COURSE SYLLABUS
POLS 2306 Online: Texas Government
Dr. Bartl, Fall 2017
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OFFICE: RAS 215; (325) 486-6107
OFFICE HOURS: M-Th 10am-11:30am, and by appointment.

WHAT THIS COURSE IS

This course studies the political life of Texas, in the greater contexts of the American nation, the Southern experience, and what could be called Texarkansan Studies. In addition to historical documents and theoretical inquiries about politics, it will make use of speeches, stories, and songs which are rich in reflections on the basic questions and experiences of civic life in the United States. At the center of these lived experiences are the questions which have arisen in that process are the foundational ideas and structures of the American political order. The story of Texas is part of that story.

TEXTS AND READINGS

Required Texts:
1. Richard Brookhiser, *Founding Father: Rediscovering George Washington*
2. S. Adam Seagrave, *The Accessible Federalist* (AF)
4. Charles Portis, *True Grit*

Course Goals

We will be working on 4 Core Objectives: Critical Thinking (CT), Communication Skills (CS), Social Responsibility (SR), and Personal Responsibility (PR). Each of these Core Objectives contains its own Student Learning Objectives (SLOs), with 8 in total (listed on back page). We are going to pursue all of these objectives as we proceed through the course. Your progress towards these objectives will be assessed through your performance on the requirements listed below, especially the Course Journal.

GRADING

Course Journal (Entries due each week at the end of the week) 50%
Midterm Exam (Due Oct. 20th at noon) 25%
Final Exam (Due Dec. 11th at noon) 25%
Extra Credit: Movie Blog (See Blackboard)

Organization: Each semester week corresponds to a Lesson on Blackboard. Detailed instructions for all assignments are also posted in your Blackboard page.