Texas Government Political Science 2306

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OFFICE HOURS: TR 12:30-5:30

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK
Mora and Ruger’s The State of Texas is the textbook assigned for the course. It is available at the college bookstore and can also be purchased online through www.amazon.com.

COURSE OBJECTIVE AND LEARNING OUTCOMES
This course is part of the ASU core. Objectives will be assessed through the Final Exam.
CT: Students will develop critical thinking skills and the ability to critically evaluate their political environment.
CS: Students will gain and be able to demonstrate a basic knowledge of Texas government.
SR: Students will gain and be able to demonstrate a basic knowledge of Texas government.
PR: Students will exhibit the skills necessary to understand and evaluate political outcomes.

EXAMINATIONS AND MEANS OF ASSESSMENT
Exams (20% Each): I will administer four exams, including a final exam consisting of short answer questions and fill in the blanks. Questions will be drawn from the readings, clips and documentaries used in class and the lectures. A review sheet will be given prior to each exam through Blackboard. MAKEUPS WILL BE GIVEN FOR DOCUMENTED MEDICAL REASONS ONLY.

Film Review (15%): A review of the documentary, “The House I Live In” will be written in class.
Participation and Attendance (5%): Students with more than three unexcused absences will have their final grade reduced by 1% for each additional absence. Any student who leaves early without permission will be marked absent for that day and have their final grade reduced by 1%.

GRADING SCALE
A - 90% B - 80% C - 70% D - 60% F - Less than 60%

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES
Every effort will be made to accommodate all forms of religious observance in compliance with ASU OP 10.19. Students who require additional arrangements to be made should make these known in good time in order that arrangements can be made.

SPECIAL NEEDS
In accordance with OP 10.15 of ASU’s Operating Policies and Procedures, persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to any accommodations being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
Angelo State University Honor Code http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/Honor_Code.pdf: Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Therefore, you are responsible for
understanding the Academic Honor Code. Click on the link to access the code.

CLASS ETIQUETTE
Behavior consistent with basic rules of courtesy contributes to a productive classroom. To minimize distractions that occasionally disturb the class, refrain from bringing food into the classroom, turn off all cell phones or other electronic devices with audible signals that would disrupt classroom presentations or activities. Students should also avoid whispering or other disrespectful behavior. Laptops may be used for note taking only, students using laptops in a disruptive manner will be asked to put them away. Students should also remove headphones during class.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COURSE
The last day to drop a course or to withdraw from the University will be April 2, 2018.

COURSE OUTLINE
1/16 Introduction
1/18 Introduction to Texas (Mora and Ruger, Chapter 1)
1/23 Texas Constitution (Mora and Ruger, Chapter 2 up to the American Federal System)
1/25 Federalism (Remainder of Chapter 2)
1/30 Federalism (Review Chapters 1 and 2)
2/1 “A Place at the Table” shown in class
2/6 Exam 1
2/8 Texas Legislature Part I (Mora and Ruger, Chapter 3 up to Leadership Positions)
2/13 Texas Legislature Part II (Mora and Ruger, Remainder of Chapter 3)
2/15 Texas Executive Part I (Mora and Ruger, Chapter 4 up to Informal Powers)
2/20 Texas Executive Part II (Mora and Ruger, Remainder of Chapter 4)
2/22 “The House I Live In” shown in class
2/27 “The House I Live In” shown in class
3/1 In Class Writing Assignment
3/6 Texas Judiciary Part I (Mora and Ruger, Chapter 5 up to the Legal System)
3/8 Texas Judiciary Part II (Mora and Ruger, Remainder of Chapter 5)
3/20 Exam 2
3/22 Local Government and Voting in Texas (Mora and Ruger, Chapters 6 and 7)
3/27 Parties in Texas (Mora and Ruger, Chapter 9)
3/29 Elections in Texas (Mora and Ruger, Chapter 8)
4/3 Interest Groups in Texas (Mora and Ruger, Chapter 10)
4/5 Exam 3
4/10 Public Policy in Texas Part I (Mora and Ruger, Chapter 11)
4/12 Public Policy in Texas Part II Mora and Ruger, Chapter 12)
4/17 Financing State Government (Mora and Ruger, Chapter 13)
4/19 Texas and the United States, (Wright Reading on Blackboard)
4/24 “W” shown in class
4/26 “W” shown in class
5/1 Review for Final
5/3 Review for Final

FINAL will be held May 8th at 10:30am.