on the more detailed SUMMARY you will write on the discussion topic--elaborating on your initial comments and adding your views based on reading the posted comments of fellow students in the class.***

## **EXAMINATIONS**

There will be four exams, each worth 100 points. They will consist of 50 two-point objective questions. Students will have **50 minutes** maximum to take each of the four exams. **Students will be automatically kicked out of the exam at the end of 50 minutes. A 200 point comprehensive final exam composed of all objective questions will be given. The final exam must be taken on the assigned day in either the OC Student Success Center or a secure testing facility. Arrangement must be approved by the instructor. There is no time limit for the final exam but no notes or study aids are allowed—it is a closed book exam.**

**I RESERVE THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE IF YOU HAVE A VALID REASON FOR MISSING AN EXAM. YOU WILL NOT HAVE THE CHANCE TO TAKE A MAKE-UP FOR AN INVALID REASON.**

## **MAKE-UP EXAMS AND QUIZZES**

If you are unable to take a test during the assigned time period, you need to contact the instructor ASAP. **Failure to do this will result in a loss of a letter grade on the exam.** Otherwise, there are **no make-ups. I RESERVE THE RIGHT TO DECIDE IF YOUR REASON FOR MISSING AN EXAM IS INVALID AND IF I SUSPECT IT IS, YOU WILL NOT HAVE THE CHANCE TO TAKE A MAKE-UP.**

## **DISCUSSIONS**

Two discussion topics will be posted and **mandatory** for all students to participate in as part of the discussion grade. Each question will be worth up to 100 points. **Discussion topics will be posted during the period for that unit of study.**

## **INTERNET ASSIGNMENTS**

Two Internet assignments will be required. Each will be worth a total of 100 points. The **mandatory** Internet assignments are listed--one from Unit 4 on political parties and one from Unit 6 concerning the Texas Legislature.

## **UNIT OBJECTIVE SHEETS**

Unit objective sheets for all eleven units are included in the lecture notes. They will serve both as guide to what the instructor considers important from the texts, lecture notes, research, and discussions, and what the student is expected to know at the completion of the unit. They will also serve as a good study guide for the exams because the exam questions will be drawn from these objective sheets.

## **PROJECTS**

Additional projects (research papers, book reports, etc.) beyond those assigned are optional. Topics or book must receive **instructor approval**. A written description must be submitted by the seventh week of class ( ). Projects are due **one week before** the last scheduled class. A "Project Handout" explaining specific rules to follow and describing how the project will be graded will be posted on line. A project does not and cannot be substituted for a test grade. The project grade will be counted as an additional grade to be averaged in with all other grades.

## GRADING POLICY

The final course grade will be determined on a percentage basis:

<b>90-100% = 900 points = A</b>	<b>Exam #1 100 points = 10% of course grade</b>
<b>80-89% = 800 points = B</b>	<b>Exam #2 100 points = 10% of course grade</b>
<b>70-79% = 700 points = C</b>	<b>Exam #3 100 points = 10% of course grade</b>
<b>60-69% = 600 points = D</b>	<b>Exam #4 100 points = 10% of course grade</b>
<b>Below 600 points or 60% = F</b>	<b>Two <a href="#">Discussion</a> Summaries = 200 points = 20% of course grade</b>
	<b>Two Internet Assignments = 200 points = 20% of course grade</b>
	<b>Final 200 points = 20% of course grade</b>

## BONUS POINTS

Ten points for a current voters card will be given and added to your total point count before the course grade is averaged.

## ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Online exams and papers are basically open book. However, I would prefer that you attempt to complete them without using the text or lecture notes. Exam taking should be done alone and not a collaborative effort performed with other students in the class or who have previously taken the class. ***Cheating or plagiarism will result in the grade of 0.*** **Remember, on your essays and papers, cite your sources and URL sites.**

## TEXT

Maxwell and Crain, **Texas Politics Today**, 2011-2012 edition

**\*\*The final exam must be taken at the Odessa College Testing Center or in an instructor-approved proctored testing situation on the assigned day.**

## **GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS LIST**

(For bonus points on **the final exam ONLY**.)

