Syllabus
Government 2306/ASU
Spring 2018

Instructor: Rex Ewert

Phone: (325) 456-6020 (cell)
(325) 597-2491 (school)
(325) 597-2147 (fax)

E-mail: rewert@bradyisd.org


Office Hours: By appointment.

Nature of Course: Government 2306 is designed to introduce the student to the Texas state governmental system and its relationship to the U.S. federal government. The course will focus on inputs into the political system with topics including but not limited to: State Constitution, interest groups, political parties and judiciary, local government, voting, and the three branches of government.


Grades in course: Including the final, four examinations (based on class lectures and assigned readings) will be administered during the course of the semester. The final exam will not be comprehensive. Exams will count 75% of the grade for the course. The exam schedule is as follows:

Exam I February 12-13
Exam II March 8-9
Exam III April 9-10
Final May 16-17

Any variations to this schedule will be announced well in advance. A study guide will be provided prior to the exam, and time permitting, will be reviewed in class. In addition to the four exams a research paper constituting 25% of the course grade will be required. Research papers are due April 17 by the end of school. Papers may be turned in early but no late papers will be accepted. All four exams and the research paper must be completed in order to receive a grade for the course.
Makeup exams: Make-up exams will not be permitted unless specifically authorized prior to the date of the scheduled exam or in the case of a dire emergency. Make-up exams will be all essay. If for any reason the student must miss an exam, it is their responsibility to either notify the instructor or have their administrator do so. All three exams and the paper must be completed in order to receive a passing grade for the course.

Economics: Students who are taking this course and will be receiving a high school economics credit will also be required to exhibit a basic understanding of the economy and economic policies in America today. A portion of the lecture series will incorporate instruction in economics as will each of the four tests with the questions based on the lectures.

Attendance: Exams are based primarily on lectures so attendance is required. Roll will be taken at the beginning of each class. More than twelve absences (no excused absences) will result in the deduction of one letter grade. You are expected to be in class on time. If you enter after roll has been taken, you will be counted absent.

Discipline: This is a dual-credit course meaning the student will receive both high school and college credit for passing. Because it is a college credit course students are expected to conduct themselves accordingly. Primarily that means no talking while the instructor is talking. Students unable to properly conduct themselves will be removed from class. Because students are also receiving high school credit for the course, they will be expected to follow the rules as outlined in their student handbook. Any violations will subject the student to being referred to their administrative personnel.
No cell phones once class has started. Any student seen using a cell phone during class will be asked to leave.

Scholastic Honesty: The following scholastic honesty policy will be enforced:
All students are required and expected to maintain the highest standards of scholastic honesty in the preparation of all coursework and during examinations. The following are considered examples of scholastic dishonesty:

Plagiarism

From the ASU honor code: Plagiarism
Plagiarism means the appropriation and the unacknowledged incorporation of another's work or idea into one's own work offered for credit" (Regents’ Rules and Regulations, Chapter VI, Section 5.32). Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, A. Failing to properly acknowledge a statement, idea, or statistic made by another individual in the body of a work;
B. Taking a whole section of somebody else’s literary work and placing it in the body of your own work without properly acknowledging the contributor;
C. Representing somebody else’s entire work as that of your own.

**Collusion**
Using another’s work as one’s own, or working together with another person in the preparation of work, unless such joint preparation is specifically approved in advance by the instructor.

**Cheating**
Giving or receiving information on examinations.

Students guilty of scholastic dishonesty will be administratively dropped from the course with a grade of “F” and subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension and expulsion.

In addition to these standards, any student caught cheating will be turned over to their respective high school administrator for disciplinary action.

**Withdrawal date:** April 2.

**Spring break:** March 12-16. Same as ASU.

**Course outline:**

I. The Context of Texas Politics.
   Required reading: Textbook chapter 1.

II. Federalism.
   Required reading: Textbook chapter 15(2) (pages 564-598).

III. The Constitutional setting.
   Required reading: Textbook chapter 2.

IV. Local government. Economics.
   Required reading: Textbook chapter 11
   **Exam #1**

V. The Texas Legislature.
   Required reading: Textbook chapter 6.

VI. The Governor.
   Required reading: Textbook chapter 7.

VII. The Administrative state.
   Required reading: Textbook chapter 8.

VIII. The Judiciary. Economics.
   Required reading: Textbook chapter 9.
   **Exam #2**
IX. The Substance of Justice.
   Required reading: Textbook chapter 10.

X. Interest groups.
   Required reading: Textbook chapter 3.

XI. Political parties.
    Required reading: Textbook chapter 4.

XII. Voting, Campaigns, and Elections. Economics.
     Required reading: Textbook chapter 5.
     **Exam #3**

XIII. The State economy and the financing of state government.
      Required reading: Textbook chapter 12.

XIV. Public policy---people.

XV. Public policy---Resources. Economics.
    Required reading: Textbook chapter 14.
    **Final Exam**