



**SUL ROSS UNIVERSITY, ALPINE, TEXAS**  
**FALL 2016**  
**August 22-December 10, 2016**

PS 2306/W01.

Instructor: Ibrahim. H. Alsaeed, Ph.D.

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**REQUIRED WEBEXT**  
**Texas Politics, second edition, 2015.**  
**The Texas Politics Project**

To access this FREE text book, go to: <http://texaspolitics.utexas.edu/textbook>. Go to the right column of the page and scroll down until you see the following note on the page: “If you’re simply looking for the free version of the textbook, whether for reference or for the classroom, it is still available, as always, right here.” Click “right here.” This will be your textbook in this course. There is no required printed textbook in this course.

**LEARNING OUTCOME**

This is an introductory course covering State Politics and Texas Public Policy. The purpose of this course includes introducing students to the most salient and contentious policy debates in Texas as well as providing the tools and knowledge necessary for students to critically and intelligently evaluate Texas public policy. Of special significance, this course intends to stimulate the students’ interest in state politics, which will make us all informed citizens.

Lectures, students’ weekly online discussions, along and their papers, will emphasize critical thinking and analysis of the development of social, economic, political, and constitutional issues in the State of Texas. The students are strongly encouraged to evaluate these topics through critical thinking. They are also encouraged to present their own vision of the best set of values and system that emphasize stability, moral cohesion, and individual natural rights in the state.



## STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME and PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOME

*Student learning objectives:*

*By the end of the semester students will*

*Methods of Assessment*

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| 1. Identify the relationship between political culture and state public policy.          | Assessed via weekly online discussions and examinations. |
| 2. Evaluate the characteristics of Texas State Constitution.                             | Assessed via weekly online discussions and examinations. |
| 3. Understand the structure and functions of Texas State Legislature.                    | Assessed vis weekly online discussions and examinations. |
| 4. Evaluate the legislative process of the Texas State Legislature.                      | Assessed via weekly online discussions and examinations. |
| 5. Understand the nature, divisions and function of the Texas Legislature.               | Assessed via weekly discussions and examinations.        |
| 6. Evaluate the Texas Executive Branch   | Assessed via weekly discussions and examinations.        |
| 7. Examine the constitutional Prerogatives of the Governor of Texas.                     | Assessed via weekly discussions and examinations.        |
| 8. Examine Texas elections, voting and campaigns.  | Assessed via weekly discussions and examinations.        |
| 9. Evaluate Texas political parties.   | Assessed via weekly discussions and examinations         |
| 10. Discuss Texas interest groups and its legal status.                                  | Assessed via weekly discussions and Examinations         |
| 11. Understand the processes of Texas public policy.                                     | Assessed via weekly discussions and examinations.        |
| 12. Finally, analyze the nature, functions and challenges facing Texas local government. | Assessed via weekly discussions and examinations.        |
| 13. Evaluate the State Judicial System   | Assessed via weekly discussions and examination.         |



## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- 1. Textbook:** Your FREE online textbook, <http://texaspolitics.utexas.edu/textbook> is an important tool to scoring very well in your weekly online discussions and your written examinations. Without reading the online textbook chapters, you will face serious problems in comprehending this political science course.
- 2.** You are required to submit to this course blackboard your **weekly discussion**. Always type the FULL question(s) with **bold** type and type your DETAILED discussion under the question. In writing your weekly discussions, you're required using the online textbook, but you may use other sources, if you wish. You're also required to cite your discussion sources. Each discussion is worth 15/20 points. Your detailed comment to one of your colleagues' discussions is worth 5/20 points. Total points are 20/20. 20 points x 16 weeks= 320 points. The students cannot directly copy from the textbook or from other sources.
- 3. Four Examinations:** Each examination is composed of (an) essay question(s), and will be posted in weeks 3, 6, 9, and 12. In writing their exam essays, the students are required to use the online textbook ONLY. They are required to write full citation of the source pages in the end of their essays. **Copying from the textbook is unacceptable.** Each exam is worth 170 points x 4 exams =680 points.
- 4. Class Attendance:** Submitting your weekly discussion is your class attendance. The students' decline to submit their weekly discussions is considered absence from the class. The instructor is required to report the students' excessive absence to the university system.

**PS:** The students are encouraged to contact the course instructor by phone or e-mail when they seek help in order to improve their performance.

### CODE OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY (INCLUDING PLAIGARISM)

Academic integrity is the expression of intellectual virtue in human beings. It represents the convergence of the best of the human spirit and God's spirit, which requires personal, private and community virtue. Sul Ross University affirms that integrity begins in our much created being and is lived in our academic work.

In order for the code to be effective, the community must maintain its health and vitality. This requires a genuine sense of community, responsibility, and sensitivity in the part of every member. In particular, each member of the student body is expected to pursue his or her academic work with honesty and integrity.



Unfortunately, students do, on occasion, violate academic integrity, and this provides a need for the discipline and an opportunity for restoration.

## **DISABILITY SERVICES**

Sul Ross University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartz, M. Ed., L.P.C., in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hill, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8691. E-mail: [mschwartz@sulross.edu](mailto:mschwartz@sulross.edu)

## **DISTANCE EDUCATION STATEMENT**

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as Smarthinking, library resources, such as online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU websites. Students should use Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information.

The procedures of filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

## **WEEKLY COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **Week 1: 8/22**

- Chapter 1: "Political Culture."
  - Blackboard (BB) Discussion. 20 points
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### **Week 2: 8/29**

- Chapter 2: "The Texas Constitution."
  - BB Discussion. 20 points
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### **Week 3: 9/5**

- Chapter 3: "The Legislature."
  - BB Discussion. 20 point
  - EXAM 1: Chapters 1-3. 170 points.
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**Week 4: 9/12**

- Chapter 4: "The Legislative Process."
  - BB Discussion. 20 points
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**Week 5: 9/19**

- Chapter 5: "The Executive Branch."
  - BB Discussion. 20 points.
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**Week 6: 9/26**

- Chapter 6: "The Governor."
  - BB Discussion. 20 points
  - EXAM 2: Chapters 4-6 170 points
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**Week 7: 10/3**

- Chapter 7: "The Judicial System."
  - BB Discussion. 20 points.
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**Week 8: 10/10**

- Chapter 8: "Elections, Voting, and Campaigns."
  - BB Discussion. 20 points.
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**Week 9: 10/17**

- Chapter 9: "Political Parties."
  - BB Discussion. 20 points.
  - EXAM 3: Chapters 7-9. 170 points
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**Week 10: 10/24**

- Chapter 10: "Interest Groups."
  - BB Discussion. 20 points.
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**Week 11: 10/31**

- Chapter 11: "Public Policy."
  - BB Discussion. 20 points.
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**Week 12: 11/7**

- Chapter 12: "Local government."
  - BB Discussion. 20 points
  - EXAM 4: chapters 10-12. 170 points.
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**Week 13: 11/14**

- BB Discussion 20 points.
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**Week 14: 11/21**

- BB Discussion 20 points.
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**Week 15: 11/28**

- BB Discussion. 20 points.
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**Week 16: 12/5**

- BB Discussion. 20 points.
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**GRADING SCALE**

900- 1,000= A  
800-899 = B  
700-799 = C  
600-699 = D  
Below 600= F