For help in determining ***WHO*** represents you and which district you live in, either click the links below **to access the maps:**

- [US Congressional Districts](#)
  - [State Senate Districts](#)
  - [State House Districts](#)
- [Ector County Commissioner Precincts](#)
  - [Odessa City Council Districts](#)
- [Local Board Districts \(ECISD, OC, MCH Boards\)](#)
  - [State Board of Education Districts](#)
  - [Courts of Appeals Districts](#)
  - [State District Courts Districts](#)

<b>FEDERAL</b>			
<b>Office</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Term Ends</b>
President	Barack Obama	D	Jan. 2013
Vice President	Joe Biden	D	Jan. 2013
<b>U.S. Senate</b>			
U.S. Senator	John Cornyn (TX)	R	Jan. 2015
U.S. Senator	Kay Bailey Hutchison(TX)	R	Jan. 2015
U.S. Senate Majority Leader	Harry Reid (Nev.)	D	Jan. 2013 by caucus
U.S. Senate Minority Leader	Mitch McConnell (Ky.)	R	Jan. 2013 by caucus
<b>U.S. House of Representatives</b>			
U.S. House Speaker	John Boehner (Oh.)	R	Jan. 2013 by caucus
U.S. House Majority Leader	Eric Cantor (Va.)	R	Jan. 2013 by caucus
U.S. House Minority Leader	Nancy Pelosi (CA)	R	Jan. 2013 by caucus
11th District (Ector, Andrews, Crane, Loving, Martin, Midland, Upton, Ward, & Winkler counties)	Mike Conaway	R	Jan. 2013
23rd District (Reeves, Pecos & Terrell counties)	Quinco Canseco	R	Jan. 2013
<b>U.S. Supreme Court</b>			
U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice	John Roberts		Appointed for life

<b>STATE</b>			
<b>Office</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Term Ends</b>
Governor	Rick Perry	R	Jan. 2015
Lieutenant Governor	David Dewhurst	R	Jan. 2015
<b>Texas State Senate</b>			
<b>State Senator</b>			
Dist. 31 -- (Ector, Andrews, Crane, Gaines, Glasscock, Howard, & Midland counties )	Kel Seliger	R	Jan. 2015
Dist. 28 -- (Reagan & Upton counties)	Robert Duncan	R	Jan. 2015
Dist. 19 -- (Loving, Pecos, Reeves, Terrell, Ward, & Winkler counties)	Carlos Uresti	D	Jan. 2015
<b>Texas House of Representatives</b>			



<b>E.C.I.S.D. Board of Trustees</b>			<b>Odessa College Board of Trustees</b>			<b>Ector County Hospital Board of Trustees</b>		
<b>DISTRICT</b>		<b>TERM</b>		<b>TERM</b>		<b>TERM</b>		<b>TERM</b>
<b>1</b>	Lisa Galvan	2014	Bruce Shearer	2016	Judy Hayes	2012		
<b>2</b>	Faye Batch	2012	Richard Abalos	2016	Mary Lou Anderson	2014		
<b>3</b>	Donna Smith	2014	Ralph McCain	2012	Richard Herrera	2012		
<b>4</b>	Tom Pace	2012	J.E. "Coach" Pressly	2014	David Dunn	2014		
<b>5</b>	Yollie Wilkins	2012	Ray Ann Zant	2014	Caretha Cartwright	2012		
<b>6</b>	Dr. Ray Beaty	2014	Walter Smith	2012	Mary Thompson	2014		
<b>7</b>	Donnie Norwood	2012	Gary Johnson	2014	Virgil Trower	2012		
<b>8</b>			Tara Deaver	2016				
<b>9</b>			David Turner	2012				
<b>Length of Term</b>	Term: 4 years		Term: 6 years		Term: 4 years			

**STUDENTS NOT LIVING IN ECTOR COUNTY OR ODESSA:  
LEARN YOUR COUNTY AND CITY OFFICIALS.**

**OPTIONAL PROJECTS**

To replace the lowest test grade. (EXCEPT Final Exam)

**PURPOSE:** To encourage personal involvement in a candidate's campaign, the election, issue, or interest group activities.

<b>100 points can be used to replace the lowest test grade.</b>	
20 hours of work and written report	A - 90-100 points.

17 hours of work and written report	B - 80-89 points.
14 hours of work and written report	C - 70-79 points.
11 hours of work and written report	D - 60-69 points.

**OPTION 1:** Work in a candidate's or party's campaign and hand in a 2-3 page-typewritten report of the work done, knowledge learned, and conclusions drawn.

**OPTION 2:** Work for an interest group and contribute your time and efforts to their cause and activities - letter writing, picketing, lobbying, petition drives, etc. (A list of interest groups - including local ones - are posted outside my office, DH 209.) Hand in a 2-3 page-typewritten report of the work done, knowledge learned, and conclusions drawn.

**Arrangements must be made in advance,  
with prior instructor approval.**

As to which option is chosen and what campaign or interest group is being worked with and the instructor must be able to verify hours worked, for whom, and the nature of the work. **A letter from the candidate or the organization you worked for must be mailed to the instructor for verification of your work.**

**FORMAT FOR ALL ASSIGNMENTS--WEB ASSIGNMENTS & DISCUSSION  
TOPIC SUMMARIES**

- **All Assignments are to be posted on Blackboard under "Assignments"--the appropriate unit # and assignment name.**
- **All assignments *must* be written and submitted in Microsoft Word or RTF-Rich Text Format.**

**When posting an assignment on Blackboard, please include the following information in the body or text of your assignment and use the following format:**

1. Name
2. Last 4 numbers of your soc. sec. number (ex.: #0138)
3. Unit # (ex. 1)
4. Type of Assignment (ex.: web or discussion Summary)
5. Title of Assignment (ex.: Texas Political Parties)
6. Date Submitted (ex.: Jan. 18, 2011)
7. Course (ex.: Govt. 2306 Web)

**THERE WILL BE A ONE LETTER GRADE DEDUCTION ON AN ASSIGNMENT  
GRADE FOR FAILURE TO  
INCLUDE THE ABOVE INFORMATION.**

**IMPORTANT: NO ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED MORE THAN 3  
DAYS AFTER THE DUE DATE** (All late assignments will lose at least one letter grade.)

## **ODESSA COLLEGE CODE OF STUDENT VIRTUAL COLLEGE EXPECTATIONS**

How well you do in college is connected, at least in part, to how well you can adjust to the various expectations attached to your new role as a college student. Teachers will judge you by how well or poorly you conform to their expectations of a successful student. These guidelines do not represent those of all instructors, but it pays you to know, *in general*, what behaviors define a good student. Obviously, I may have slightly different expectations that you should ask about if they are not made clear to you early in the semester. What follows is a general description of what I expect from my students:

1. Good students behave in ways that enhance the learning experience for everyone in the class.
2. Good students are engaged in the class, often actively participating in discussion.
3. They use appropriate language in discussion: no profanity or foul language.
4. Good students practice personal and academic integrity.
5. They do not cheat on tests or other assignments.
6. They do not plagiarize on assignments: hand in the work of others as their own.
7. They do not lie or make excuses.
8. They complete assignments, projects, papers, and exams in a timely manner.
9. Good students respect the dignity and opinions of all people.
10. They do not compromise or demean the dignity of others by taunting, teasing, insulting, sexually harassing or discriminating.
11. They encourage the equal rights and treatment of all students, regardless of age, gender, race, religion, ethnic heritage, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation and/or political ideology.
12. They recognize it is their responsibility to communicate any problems or concerns to the appropriate Odessa college personnel, such as instructors, counselors, and coaches. This includes extended absences, health problems, job conflicts, emergencies, incarcerations, family problems, and documented learning disabilities.
13. They follow appropriate procedures if they a grievance. After discussing the problem with the instructor, coach, or counselor first, they proceed in a hierarchical order as diagramed below, following the steps outlined in the Student Right to Due Process, available in full text from the office of the Vice-President for Student Life.

### **Grievance Policy - Chain of Command**

**Student -> Instructor -> Department Chair -> Division Dean ->  
Vice President -> President -> Board of Trustees**

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**Students: If you know the terms and material contained in the Unit Objectives, you will be well prepared for the exams. All exam questions will be drawn from these items. The Unit Objectives are available by clicking on the "Unit Objectives" button.**

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